

“Choosing Your Confirmation Name”

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. When you were born, your parents chose your name. (If you do not know the reason your parents chose your name, ask them about it.) At your Baptism, you were called by name, Christened to become a child of God. Your first name is your "Christian" name and indicates your membership in the Christian community.

Your Confirmation name should reflect closer identification as a member of the Christian community and possibly with someone in the Christian community you admire. If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If the candidate chooses a new name for Confirmation, however, it should be a name selected to honor Jesus or Mary or from the list of recognized saints of the Catholic Church. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life or virtues can be imitated. Many Confirmation candidates recognize the growing bond of love with their parents and decide to choose a parent's name. Others look at a relative, friend, pastor or someone in the Church community and choose to honor them by choosing their name. It should be a name that honors the Christian lifestyle.

The custom of choosing a "new" name and being called by that name during the Confirmation ceremony stems from the biblical tradition of a change of name indicating a new or renewed commitment to God. You must research the lives of the saints and choose a man or woman with some spiritual gifts you would like to have, to choose a name from that group and write a report on your findings. The use of the name given at Baptism is also appropriate.

Below is a list of Internet Web Sites and books, which you can access to help you with your report. If you do not have Internet access at home try the public library near you.

Web Sites:

www.catholic.org/saints
www.catholicforum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm
www.americancatholic.org
www.cin.org/saints.html

Books:

“Saints for Our Time” by Ed Ransom
“Book of Saints” by Michael Walsh
“A Saint for Your Name” by Albert J., Nevins, M.M.

Confirmation Name – Report Guidelines

Whether you choose to keep your baptismal name or choose a new name for confirmation, you must submit a report about the name you have chosen during the month of January.

Your report must be: Typed
Two pages (front only)
Double spaced
Paragraph Format

The first page of your report must include, at the top of the page, your first and last name and your confirmation name.

Your report must be in paragraph format and answer the following questions:

1. What is your confirmation name?
2. Why have you chosen this name as your confirmation name?
3. Who is your sponsor?
4. Why did you pick this person to be your sponsor?
5. What Saint or Religious person does my confirmation name represent?
6. Where and when was this person born?
If a saint, where and when did he/she die?
What great thing did this saint do?
He/she is the patron saint of what?
7. List qualities and some details that led you to pick this saint?
8. How does this saint/person relate to you today?
9. Why do you want to be confirmed?
10. In preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, what have you learned about Jesus and His teachings?
11. List all Internet Sites and Book Titles used for your report.

This report must be in your own words, not copied from the Internet or any other source. If your report is handwritten or copied, word for word from any source, the report will need to be redone or you will receive a failure grade.

Sr. Janice Novak