

Choosing a Christian Name

Many people choose an additional saint's name at confirmation. The preferred name, however, is the baptismal name because it expresses the relationship that exists between Baptism and Confirmation. If a new name is taken, however, it should be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation.

Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name, not because they like the name, but because they want to emulate, in some way, the life that person led. Since you admire this person's lifestyle, you take on his/her name as a reminder of how Jesus calls you to grow in developing the same type of Christ-like attitude that was demonstrated in their life. In this way, you challenge yourself to become more Christ-like in your words and actions.

Choose a saint that you want to be like. Maybe he or she had the same struggles as you and had a way of working with those struggles that you admire.

Ask your parents which saint you were named after and look it up. See if your life reflects his/her life.

Saints are ordinary people who work hard to do God's will. Mother Teresa responded to a reporter correctly when asked if she was trying to become a saint. She said, "Yes, shouldn't we all strive for that?"

There are several books on the lives of saints and holy people in our parish library. Terry and Libby also have some resources for you. Please feel free to stop by and look them over as you research the lives of the saints. There is also an excellent website to search for saints by their personal attributes.

Take time to notice how these people loved. Did they work for peace? Did they show compassion and serve the poor and oppressed? Did they go that extra mile to bring Christ's presence into the lives of others? These are just a few of the questions you might ask in your search for a patron saint. Give it some thought and choose a life you can look up to and live up to.