

Choosing a Confirmation Name

In scripture, there is a great deal of significance in how a person is named and what name is chosen. Mary and Joseph were told by the angel to name their son Jesus (Luke 1:31). Simon Peter became Peter when Jesus announced that “you are Peter and upon this rock, I will build my church” (Mt 16:16-19).

When you were born, your parents likely spent a great deal of time deciding what name to give you. Perhaps you are named after a family member or a close friend of the family. Maybe they chose your name because of its meaning.

As you are confirmed, it is now your opportunity to choose a Confirmation name. One option is to keep your baptismal name. The other option is to choose the name of a saint. You could choose to take the name of a friend or relative who inspired you in your faith by their example. Perhaps you are inspired by a particular saint and you may choose that name.

Here are some questions to consider helping you choose a Confirmation name:

1. What is your baptismal name? Why did your parents choose it for you? Look up your name (or a derivative of your name) in a list of saints. Does that saint’s story inspire you? Is that saint a patron saint of something significant in your life? What does your name mean? Is that meaning important to you in your life?
2. Name some friends or relatives you admire. Are they role models in faith for you? Are they good examples of living out their Christian faith?
3. List some of the activities you are involved in. Look up the patron saints of those activities. Read about his or her life and see if their story inspires you.
4. Look at a list of saints and do some research on them. Do any of the stories inspire you? Challenge you? Do you have similar qualities with one of the saints? Does a saint have particular qualities that you would like to emulate?

After you have spent time with your research, pray and ask the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help you choose a saint’s name. Remember that during the Confirmation Mass, the bishop may ask you why you chose your name! You will want to have a well thought out answer!

Internet Resources;

American Catholic: <http://www.americancatholic.org/features/dsaints/byname.aspx>

Loyola Press: <http://www.loyolapress.com/saints-for-kids.htm>