



The Choosing of a Christian Name

At your Baptism, you were given your Christian name. You may have been named after a relative, a saint, or someone your parents thought would be a good role model for you. Choosing a new name for Confirmation is an ancient and honorable tradition. Taking a new name can be symbolic of a new stage in life. Many of your parents probably participated in this tradition when they were confirmed. It follows in the scriptural tradition of the famous phrase, "I have called you by name (Isaiah 45:3-4)." In the Hebrew Scriptures, Abram became Abraham, and Jacob became Israel. In the New Testament the tradition continued when Simon was renamed Peter by Jesus (Matthew 16:17), and Saul called Paul (Acts 13:9) by the early Christian community.

As you seal your Baptism in Confirmation, you can keep your baptismal name or choose the name of another saint or holy person to be your role model of Christian life. Most students choose a saint name of someone they have something in common with or someone they can aspire to be like. The following are just a few examples: a student who likes to write might choose St. Francis de Sales, the patron of writers; St. Cecilia for musicians; St. Catherine of Siena for nursing; St. Anthony of Padua and St. Elizabeth of Hungary who liked to help the poor; St. Thomas More, patron of lawyers; St. Andrew, patron of fisherman; St. Anne, mother of Mary; St. Mary, the Queen of Saints. Again, these are just a few of the many saints to choose from! Your child must complete and submit this assignment {found on the reverse side} by the date provided by teacher.

Confirmand's First Name: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Confirmand's Last Name: _____

Saint's Name: _____ Feast Day: _____

Name or derivative you have selected to use to honor this special patron:

Saint's place of birth: _____

Facts about this saint's:

- Family _____

- Occupation _____

- Life and/or death _____

What do you admire about your saint? _____

How is this saint a model for Christians today? _____

How did your parents choose the name you received at birth? _____
