

# 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). 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.

## **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 canonized 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 of your Baptism.

## **Adding a New Name**

You may also choose to add a new name at Confirmation. This decision indicates your new awareness of how Confirmation will help you live as a disciple of Christ. The name you choose should be the name of a 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. Also, please note that our Bishop requests that you choose a canonized saint of the same gender. Please note that 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.

## **At Confirmation**

During the Confirmation ceremony, the celebrant 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 the rehearsal, so come prepared with your answer.

# Cómo escoger su nombre de Confirmación

## Eligiendo un nombre de Confirmación

En el libro de Isaías leemos “Te he llamado por tu nombre: eres mío” (Isaías 43:1). Tus padres escogieron tu nombre, tal vez igual al de un familiar, o un amigo especial, o un santo que tus padres admiran. Ahora que has decidido confirmarte, tienes la oportunidad de pensar una nueva manera acerca de tu nombre y como se relaciona a la decisión de confirmarte.

## Reafirmando tu nombre de Bautismo

Así como es una tradición tomar un Nuevo nombre para la Confirmación, no es obligatorio, tú puedes reafirmar tu nombre de Bautizo (Si es el nombre de un Santo canonizado o una variación) ya que los Sacramentos de Bautismo y Confirmación son relacionados muy cercanos. La Confirmación estrecha el lazo de fe y gracia que recibiste en el Bautismo. Reafirmando tu nombre de Bautismo es señal de su compromiso de seguir viviendo las promesas de tu Bautismo.

## Eligiendo un Nuevo nombre

También puedes elegir un nuevo nombre para la Confirmación. Esta decisión indica que estás alerta de como la Confirmación te ayudará a vivir como un discípulo de Cristo. El nombre que elijas deberá ser de un Santo o una variación de ese nombre. Orando y reflexionando acerca de tu decisión es muy importante. También, por favor toma nota que el Obispo pide que escojas un santo canonizado del mismo género. Note que mientras muchos caracteres de la Biblia y héroes de hoy día están muy admirados en la Iglesia Católica, muchos no son realmente *santos canonizados* y entonces no deben ser escogidos para esto.

## Buscando tu nombre

Sea que reafirmas tu nombre de Bautismo o que elijas uno nuevo, estudia acerca de los nombres Cristianos. Encuentra como ellos sirvieron como ejemplo de fe. Antes de ser confirmado en la Parroquia de St. Agnes, se te pedirá completar una composición acerca del nombre que elegiste y las razones de porque lo elegiste. La búsqueda te ayudará a enfocar la razón de tu decisión

## Confirmación

Durante la Ceremonia de Confirmación, el celebrante te preguntará por tu nombre de Santo y probablemente porque lo escogiste. Debes estar preparado con tu mejor respuesta ensayando con tus padres y padrino/madrina antes de la ceremonia. Se te preguntará sobre tu santo en el ensayo; que vengas preparado con tu respuesta.

## My Confirmation Name Essay: Sharing the Story of My Saint

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. Your parents chose your name. If you do not know your parents' reason for choosing your name, ask them about it. Now that you are about to be Confirmed, it is time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in Christ in your Catholic Faith.

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.

Your Confirmation Name should reflect the NEW role you are undertaking as a more mature Catholic. Perhaps you would like to take the name of the Saint whom you most admire. You may also choose your Baptismal name (or variation) since Confirmation is the completion of the Baptism experience. Many of the Confirmation candidates, recognizing the growing bond of love with their parents, take a parent's name or a close personal friend. The only limit that is placed on your choice is that it must be a canonized Saint's name. Our Bishop prefers that the name matches your gender.

*To learn more about the saints of the Catholic Church, we recommend the following web sites:*  
[www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)    [www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org)

*After you decide on a name, complete the following. You may use additional paper if necessary.*

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

---

2. Pretend you are the saint's biographer. On the lines below, 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 celebrant asks me why I chose this name for my Confirmation, I will say:

---

---

---

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



3. ¿Qué evento de la vida de este Santo fue el que más me impresionó? ¿Por qué?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Cada Santo es reconocido por una virtud en especial ¿Cuál virtud tenía este santo?

---

---

---

---

5. ¿Cómo puedo imitar a este Santo ahora? Por favor sea específico.

---

---

---

---

6. Cuando el que celebre el Sacramento me pregunte por que escogí este nombre para mi Confirmación, yo diré:

---

---

---

Nombre Completo del Candidato: \_\_\_\_\_

Firma: \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_