

Choosing Your Confirmation Name

As a candidate for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, you have the right, privilege and responsibility to choose a name. You have two options for choosing a Confirmation name:

- You may choose your baptismal name, your regular first name. This choice shows the connection between Baptism and Confirmation. To choose to use your baptismal name demonstrates that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to continue this growth through Confirmation.
- You may choose the name of a saint who inspires you. Learn as much as you can about the person or saint before you make your decision. Your teachers and parents can help you find resources on saints.

“To choose a new name symbolizes a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with a special person or saint who will be a model for you to follow. This choice would be especially appropriate if you feel you are making a renewed commitment to your faith. Your renewed commitment would be symbolized with your taking a new name to show that you are in some ways a new person.” (*Pflaum Publishing Group, 2010*) In the Bible, people often took on a new name when they were called to conversion, to live a new life (Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Saul became Paul; Simon became Peter). Are you being called to a new life as well?

So, what to do?

1. Think about it. Would you like to choose your baptismal name or a new name?
2. Talk about it. What do your parents think about your choice?
3. Pray about it. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose a saint as your patron/patroness.
4. Watch Bishop Robert Barron’s video on Confirmation names: <https://youtu.be/Z7bjqldlHl4>
 - What is Bishop Barron’s Confirmation name? How did he grow into that name?
 - Why is Confirmation called a “character” sacrament?
 - Who is Bishop Barron’s favorite saint? Why?
5. Visit www.formed.org and read about the saints or watch a movie about a saint. <https://watch.formed.org/mother-teresa-1> is just one example.
6. Write a reflection:
 - Paragraph one – answer questions from Bishop Barron’s video
 - Paragraph two- Explain three interesting facts about the saint you explored on Formed or using another resource. This saint does not have to be the name you use for Confirmation.
 - Paragraph three- Explore your Confirmation name. Will you keep your baptismal name or select a new name? State reasons to support your answer.

Your reflection is due by **Feb. 6, 2022**. You may email to lvoncheck@sjohio.org , drop off at the main church office or mail to St. Joseph Church. Please let me know if you have any questions. You will be expected to share this information in your small group when we meet in person or on Zoom. Please keep a copy for yourself.