



Confirmation *Name* Biography

Write a reflection on the topics detailed below. It is to be a minimum of three (3) pages, double spaced, 12 point font. If all the elements listed below are not included, it will be returned. Appropriate paperwork for sponsor and the essay should be submitted by September 7, 2011.

1. Please begin with a general understanding of Confirmation and why you wish to be confirmed. Don't just give us a rote definition of the sacrament. Please give us your own thoughts and feelings!
2. The Confirmation saint name you have chose is the next topic. The first paragraph needs to be about the **particular saint** whose name you are choosing. You must write this in you own words; pieces downloaded from the **internet will not be accepted**. The second paragraph is to be about why you are choosing this name. If you are choosing the name in honor of someone you know, please look at the life of the saint and see what attributes he or she has in common with the person that you are honoring. What significance do you hope to gain by modeling yourself after this saint?

There are 2 options in choosing a Confirmation Name:

- You may choose your present baptismal name (your first or middle name). This shows the sacramental connections with the first and second part of your initiation into the Catholic Church—Baptism and Eucharist. To stay with your baptismal name would demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and now wish to make this formal through Confirmation.
- You may also choose the name of a saint that inspires you or whose life was not easy, but remained faithful to God. This would symbolize a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with that saint. Your commitment would be symbolized by taking the new name to show that you are, in some ways, a new person. This name would be used after your middle name and before your family name.

Websites for Saint Names:

www.catholic.org

Left side of page, go to "Featured Channels" and double click "Saint Index" or "Patron Saint".

www.catholic-forum.com

Left side of page, double click "Patron Saints Index", on upper right of that page, go to "List by Topic" or "List by Name". Faith Formation office we will recommend others sources.

3. At this point, you should consider whom you will choose as a sponsor for your Confirmation. You do not journey alone within the Catholic community. Along the way, you form relationships with members who demonstrate in their lives what it means to be Catholic. A sponsor is someone who stands up for you before the community, presents you to the Archbishop, and witnesses the anointing with chrism. But the sponsor does many things before and after that special day. A sponsor should some one who has walked your faith journey with you, encouraging you to grow in your own faith by witnessing to his/her faith. The sponsor's influence in your life should continue after the ceremony. The sponsor should serve as someone you can turn to for help and guidance as you continue your faith journey in the years ahead. Now you will write about the name of your sponsor and the relationship to you, how he/she lives a mature Catholic Faith, what it is about this person that made you choose him/her, why you feel that he/she will be a good person with whom you want to share your Faith Journey. Below is a list of qualifications.

Qualifications of a sponsor

A sponsor must:

- Be a baptized, confirmed, and a **practicing** Roman Catholic, at least 16 years of age.
- Must receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly, and witness to his/her faith by attending Mass each Sunday
- Be approved by the priest of his/her parish.
- Not be a parent of the candidate.

All sponsors must submit:

- Sponsor's Certificate, sealed by their pastor attesting that they are registered members who practice their faith.
4. An explanation of each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how the candidate sees them operating in his/her life and in the life of his/her sponsors.
 5. How the candidate expects to actively serve his/her parish community as a confirmed Catholic; what he/she will receive (Spiritually) from attending Eucharist and why weekly attendance as a confirmed Catholic is important.
 6. The most valuable lesson he/she received during his/her years of religious education and the impact it had on the candidates life.

This paperwork has to be submitted to the Faith Formation office by September 7, 2011. Once we receive this paperwork and the sponsor certificate you will be placed in the Confirmation prep class. Good luck and if you need any help please call the Faith Formation Office.