

St. Joseph Youth Ministry

~ a way for high school youth and their families to live out their baptismal call with the opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation ~

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Choosing a Confirmation Name

Within the Catholic Church, it is traditional to be named after a saint. Naming is an important part of life, and it is an important part of faith. This is demonstrated in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

When parents bring a baby to the Church to be baptized, they are asked "What name do you give your child"? They are then asked by the priest, "What do you ask of the Church for this child"? They answer, "Baptism". It is during this first Sacrament of Initiation that parents respond for their children and promise to raise them in the Catholic faith- with the help of the godparents. From this beginning, a child's religious identity is being formed. After Baptism, you are recognized as a Catholic.

At the Sacrament of Confirmation, the naming process is again demonstrated. One of the exciting aspects of Confirmation is that you can choose a Confirmation name. Choosing the name should involve research into the saint's life and choose qualities of the saint that you would like to imitate. That saint's name may also belong to someone close to you that you admire, and would like to emulate. Knowing this person may draw you to choose that particular saint's name.

Your Confirmation name can also be your Baptismal name, if you choose. You may feel that keeping your Baptismal name signifies the continuity between Baptism and Confirmation, and that you choose to accept the faith that your parents promised to raise you in at your Baptism. Now, you, the candidate, with the guidance of your sponsor, and your parish community, agree to remain on your journey of faith. At your Confirmation, you are affirming your faith to the Bishop, and congregation that you want to continue as a follower of Jesus, living as He did, as a member of the Catholic Church.

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Assignment: Write an essay on the saint you chose (even if it's your Baptismal name as your Confirmation name.)

****Ask your sponsor to help you with your essay.****

Think about saints, or people in your life that you admire. Choose a Confirmation name, or keep your Baptismal name. Your essay should include:

1. What name did you choose, and why did you choose this name?
2. What are some important events that occurred in the life of the saint, or other person close to you whose name you choose to share?
3. Identify the qualities in the saint, or your personal role model, that you wish to possess and imitate.

All essays are to be mailed (or e-mailed) to the rectory.

Mail to: St. Joseph Church
454 Germantown Road
West Milford, NJ 07480

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Copy klugecamille@gmail.com

If you have any **questions**, please e-mail: klugecamille@gmail.com