

Choosing a Confirmation Name

"I will give them an everlasting name."- Isaiah 56

What's in a name?

When you were born, your parents chose your name. They may have chosen your name in honor of a special person in their lives: a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or close friend. They may have chosen your name for the meaning behind it. Perhaps they chose your name because they felt a close connection to a holy man or woman of our faith- one of the saints. Maybe they just really liked your name! Most likely, it was a combination of many factors. (If you do not know why your parents chose the name they did for you, why not ask them about it?)

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. Throughout our lives, we will identify ourselves with many names- the name of the mascot of our school, the name of the region of the country we live in, the title of the career we choose.

However, there is a name above all names that, through our Baptism, we should strive to be known to the world by- and that name is Catholic Christian. At your Baptism, you were called by name, and christened to become a child of God. You entered into the Catholic community by name.

Now it is your turn!

As a part of your preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you have the privilege and responsibility, just like your parents did when you were born, to choose a name.

† Your Confirmation name should reflect your closer identification as a member of the Catholic Christian community.

† The name you select can be associated with someone in your life, your parish, or your community whom you respect and admire. Many Confirmation candidates select a name from a parent or grandparent, honoring them for their example of love and holiness.

† Your Confirmation name should be the name of a saint.

† You can choose your baptismal name or you can choose a completely new name.

† PRAY! Just as you should pray about any decision you have to make, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose a saint as your patron/patroness.

REMEMBER: Do not choose a name just for the name itself-choose for the story behind the saint and how that saint can help you as you go forward in life.

Make sure your saint is Roman Catholic-just because there is "Saint" in front of the name does not mean he or she is Catholic.

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Worksheet Due: **Session 5 January**

All you holy men and women pray for us.

Where should I begin to choose a Confirmation name?

There are a variety of books depicting the lives of the saints and a book is a great place to start! Some of the books tell the life story of one saint in particular, and others give a brief story about the lives of numerous saints so you can read about many holy men and women all in one place. Check out your local library or feel free to contact Allison for help!

You can also use the internet to research the saints. You can Google a saint name, just be sure you check the source (is it Catholic?). DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA. Here are a few sites to check out that I have found helpful:

<http://saints.sqpn.com/>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.catholic-saints.info/>

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx>

Possible Names for Confirmation:

1. _____

What I liked about this saint:

Source:

2. _____

What I liked about this saint:

Source:

3. _____

What I liked about this saint:

Source:

Final Choice for my Confirmation Name:

Due by Session 8 April

Write a report on the saint you have chosen as your patron. Minimum of one full page size 12 or 14 font double spaced (should not be handwritten without prior approval).

The following questions must be answered in paragraph form:

1. What is your saint's full name?
2. What point in history did your saint live?
3. What was life like at that point in history for your saint?
4. Where did your saint live?
5. What virtues do you see in your saint's example?
6. What difficulties and struggles did your saint encounter?
7. How did this saint follow Jesus in the way he or she lived?
8. How did this saint become holy?
9. What made you decide to choose this saint as your patron for Confirmation?
10. How is this saint an example for your life?
11. How did this saint die?
12. When was this saint canonized or beatified by the Catholic Church?
13. If this saint were alive today, what job would they have?
14. Include at least one picture of your saint. (Hand drawn or from the internet)
15. Include all sources of information (books and websites)
16. Include a prayer to your saint (you may find one on the internet or make up a prayer of your own).

IMPORTANT: Make sure your final paper is your own work and not copied from a website or a book. Presenting another's work as your own is called plagiarism and is sinful. Plagiarism will result in a parent meeting with Allison Steen-Baker.