



## PICKING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Candidates have the option of choosing a special name for Confirmation but are not required to do so. The Confirmation name is imposed by the Bishop during the Rite of Confirmation. Because of the connection between Baptism and Confirmation, the baptismal name is most appropriate, however candidates may choose another name that has meaning for them.

Please take time to think about your choice of confirmation name. You can go online and research famous saints and how they lived their lives. Some online resources are: [www.catholiconline.com](http://www.catholiconline.com), or [www.newadvent.com](http://www.newadvent.com).

Choosing a new name for Confirmation is an ancient and honorable tradition. Taking a new name is symbolic of a new stage in life. It follows in the scriptural tradition reflected in the Prophet Isaiah, "I have called you by name (Is 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. Since Vatican II, this is no longer a mandatory practice of the Rite of Confirmation. The Church now invites Candidates to reclaim the name they received at Baptism. This follows since Confirmation is, as taught, the fullness of the Sacrament of Baptism.

As you consider the name you choose for Confirmation, use these criteria in your judgment:

- Research the history of your name and any other names you might be considering. Is there someone you were named after? Is there a family history to your name? Are you named after a saint? Pray and let the Holy Spirit guide your research.
- Pick a name that reflects a virtue or value to which you aspire. This may be reflected in the person who has that name (it may be a saint or a relative). You may also choose a name based on a specific patronage (i.e., the patron saint of athletes, musicians, etc.)