

Choosing a Confirmation Saint

There is a tradition in the Church that at one's Baptism and at Confirmation, you may choose a saint as your special patron (i.e. a saint in heaven to pray for you and watch over you in a special way.) We take the name of that saint as part of our own name, and although we don't usually use it in any official way, we have it as part of our identity. For instance, I took St. Patrick as my confirmation saint and so, when asked, I will sometimes tell people my name is Joseph Harold *Patrick* Moreshead.

How do you choose a saint?

There are as many different types of saints as there are types of people. Just as there are people you naturally along with better than others on earth, so too with the saints in heaven. There will be some saints that you read about who you naturally attract to. Maybe their personality is a lot like yours. Maybe you feel like they can sympathize with a lot of your interests or your struggles. Maybe you just find their story really interesting and you want a person as amazing as that praying for you. Sometimes there are even saints who you may know very little about but for whatever reason, seem to have taken you under their wing. Those saints that you feel close to, for whatever reason, are good ones to choose for a Confirmation name.

Some places to begin

You might be thinking, "This all sounds great, but I don't know anything about any saints." The number of canonized saints in the Church is astronomical (over 10,000) so reading about all of them before picking one is out of the question. Below is a list of different types of saints, with three or four saints listed in each category. If a name stands out, I'd encourage you to do a google search on that saint. If that's not possible, let us know what saints you are interested in and we will print out more information on them for you.

Biblical saints

St. John the Baptist, Our Lady (Mary the Mother of Jesus), St. Joseph, St. Peter, St. John the Beloved, St. James the Greater, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Stephen, St. Paul,

Angels

St. Michael, St. Raphael, St. Gabriel,

Intellectuals

St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Anselm of Canterbury, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. John Henry Newman

Martyrs

St. Lawrence Deacon and Martyr, St. Cecilia, St. Edmund Campion, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, St. Maximilian Kolbe,

Servants of the Poor

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Teresa of Calcutta,

Saints who Stood Up for What is Right

St. Athanasius, St. Thomas Beckett, St. Joan of Arc, St. Thomas More, St. Oscar Romero,

Patrons of the Sick

St. Raphael, St. Jude, St. Dymphna, St. Peregrine, St. Andre Bessette, Bl. Solanus Casey (buried in Detroit),

Marian Saints

St. Simon of Stock, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Catherine Laboure, St. Bernadette, Sts. Franceso and Jacinta Marto, St. Maximilian Kolbe,

Contemplatives (Monks, hermits and nuns)

St. Antony of the Desert, St. Benedict, St. Scholastica, St. Bernard, St. Clare, St. Charbel,

Pastors

St. Gregory the Great, St. John Vianney, St. Pius X, St. John Paul II

Children

St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Aloyisus Gonzaga, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Dominic Savio, St. Gemma Galgani, St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, St. Maria Goretti,

Missionaries

St. Paul, St. Patrick, St. Boniface, St. Francis Xavier, St. Jean de Brebeuf, St. Junipero Serra,

Saints who Underwent Conversion

St. Mary Magdalene, St. Paul, St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Mary of Egypt, St. Ignatius of Loyola,

Mystics

St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio),

Popular Saints (not already mentioned)

St. Anthony of Padua (patron of lost objects), St. Christopher (patron of travelers), St. Rita of Cascia (patron of hopeless causes), St. Monica (mother of St. Augustine whose prayers won him to the faith),