

Confirmation

Choosing a Confirmation Name and Patron Saint

What is in a Name?

A name is somehow linked to the core of who you are. When you were Baptized, your parents chose your name. Sometimes names are chosen to honor family members, or because as “words” they mean something (like the name Bella means “beautiful”), or just because your parents liked the sound of them! In our Catholic tradition, it is common to choose names of saints. The saint you are named after becomes your patron, or special friend. They serve as models for you and they watch out for you, praying you through your life until you can meet them in heaven!

Now that you are preparing to be Confirmed, you have the opportunity to affirm your Baptismal name (if you are already named after a saint or Biblical person that is special to you) or to choose a name that honors a canonized saint in the Church or Biblical person. Taking on this new name represents your growth in faith. In the Old Testament, when God called Abram, He changed his name to Abraham (meaning “father of many nations”). In the New Testament, we find Jesus changing Simon’s name to Peter (meaning “rock”) because he was to become the “rock” upon which Jesus would found the Church.

Some Points for Reflection as You Choose Your Name

- What is your Baptismal name? Your Baptismal Date? (Each saint has a feast day, you may want to look at which saint’s feast day falls nearest your Baptismal date or birthday.)
- Why were you named that name? Who are your Godparents?
- Talk to your parents and sponsor about Saints who have been important or influential in their lives
- Recall stories of saints you remember from your childhood
- Investigate which statues or pictures of Saints are located inside your parish
- Read about different saints using resources like the ones listed below. Which saint can you identify with? Does their example speak to you in a special way?

Possible Resources

- Check out a book about saints from the Faith Formation Office
- Review Saint Encyclopedias (home, community, or school library)
- Read Books on or by Saints
- Do a Google search

This is being provided to you now so you can spend some time thinking and praying about a saint. You will work on this more in 8th grade.