

Choosing a Saint Name

When I was your age, it was “suggested” to me who to choose. I just went along. As it turns out, the very wise woman (my grandma) who suggested Thérèse of Lisieux knew me better than I knew myself. It was a matter of pure blessing. This is not the way I want you to begin. I want you to have conversations with your parents and have ideas of your own to start those conversations with. This will require you to do some research about Catholic Saints. I suggest catholic.org or ewtn.org and search for “saints”. Look for someone you identify with. You can search for patron saints of specific things like music (St. Cecilia). Or you can just start reading. Maybe you have someone in mind already. Do some research about that saint. You will have to write a page about your saint and why you chose them. If you choose someone based on their life and tell me it’s “Catherine d’Vigri”, make sure you tell me their saint name as well which, in this case, is “Catherine of Bologna”.

What if your name IS a saint name? Then, by all means, feel free to keep it. However, you still have to write the paper, so you still need to do the research. Some students may choose **not** to pick a saint name, but you still need to explain that as well.

I will need this name by the end of October. That means the paper is due at the end of October. You can turn it in at any time, but they must be in by October 25 (Sunday) or October 27 (Tuesday).

Choosing a Sponsor

Guidelines were written years ago to guide our preparation for Confirmation. Part of that is Sponsor-Student Preparation. I have an ungathered system based on email (or it can be done in person or via the phone) that involves 12 topics. You will speak to your sponsor and fill out this form to hand in. This means that Sponsors **MUST** be chosen by September 27 (Sunday) or September 29 (Tuesday). This means you need to start now in your search.

Let’s talk about choosing a Sponsor. A Sponsor is someone whom you can look to as an example and for guidance in your own faith journey. This should be someone you have regular contact with and, hopefully, local. There are rules. This person must have been fully initiated themselves meaning they are baptized Catholic, have received Eucharist and been Confirmed and, if married, married in the Church. They must be at least 16 years of age. They should be living a life in accordance with the faith and attending Mass regularly. It can **NOT** be a parent because your parents already have a very important role in your life. It can be a grandparent or, even better, a godparent. I suggest a godparent, if you’re close to them, because Confirmation is the completion of Baptism. It’s the seal (of oil) on your baptismal water. We’ll talk much more about that in the coming year.