

Confirmation Name

The custom of adopting a saint's name at Confirmation was done in order to adopt the saint as a special heavenly patron or to honor a saint to whom one had a special devotion. In short, the purpose was to give the Confirmandi the opportunity to develop his understanding of and reliance on the communion of saints.

While the practice is still in use today, some dioceses have encouraged returning to the older tradition of not picking a new name at Confirmation. The idea is that the person is already supposed to have a Christian name, given to him in baptism, and that continuing to use that name at Confirmation is appropriate as Confirmation completes the graces given at Baptism.

Should you decide you want to choose a Saint's Confirmation name:

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which you will fully receive at Confirmation, is the courage to make good choices that will help you to live an authentic Christian life. The saints are prime examples of authentic Christian living. Notice how these people loved. How did they work for peace? Who served the needs of the poor and the oppressed? Who showed compassion and gentleness? Who prayed and worked so that others may come to know Christ? When we draw from the living Spirit of God within us, we are called into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ that is nurtured through an active life of prayer, worship, study and Christian action. Believe it or not, even the saints struggled in their lives the same way we all do. It was their lives of authenticity that did not allow them to give up on themselves and therefore give up on God when they struggled. Keep all of this in mind when choosing your Confirmation name. Try to pick the name of a saint whose life demonstrates certain characteristics that you would like to develop in your own life.

Candidate's Baptismal Name (First and Last) _____

I have chosen _____ as the name I wish to be Confirmed as.

(Answer either A or B)

A. _____ I have chosen my Baptismal name.

I chose my Baptismal name because: _____

B. _____ I have chosen a Saint's name.

My chosen saint is (be specific): _____

Characteristics of this saint that I admire are: _____

I have chosen this Confirmation name because:

Please return this form no later than August 27, 2017.