

Choosing a Confirmation Name

"I will give them an everlasting name." - Isaiah 56

What's in a name?

When you were born, your parents chose your name. They may have chosen your name in honor of a special person in their lives: a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or close friend. They may have chosen your name for the meaning behind it. Perhaps they chose your name because they felt a close connection to a holy man or woman of our faith - one of the saints. Maybe they just really liked your name! Most likely, it was a combination of many factors.

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. Throughout our lives, we will identify ourselves with many names- the name of the mascot of our high school or college; the name of the region of the country we live in; the title of the career we choose.

However, there is a name above all names that, through our Baptism, we should strive to be known to the world by- and that name is Catholic Christian. At your Baptism, you were called by name, and christened to become a child of God. You entered into the Catholic community by name.

Now it is your turn!

As part of your preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you have the privilege and responsibility, just like your parents did when you were born, to choose a name.

- ◆ **Your Confirmation name should reflect your closer identification as a member of the Catholic Christian community.**
- ◆ **Your Confirmation name has to be the name of a saint.**
- ◆ The saint whose name you select should be a saint you admire and look up to. Many Confirmation candidates choose a saint to whom they have a special devotion or who reflects certain virtues.
- ◆ You can choose your baptismal name or you can choose a new name.
- ◆ Your Confirmation name follows your middle name, i.e. "Clare Marie Anne Weltens"
- ◆ **PRAY!** Just as you should pray about any decision you have to make, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose a saint as your patron.

Where should I begin to choose a Confirmation name?

There are a variety of books depicting the lives of the saints and a book is a great place to start! Some of these books tell the life story of one saint in particular, and others give a brief story about the lives of numerous saints so you can read about many holy men and women all in one place. Feel free to contact Ethan or Clare if you would like to borrow a book about saints. You can also use the internet to research the saints.