

CHOOSING A SAINT FOR CONFIRMATION

Your name gives you an identity: It tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. If you do not know your parents' reasons for choosing your name, ask them about it. Now that you are about to be confirmed, it is time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in faith.

The tradition of taking on a new name to show a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament. When Abram was called to lead his people to believe in the one God, his name was changed from Abram, meaning "father of many", to Abraham, meaning "father of many nations". Again, in the New Testament, we find Simon's name changed to Peter, meaning "rock", because he was to become the rock upon which Jesus founded his Church.

Saints are the heroes of the Catholic Church. These are people we honor on special days and call on them for their intercession with God. Saints have been a part of the Christian Church since its beginning. Many of them were ordinary people like us. They faced the same problems and had to make many of the same kinds of decisions that we must make on an everyday basis. Except for Mary, the mother of Jesus, saints were sinners like the rest of us, occasionally even notorious sinners. Yet all of the saints heeded Jesus' words to "take up the cross and follow me" (Mt 10:38).

You may have been given a Patron Saint at baptism, or you may have already found a Saint that you find strength in knowing about their life and emulating their goodness in your own life. For those who need help in choosing a saint, please read on.

You might begin by looking at the patron saint list on pages 388-398 in the Catholic Faith Handbook (CFH). Perhaps there is a saint on this list with whom you have something in common. Maybe there is a saint with a feast day on some momentous occasion in your life, a birthday, for example. Spend time researching the lives of saints in the library in the Saint Francis Room (parish library) at Sacred Heart. Check out a book and read/research about saints whose lifestyles and deeds have meaning for you.

Once you have made a decision, journal your thoughts relating the qualities of your Saint and express how these qualities can specifically help you live more faithfully the call of Christ.

Print or type the report about your Patron Saint on the reverse side of this page.

Please resist cut & paste from the internet as it is not acceptable for spiritual growth.

I would like to have your own thoughts and reflections on the importance of the charisms (spiritual gifts) and guidance of the Saint in your spiritual life. It is not just a report on the details of the Saint's life, but a journal of your relationship with Jesus as it grows from your study in holiness.

Your Name _____

Patron Saint Name _____

