

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Importance of Names

Your parents probably spent many hours think about what they would name you. Your name may have been chosen to honor a relative or a saint who is revered by your family or culture. However your baptismal name was chosen, it is now a part of your history and identity. Names are important in our religious tradition as well. In the Old Testament, God promises David "...and I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth." (1 Chronicles 17:8) The prophet Isaiah, speaking in God's name, proclaims to King Cyrus, "it is, I the Lord...I call you by name." (Isaiah 45:3-4) In the New Testament, Jesus tells the disciples that their names are written in heaven (see Luke 10:20) and both the Letter to the Philippians (4:3) and the Book of Revelation (21:12-14) refer to names being written in the book of life.

A Confirmation Name

Taking a new name at Confirmation can be symbolic of a new or deeper stage in your faith life. There are several Scripture stories of people who names changed after they experienced a conversion: Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, and Saul to Paul. Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity for you to reflect on what Baptism and union with Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation means in your life. It is also an occasion to reflect on how you want to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you choose a name other than your baptismal name, look to saints and holy people who are truly witnesses of faith for you. Choose the name of a saint you admire and whom you want to be your patron. The decision to choose a special patron (and name) at Confirmation or to honor the name received at Baptism is not really the most important part of the celebration. What is important is God and the Church's commitment to you through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

