

WHY CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION NAME?

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. At the time of your baptism, a Saint's name was given to you as a new member of God's family. (Your baptismal name is usually your first name, but if you were not named after a saint it could be your middle name. Ask your parents.) Since Confirmation is so closely connected with Baptism and is dependant on Baptism for it's meaning, *the Church strongly encourages you to choose the name given to you at Baptism to be chosen as your confirmation name.* However, another name may be selected, If another is selected, it must be the name of a saint, and should be chosen because that saint has special meaning to you and exemplifies a special characteristic and Christian lifestyle which you wish to strive for in your Catholic adulthood.

Throughout the bible people are given names which tell others something about them. Isaac mean laughter and he was given his name because his mother, Sarah, laughed when she discovered that she was pregnant in her old age. People often receive a new name when something happened in their life. For example, when Abram received a special blessing from God, his name was changed to "Abraham" which means "father of many". As he took on more responsibility, he received a new name to symbolize this. Ideally, then, the name that you choose should express something of what you hope to become as an adult Christian.

CHOOSING A NAME

In choosing a Confirmation name, you will need to think about who you are and what you would like to become as a Christian. **The church strongly recommends that you choose your baptismal name.** But first, you will have to:

- Know why that name was chosen for you
- Find out more about that saint
- Answer the question, "Does this name say something about who you are?"
- Figure out if you have a strong connection to that saint

as you discover the saint that you were named after, or as you look for another saint to choose for confirmation, you should read more about the official saints of our church.

***** SAINT REPORT *****

One of the requirements in the program is to do a report on your saint. (A form will be provided.) so as you research your saint's name, you should take some notes and save the information for your report.

Saint's Project

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

In Isaiah 43, the Scriptures tell us that God knows us and calls us by name. You have the name your parents gave you at birth. Also, at your baptism, you may have been given the name of a Saint to watch over you, pray for you, and guide you towards heaven (which they can do since they already made it).

When you are confirmed, the Bishop will ask what name you have chosen. It must be a **canonized** saint's name, either the one you already have from your baptism, or a saint that you admire. Now is the time to get to know (know more about) this saint. You have to find out about your saint's life, death, Christian witness and what they offered the Church, why they were recognized as being so much like Christ (*Resources available in parish, school, and public libraries or through the internet*). You are required to complete two parts:

Part I: My favorite Saint (2 pages typed, double space, font 12 (max.), 1" margins). Content of paper:

1. The saint's picture. Date and place of birth and death. Feast Day. Patron Saint of. Process of canonization
2. Some significant facts about the saint's life.
3. **Describe your Saint's strongest virtues/admired characteristics.**
4. Traits have in common with the saint. What qualities you would like to have as your own. Why?
5. **Include specific ways** you would like your saint to help you to prepare for Confirmation. In what ways would you need your patron saint to help you after Confirmation?
6. Personally, what have you learn and desire to imitate your patron saint?
7. Encourage your classmates to imitate your saint in one or more ways in their daily lives.
8. **Compose a Prayer** to your saint using your own words.

Part II: I am a Saint (1-2 pages typed, double space, font 12 (max.), 1" margins). Content of paper:

1. Your picture (maximum of picture content – half page)
2. Your name: (Ex: St. Ashley Hernandez of West Covina/ St. Steven Nguyen of Baldwin Park)
3. Title of your sainthood (the virtue of which you are most known for in your daily life).
4. Reflect and acknowledge your God given talents and virtues. Give concrete examples of good deeds that you have done.
5. What is needed to be "straighten out" in your life to respond to God's call "to be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect".
6. One message you would leave for the next generation.

Presentation: Approximately 5 minutes

- What made the saint a saint? (What virtues did they possess?)
- Do you think your saint seemed crazy or even marginalized by those around them?
- Can you tell us a short story about your saint (not a biography)?
- What did you learn from your saint that is applicable in your life?
- A prayer to your saint to end your project (this must be written by you not by others).

Your Saint Report is DUE by _____ (Teacher will give students the due day)

Note: This is the name you will use on Confirmation Day. If you choose another name, you will need to do another saint report.

***** You can make a movie clip or using technology for your Saint Project.**

Dear Saints, Teach Me

St. Anne, teach me to love your daughter, Mary.
Holy Mary,
teach me to become more and more worthy of the promises of Christ.
St. Joseph, teach me the virtue of silence.
St. Daniel, teach me wisdom.
St. Michael, teach me to conquer the devil.
St. John the Baptist, teach me mortification.
St. John the Beloved, teach me pure love of Jesus.
St. Peter, teach me fidelity.
St. Paul, teach me zeal for the salvation of souls.
St. Thomas, teach me to overcome doubt.
St. Stephen, teach me the spirit of martyrdom.
St. Simon of Cryrene, teach me love of the Cross.
St. Veronica, teach me concern for the afflicted.
St. Mary Magdalene, teach me repentance.
St. Dismas, teach me how to “steal” Paradise.
St. Agnes, teach me purity.
St. Maria Goretti, teach me resistance to temptation.
St. Jerome, teach me love of the Holy Scriptures.
St. Monica, teach me steadfastness in prayer.
St. Augustine, teach me respect for a mother’s prayers.
St. Francis Borgia, teach me to despise earthly vanities.
St. Francis de Sales, teach me always to smile.
St. Francis of Assisi, teach me humility.
St. Francis Xavier, teach me zeal for his mission.
St. Philip Neri, teach me cheerfulness.
St. Thomas More, teach me to “keep my head”.
St. Anthony, teach me to “find” sanctity.
St. Pascal, teach me to love of the Blessed Sacrament.
St. Wenceslaus, teach me love of the Holy Mass.
St. John Vianney, teach me respect for the holy priesthood.
St. Thomas Aquinas, teach me love of divine contemplation.
St. Albert the Great, teach me to love of heavenly wisdom.
St. Vincent de Paul, teach me love of the poor.
St. Elizabeth, teach me to break bread for the downtrodden.
St. Camillus, teach me to visit the sick.
St. John the Bosco, teach me love of youth.
St. Margaret Mary, teach me love of the Sacred Heart.
St. Theresa, teach me the value of “little things”
and how to do all for the honor and glory of God.
117 Vietnamese martyrs, teach me to stand firm during trials of life. Amen.