

Choosing a Confirmation Name

As a candidate for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, you must pick a saint's name to be placed after your present middle name and before your last name. The saint's name you choose symbolizes a new beginning in your faith life as well as a connection with that particular saint. This is especially true if you felt that you have not been particularly strong in your faith and are now making a renewed commitment to it. Choosing a new name shows your commitment to your faith and symbolizes the new person you have become. A saint's name is chosen to symbolize who you strive to be. You can choose a saint that you admire and who you would like to model your life after.

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

The word sponsor comes from the Latin word *spondere*, meaning to give assurance and promise solemnly. That is exactly what your Confirmation sponsor will be doing for you; assuring you in your faith as well as making the promise to guide you and be there for you throughout your journey in both your faith and your life.

At Baptism, you parents and Godparents accepted a responsibility to help you grow as a Catholic. Now it's your turn to choose a spiritual role model to help you continue on your faith journey. The sponsor whom you choose joins your parents and family in journeying with you throughout the Confirmation preparation period. They support you and help you grow in your life of faith. The sponsor is your challenger and your guide in discovering what it means to be a true witness of Christ.

When picking a sponsor, you should consider someone who is a role model and truly models their life after Christ's. It should be someone you can learn from through both example and word. Your sponsor should be willing to make the commitment to be with you at this time and beyond the celebration of the Sacrament.

Becoming a Confirmation sponsor is an honor as well as a great responsibility and not just anyone can assume the role. Your sponsor:

- Must have received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation).
- If married, a sponsor must be married in the Catholic Church.
- Must be a *practicing* Catholic.
- Must be over 16 years of age.
- May NOT be the candidate's mother or father.
- Must have the intention of fulfilling the duties of a sponsor.
- Should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving and comfortable sharing their faith with you.

**If you choose an out-of-town sponsor and they are unable to attend any related activities or your Confirmation ceremony, then someone needs to stand in place of your sponsor (this can be a parent, older sibling, family friend, etc.).