

Choosing A Confirmation Name

You Have Two Options for a Confirmation Name:

1. Be confirmed with your Baptismal name
2. Be confirmed with a *new* name **only if there is good reason to do so** (e.g., you want to take the name of a saint you admire and want to emulate)

Your Christian Name

Your name is a very personal expression of who you are. When you were born, your parents chose a name for you, and in baptism you were “christened” with your Christian name.

For many centuries it was customary to use only the names of saints at baptism, but the baptismal rite now permits other names as long as they are not incompatible with Christian faith, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults provides a rite for the catechumen to receive a “Christian” name for baptism.

Since confirmation is seen in relationship to baptism, any discussion of a “confirmation name” must be placed in the context of the relationship of confirmation to baptism. Confirmation is a “seal” of the faith and grace given in baptism. The current rite of confirmation links the celebration of this sacrament of initiation to baptism, and thus, for example, recommends that the sponsor for confirmation be the baptismal godparent when possible and includes a formal renewal of baptismal promises after the homily. Since the rite contains no specific directive otherwise, it presumes that those to be confirmed will be addressed by their baptismal name. **So the current church recommendation is for candidates to be confirmed with their baptismal name to show the unity between the two sacraments.**

Choosing New Name for Confirmation

Choosing a separate confirmation name has been a centuries-old custom for those baptized as infants but confirmed later. But this practice emphasizes a separation between the two sacraments that is at variance with our renewed understanding of the interrelationship of baptism, confirmation and eucharist as the three sacraments of Christian initiation. And although popular in many places, a “confirmation name” is nowhere mentioned in either the former rite or the current rite; neither is it mentioned in either the old or new Code of Canon Law. Thus there is no obligation to use a name at confirmation that is different from the name given at baptism.