

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Choosing a new name for Confirmation is an ancient and honorable tradition. Taking a new name can be symbolic of a new stage in life. Many of your parents probably participated in this tradition when they were Confirmed. In the Old Testament, Abram became Abraham, and Jacob became Israel. In the New Testament the tradition continued when Simon was renamed Peter by Jesus (Matthew 16:17), and Saul called Paul (Acts 13:9) by the early Christian community. Find out more about choosing a Confirmation name by [watching this video](#).

Since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960's, this is no longer a mandatory practice of the Rite of Confirmation. The Church now invited Confirmation Candidates to reclaim the name they received at Baptism. This follows since Confirmation is, as taught, the fullness of the Sacrament of Baptism.

If you choose a Confirmation Name, this will be the name that Bishop Matano uses when he Confirms you.

As you consider adopting a new name for yourself, use these criterion in your judgment...

1. Do research on the history of your name and any other names you might be considering. Is there someone you were named after? Is there a family history to your name? Are you named after a Saint? Pray and let the Holy Spirit guide your research.
2. Pick a name that reflects a virtue or value you wish to aspire to. This may be reflected in the person who has that name (it may be a saint or a relative).
3. If you are choosing a Saint, research that Saint's life well. Use books and the internet to find out more. Come to know that Saint as if she or he were an old friend.

Online places to research Saints

- www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day
- lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/

If you decide to choose a Confirmation name you will need to let Dawn know of your choice by March 31, 2021 (email dawn.burdick@dor.org or call 607-288-2476).