

Choosing a Confirmation Name

A name is important because it becomes part of our identity, of who we are. Therefore, a confirmation name should be carefully chosen as something that will help encourage and guide us in our life of faith.

One option is to choose a saint's name as your confirmation name. Perhaps you already have a favorite saint who you look up to as a guide in your life of faith. This saint's name would be a good name to choose as your confirmation name.

Another option is to use your baptismal name, i.e. the name your parents gave you and in which the priest baptized you. Since confirmation is a "seal" of our baptismal faith, it is actually quite appropriate to use your baptismal name also as your confirmation name.

We encourage you to pray and ask for God's guidance in choosing a confirmation name. It would also be good to read about several saints to understand their story, their virtues, and how they lived their faith, in order to decide which saint would be best to take as your patron for confirmation.

Some suggestions to consider are a saint who shares your first or middle name; the name of your parents, grandparents, godparents, or confirmation sponsor; someone who is a "patron saint" of something important to you; or someone whose life you greatly admire and would like to imitate.

Choosing a name for confirmation is an important step in the process of preparation. We ask that each candidate pray, study, and choose a saint in whom he or she can place their confidence not just today, but for many years to come.

Who Are Saints?



The word "saint" comes from the Latin word Sanctus, which translates to "consecrated" or "holy." Saints are men and women who have lived their lives (and very often gave them up freely) in such a way as to be rewarded with the Kingdom of God. Saint with a lower case "s" can be anyone who is in heaven. You and I all should have a great desire to be a saint, because heaven is our goal and home!

Officially, recognized or declared Saints by the Church went through a long process after their death. Since to be a saint, means a person is in heaven, one must be "dead to this world, but fully alive to Christ!" (Motto of The Dead Theologians Society). In the earliest stage, the saint-in-the-making is identified as a "Servant of God." That stage is followed by recognition of being "Venerable" and then "Blessed" before being recognized by the Church as a "Saint" or "Friend of God". This official recognition by the Church as a Saint comes at the conclusion of the process and ceremony called "canonization." These Saints, who lived exemplary lives, provide for us examples to follow so that we in turn may follow them to Heaven. They should be our heroes!

Each declared Saint has a "Feast Day." The feast days are very often the day when he or she died, especially if they gave up their lives for their faith. The special Saints that gave up their lives for their faith are called "martyrs." We celebrate their death as their feast day; because that is the day, we believe they entered heaven!

The link below from the archdiocese gives a long list of saints that can be used or considered:
https://www.archspm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Information_on_Saints.pdf