

Things to consider when choosing a Confirmation sponsor → Due by Friday, Feb. 23rd

A Confirmation sponsor supports the candidate as they prepare to become full members of the church. It's an important role to play, a privilege not to be taken lightly. Choosing a sponsor is also a decision that candidates should take seriously. The following are a few things candidates should consider when choosing a sponsor for their Confirmation.

Rules & Requirements

There are certain rules and requirements with regard to who can and cannot be a Confirmation sponsor.

Archdiocesan guidelines state:

1. A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
2. A sponsor needs to be a fully initiated Catholic (received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, & Confirmation) and live a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith
3. Parents may not be sponsors, but may stand in proxy for a sponsor who is unable to be present at the ceremony.

Relationship

The path to a meaningful sponsor candidate relationship involves several other factors.

A sponsor should:

1. Be a person of lived faith and a role model for the candidate
2. Be available to spend time with the candidate during the preparation process and to take part in the celebration of the sacrament
3. Be a person with who the candidate has a comfortable and ongoing relationship
4. Be available to continue to support the candidate to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully after reception of the sacrament

How to Choose a Confirmation Saint → Due by Friday, Feb. 23rd

You're in Confirmation class and your teacher tells you to pick a Confirmation saint. Oh, great. Now what?

So what are saints?

The first thing to understand is *why* you are being asked to choose a saint. The saints aren't just dead people that you see in stained glass windows and on holy cards. The Communion of Saints is:

[The] communion of "holy persons" (*sancti*) in Christ who "died for all," so that what each one does or suffers in and for Christ bears fruit for all. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 961)

Basically, all of these saints who came before you are part of your extended family. They are those wonderful relatives who are praying for you and rooting for you to get to Heaven.

Why Should I Choose a Confirmation Saint?

So just for a minute think about some uncle that you look up to or a cousin that you really wish you could be like and then imagine that this person has been declared a saint and you could ask him to pray for you! Wouldn't that be great? Well, that's exactly what you get when you choose a Confirmation saint - someone to emulate for his holiness and someone to intercede for you in Heaven.

How do I pick one for Confirmation?

First of all, don't treat this as a box to check off and pick St Francis just because you have a vague idea about his life. The first thing you should do is pray. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in choosing a saint that will be best for you. The second thing you should do is some research. Browse a library of patron saints online or get a good book of saints to read. While you are reading about the saints ask yourself why you are drawn to some more than others. Is it because they were courageous in speaking about the Faith? Were they drawn to helping the poor? Did they have an occupation that you are interested in or have a family like yours? As you start to narrow down the saints you are interested in, think again about the reasons to choose one. Is this someone I look up to and want to emulate? Is this someone who I want to spiritually "have my back"? Once you have decided on your saint, see if there is a good book just about that particular saint so you can get to know him or her better. Start asking that saint for guidance and the courage to take your reception of the sacrament of Confirmation seriously.

How will my Confirmation Name be used at my Mass? The Confirmation (Saint) name you choose, will be the Name on your name tag. Your sponsor will introduce you to the Bishop as your Confirmation name. The Bishop will likely ask you why you chose your Confirmation name.

Sponsor – Due by Friday, February 23rd

Saint Name and Explanation – Due by Friday, February 23rd

Complete Online Confirmation Form – Due by Friday, February 23rd (link is on website)

Saint Name and Explanation

Paragraph 1 – Research information about your saint (7-10 sentences)

- Who are they? What did they do? Why are they a saint?

Paragraph 2 – Reflection on why you chose this saint name (7-10 sentences)

- Use the guiding questions to help get you started.

Reflection
Guiding Ques