

Choosing a Confirmation Saint Name

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes your full initiation into the Catholic Church which was begun at your Baptism. When you were baptized, an important part of the rite was claiming you, by name, for God. Your name was formally stated for the Church community for the first time. This name was chosen for you by your family and represents who you are. Your name may have been chosen to recognize another family member, to honor a saint or because your parents thought it “fit” you. In Catholic tradition, your Baptismal name usually includes the name of a canonized saint of the Church. This shows your connection to the wider Church family and to the customs and traditions of the Church. When you complete your initiation at Confirmation, an important part of the rite is to again be called by name for God and the Church.

Today, with our diversity of culture, some Catholic children are not given a Saint name at Baptism. And, while usually at Confirmation, we are “confirming” the initiation begun at Baptism using your Baptismal name, if your name does not include a saint’s name, this becomes the time to select one. This recognizes your deeper connection to the Catholic Church and its traditions. And, while this is not a Church law, it is a past tradition which our Archbishop requires us to follow so that each Confirmation Candidate has a connection to a particular saint to use as a role model and inspiration.

A confirmation name should be a saint’s name or holy Christian person (it could be your own baptismal name); whose life symbolizes for you what it means to live as a Christian. Since you admire this person’s lifestyle, you take on his or her name as a reminder of how Jesus calls you to grow in developing the same type of Christ-like attitude that the saint demonstrated in his or her life. In this way, you challenge yourself to become more Christ-like in your words and actions each day.

To help prepare for your Confirmation, talk with your parent/s about your name & why your family chose your first and middle names. Then discuss and choose a saint whose name you would like to take on as your confirmation name. This is the name used by the presider at confirmation Mass.

Think about the following:

What are the qualities that I might look for in the life of a saint or other holy person? Take time to notice how these people lived. How did they work for peace? Who served the needs of the poor and the oppressed? Who sacrificed for the benefit of others? Who really did go the extra mile in bringing Christ’s presence into the lives of others?

What is your birth date? Who is the Saint of that day? Is there someone you admire in your family or the Church who has a Saint name? Do you know about a particular Saint who is interesting or inspiring to you? Which Church Saint would you aspire to be like?

Resources for choosing a Saint name:

- For Saints canonized during the 1980’s through now: www.vatican.va
 - Select “English” as the language and click on the Saints and Blessed tab.
- For alphabetical listings, patron saint information and details: <http://saints.sqpn.com>
- For alphabetical listings, patron saint information and a “saint of the day” section: www.americancatholic.org
 - Click on “saint” under the main title on the home page, then click on “by name”, “patron saints” or “by date” right under the “Saint of the Day” title for lists.
- For alphabetical listing and additional information: <http://www.catholic.org/saints>