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Religious Education Community

## **CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME**

Your name gives you an identity, it tells others who you are. When you were baptized your parents chose your name. Why did your parents choose your name? If you don't know ask them. 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 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"). 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.

Your Confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian. Perhaps you would like to take the name of a person whom you admire. Many Confirmation candidates, recognizing the growing bond of love with their parents or grandparents, take one of their names. The only limit that is placed on your choice is that it must be a saint's name, or a variation of a saint name. You might also consider taking your Baptismal name as your Confirmation name. This is a way of strengthening what your parents chose for you many years ago.

Whether you choose a new name, or keep your Baptismal name, you should know something about that name. After choosing a name, please fill out the Confirmation Name Form.

The internet makes it so easy to research saint names. You can search by specific names, or you can search "patron saint of ...." and fill in the blank with your favorite hobby, sport, or activity. Have fun and find a name that represents who you are and who you want to be.

