



Church of St. John the Baptist Youth Confirmation Formation

Confirmation Name

All Candidates take a name at Confirmation. The process of taking a name is originally found in the Scriptures. When people in the Bible decided to follow Jesus (normally as adults) they would often receive a new name from Christ. Simon was renamed Peter (see Matthew 16:17-18) and later Saul was renamed Paul (see Acts of the Apostles 13:9). The practice continued in the Church as newcomers were baptized as Christians, especially if they were originally named after a pagan god or hero. The new name, usually associated with early martyrs and saints, identified the person as having become a “new” person in Christ. This new name was taken at Baptism, but in early times, Confirmation and First Communion were received at the same time that they were baptized. Over time, the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist were separated from Baptism. Many of you were probably baptized as infants and were given a Catholic Saint’s name at that time. If that is the case, it is perfectly fitting and appropriate that you keep your baptismal name for Confirmation.

Whichever name you take, your own baptismal saint’s name or a new saint’s name, you will need to submit a one-page explanation of why you chose that name. If you pick a new saint’s name, it **must** be the name of a saint in the Church. There are books and web sites, which list the names of Catholic Saints.

- Web site suggestions:
 - <http://www.catholic.org/saints>
 - <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/patronnm.htm>

If you are taking your baptismal name and it is not the name of a Catholic Saint, this would be an appropriate time in your life to choose a Catholic Saint’s name and write about the connection between why you chose that saint’s name for confirmation. All candidates will need to complete and submit their paper **no later than Formation Session VII.**

Remember that the name you submit is the name which the Bishop will use when he confirms you. When he anoints your head with oil, he says, “NAME, receive the Holy Spirit.” Make sure you are comfortable with the name you choose.

Please note that taking a Confirmation name has no legal standing. Confirmation names are, however, recorded in the Confirmation registry of the parish.

Date: _____

Confirmation Candidate: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

(Please attach your paper)