

How to Choose a Confirmation Name

Choosing a Confirmation Name

In the Book of Isaiah we read, “I have called you by name: you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. Your name was spoken aloud on the day of your Baptism and it became part of your identity as God’s child and a member of the Catholic Church. A great deal of thought went into your parents’ choice in naming you. You may be named after a relative, a special family friend, or a saint your parents greatly admire. Now that you have decided to become confirmed, you have the opportunity to think in a new way about your name and how it relates to your decision to be confirmed. Choose the name of a canonized saint who is of the same gender as yourself; read the following carefully, complete the attached essay form, keep a copy for yourself, and turn in the original. You may use additional paper if necessary.

Reaffirming Your Baptismal Name

Although it is traditional to take a new name at Confirmation, it is not required. Instead, you may want to reaffirm your baptismal name (if it is the name of a saint or variation) since the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely related. Confirmation seals and strengthens the faith and grace you received at Baptism. It completes your Baptism. Reaffirming your baptismal name is a sign of your commitment to live out the promises your parents and godparents made for you at Baptism. If you do not know your parents’ reason for choosing your name, ask them about it.

Adding a New Name

You may also choose to add a new name at Confirmation. The tradition of taking on a new name to show a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament. When Abram was called to lead his people to believe in the one true God, his name was changed from Abram to Abraham meaning “the father of many nations.” Again in the New Testament we find Simon’s name changed from Simon to Peter, meaning “Rock” because he was to become the rock upon which Jesus founded His Church. The decision to choose a new name indicates your new awareness of how Confirmation will help you live as a disciple of Christ, of the new role you are undertaking as a more mature Catholic. Remember, the name you choose should be the same gender as yourself as well as the name of a Canonized saint, or a variation of that name, who has gone before us in faith. Spend time prayerfully reflecting about your choice as this is an important decision. Perhaps you would like to take the name of the Saint whom you most admire. Note: while many Bible characters and modern-day heroes are highly revered in the Catholic Church, many are not actually *canonized saints* and should not be chosen for this purpose.

Research Your Name

Whether you reaffirm your baptismal name or add a new name at Confirmation, research the life of your Christian namesake. Find out how they serve as an example for your faith journey. Before you are confirmed at St. Agnes Parish, you will be asked to complete an essay form listing the name you have chosen and giving reasons for your choice. The research you do will help you focus on the reasons for your decision. You will likely be asked about your saint at Confirmation practice, so come prepared with your answer. Be prepared with your best answer to this question by first sharing it with your sponsor before the ceremony. To learn more about the saints of the Catholic Church, we recommend the following web sites: AmericanCatholic.org, HolySpiritInteractive.org. After you decide on a name, complete the following. You may use additional paper if necessary.

At Confirmation. During the Confirmation ceremony, the Bishop will ask you for your Confirmation Saint name and, likely, why you chose it. Be prepared with your BEST answer by practicing with your parents and sponsor before the ceremony. You will be asked about your saint at Confirmation practice, so come prepared with your answer.

Candidate's First Name _____ Last Name _____

My Confirmation Name Essay: Sharing the Story of My Saint

1. The saint I chose to pray to and imitate in my preparation for Confirmation is:

2. Pretend you are the saint's biographer; write a summary of your saint's life story: _____

3. What event in the life of this saint most impressed me? Why? _____

4. Every saint is known for a particular quality or virtue. What special virtues did this saint have?

5. How could I imitate this saint today? Be specific! _____

6. When the Bishop asks me why I picked this Confirmation name, I will reply: _____

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s) signature which indicates they read & approve of the quality and integrity of this essay:

_____ Date: _____