

Saint Project / Confirmation Name

The gift of faith has been handed down through generations, by our family, friends, and all of the faithful men and women throughout the centuries. This is especially true of those the Church recognizes as being in Heaven, our saints. As Catholics, we believe that the saints are alive in the Lord with God, and thus intercede on our behalf when we pray to them for help. As a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are encouraged to choose a saint to whom *you* may turn, *your* patron saint, during this time of preparation and throughout your life, as a source of spiritual strength and guidance. Please spend some time reflecting on the following as you consider your Confirmation saint and name:

- Which saint inspires you? What do you admire about this saint? What virtues did he/she practice during their life?
- You could ask your parents how they picked the name you received at Baptism (first or middle). Were you named after a particular saint? Please talk to them about it.
- In which parish were you baptized? You may consider researching that saint or another you are familiar with.
- Saints were (are) ordinary people who strove (strive) to do God's will. When Mother Teresa was questioned by a TV interviewer who asked, "What are you trying to do, become a saint?" she responded, "Yes. Shouldn't we all strive for that?" Spend time discussing our call to be holy people with your parents and sponsor.

There are two additional suggestions to consider as you contemplate your choice. You may choose to use your present baptismal name (first or middle name) which would symbolize a sacramental connection with your Baptism and Communion as Sacraments of Initiation. Using your baptismal name could demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and that you continue to accept living in Christ and desire to be strengthened with the graces of the Sacrament. Or, you may choose the name of a saint that you have spent time learning about who is an example of how a true follower of Christ lives. By doing so, this choice could symbolize for you a renewal in dedication on your journey of faith. You might consider this if you feel that you have not been particularly strong in your faith commitment but are willing to make a renewed commitment to Christ and the Catholic community. Your commitment could be symbolized with the taking of a new name.

Whether you choose to be confirmed with your baptismal name or take a new name, we ask you to share your choice with us, by writing a report, making a collage, designing a brochure, writing a poem, powerpoint, etc. ***The means by which you convey the information is your choice.*** Somewhere on your project, please include your name, date and the location of where you participate in preparation sessions (St Joseph or St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School). You may use books or the internet (some sites are listed below) to *research* your saint. However, the project should be your **own** work in your **own** words.** The following information should be included in your project:

- a. The name of your chosen saint and their feast day; background information on family, occupation.
- b. Name or derivative you have selected as your Confirmation name
- c. What this person did to be called a saint (miracles, dedicated life, martyr, exemplary life of service)
- d. What made you choose this particular saint (what you admire, how you were inspired, a model of faith for you)
- e. Convey ***in your own words*** your understanding of the complete process our Church uses to canonize saints (5 points)
- f. Convey ***in your own words*** your understanding of our belief in the communion of saints.

Your completed Saint Project is due no later than Tuesday, October 12.**

**** Any project that has been copied directly from an internet website will not be accepted and you will be asked to redo the assignment.**

www.catholic.org/saints www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm www.scborromeo.org/patron.htm
www.catholic-pages.com/saints/process.asp www.americancatholic.org

St. Joseph Confirmation Program
Saint and Name Project