

Your Confirmation Name

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All of us need heroes! Whether it is in the area of athletics, or science, or politics, or even parenting (maybe especially parenting), all of us need role models that we can look up to and emulate.

As I was growing up, I frequently experienced attacks of asthma that would induce a bronchitis and put me in bed for a week or so. My parents did not allow us, kids, to watch television, so I read books. Most frequently I read books on the lives of the saints. They became my heroes.

The late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once said, “The Church’s job is to make saints, and she is at her best when she gives them to us.” Many people today, living amidst the secularism, materialism and hedonism of our times, question whether it’s really possible to live a virtuous and holy life. Some think that Jesus holds up for us a theoretically high ideal which none of us can attain. But after reading the lives of the saints and the flesh-and-blood circumstances in which they lived and died, you cannot fail but know that the ideals to which Jesus calls us are real and attainable. They are because others, like ourselves, have been there and done it!

It is my wish that each Confirmation candidate will choose the name of a real, legitimate saint who is well known to that individual. It may be the saint of one’s baptismal designation, or the saint’s name your parents or grandparents carry, or a saint whose life you have read and whose example you wish to follow. But the name you choose should link you with the communion of saints in heaven with whom we worship God, the Father, every time we participate in the Mass.

Attached is a list of the most commonly known saints who are celebrated in the Roman Calendar. If you are trying to find the right saint for you, it will give you a good start. Other saints are found in Our Sunday Visitor’s Encyclopedia of Saints, revised by Mathew, Margaret, and Stephen Bunson in 2003. A copy of this can be found in the Archdiocesan Worship Office.

Most internet websites provide incorrect or inadequate information about the saints. The Vatican does provide a more authoritative website at www.vatican.va and is a wonderful resource for learning about the saints.

Choosing a name for Confirmation is an important step in the process of preparation. I ask each candidate to pray, study, and choose a saint in whom he or she can place their confidence not just for today, but for many years to come.

God bless you!

NAME OF SAINTS (FEMALE ITALICIZED)	FEAST DATE	CLASSIFICATION OF THE SAINT
Achilleus	12-May	with Nereus
<i>Agatha</i>	5-Feb	<i>martyr</i>
<i>Agnes</i>	21-Jan	<i>virgin and martyr</i>
Albert (the Great)	15-Nov	doctor of the Church
Aloysius Gonzaga	21-Jun	scholar, patron of youth
Alphonsus Marie Liguori	1-Aug	bishop, doctor
Ambrose	7-Dec	father of the Church, doctor
<i>Anastasia</i>	25-Dec	<i>martyr</i>
Andrew Dung Lac	24-Nov	priest, martyr
Andrew Kim Taegon	20-Sep	priest, martyr
Andrew	30-Nov	apostle, martyr
<i>Angela Merici</i>	27-Jan	<i>foundress of Ursulines, mystic</i>
<i>Anne</i>	26-Jul	<i>mother of Mary, patron of widows</i>
Anselem	21-Apr	bishop, doctor
Ansgar	3-Feb	missionary, archbishop
Anthony	17-Jan	hermit, monk
Anthony Mary Claret	24-Oct	founder of Claretians
Anthony of Padua	13-Jun	doctor
Apollinaris (of Hierpolis)	8-Jan	bishop, writer, apologist
Athanasius	2-May	bishop, doctor
Augustine (of Hippo)	28-Aug	doctor, Father of the Church
Barnabas	11-Jun	apostle, martyr
Bartholomew (Nathanael)	24-Aug	apostle, martyr
Basil the Great	2-Jan	bishop, doctor
Benedict	11-Jul	monastic founder
<i>Bernadette</i>	16-Apr	<i>had visions of the Lady of Lourdes- not in Roman Calendar</i>
Bernard (of Clairvaux)	20-Aug	abbot and doctor
Bernadine of Siena	20-May	preacher, missionary
Blaise	3-Feb	bishop, martyr, physician
Bonaventure	15-Jul	theologian, bishop, doctor
Boniface	5-Jun	bishop, missionary
Brendan	16-May	monastic founder, patron of sailors
<i>Bridget of Sweden</i>	23-Jul	<i>wife, foundress</i>
Bruno	6-Oct	priest, hermit
Cajetan	7-Aug	priest, founder
Callistus I	14-Oct	pope, martyr
<i>Catherine of Siena</i>	29-Apr	<i>doctor, mystic, papal adviser, patroness of the dying</i>
<i>Cecilia</i>	22-Nov	<i>virgin and martyr, patroness of music</i>
Charles Borromeo	4-Nov	bishop
Charles Lwanga	3-Jun	martyr of Uganda-with companions
Christopher	25-Jul	martyr, patron of travelers-not in Calendar
<i>Clare</i>	11-Aug	<i>virgin, foundress, mystic</i>
Clement I	23-Nov	pope, martyr
<i>Clotilde</i>	3-Jun	<i>Queen of the Franks, converted her husband not on Calendar</i>
Cornelius	16-Sep	pope - with Cyprian
Cyprian	16-Sep	pope- with Cornelius
Cosmas	26-Sep	martyr, with Damian
Cyril of Alexandria	27-Jun	bishop, doctor
Cyril of Jerusalem	18-Mar	doctor, bishop
Damasus I	11-Dec	pope
Denis	9-Oct	martyr - with companions
Dionysius		
Dominic	8-Aug	priest, founder of Order of Preachers
<i>Edith Stein</i>	9-Aug	<i>philosopher, writer, convert from Judaism- Canonized 1998</i>
Eligius (Bloi)	1-Dec	bishop, founder, patron of metal smiths - not on Calendar
<i>Elizabeth</i>	5-Nov	<i>cousin of Mary, mother of John the Baptist</i>
<i>Elizabeth Ann Seton</i>	4-Jan	<i>religious</i>
<i>Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	4-Jul	<i>religious</i>
<i>Elizabeth of Hungary</i>	17-Nov	<i>religious</i>
Ephraem	9-Jun	doctor, deacon
Eusebius of Vercelli	2-Aug	bishop, martyr
Fabian	20-Jan	pope, martyr
<i>Felicity</i>	7-Mar	<i>martyr-with Perpetua</i>
Fidelis (of Sigmaringen)	24-Apr	priest and martyr
<i>Frances of Rome</i>	9-Mar	<i>religious, co-patroness of Benedictine Oblataes</i>
Francis Xavier	3-Dec	priest, patron of foreign missions

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Francis de Sales	January 24 1	bishop, doctor
Francis of Assisi	4-Oct	religious
Francis of Paola	2-Apr	hermit, patron of seafarers
Gabriel the Archangel	29-Sep	patron of modem telecommunications
<i>Genevieve (Genovfa)</i>	3-Jan	<i>religious - not in Roman Calendar</i>
George	23-Apr	martyr
<i>Gertrude (the Great)</i>	16-Nov	<i>virgin</i>
<i>Gianna Beretta Molla</i>		<i>wife, physician, died giving birth - Canonized - 2004</i>
Gregory the Great	3-Sep	pope, doctor
Gregory VII	3-Sep	pope
<i>Hedwig</i>	16-Oct	<i>religious. widow</i>
Henry	13-Jul	co-patron of the Benedictine Oblates
Hennano Pedro de San Jose		physician, founder - canonized 2002
De Betancurt		
Hilary (of Poitiers)	13-Jan	bishop, doctor
Hippolytus	13-Aug	priest and martyr - with Pontian
Ignatius (of Loyola)	31-Jul	priest, founder of the Jesuits
Ignatius (of Antioch)	17-Oct	bishop, martyr
Irenaeus	28-Jun	bishop, martyr
Isaac Jogues	19-Oct	priest and martyr
Isidore (the Fanner)	10-May	fanner, husband
Isidore (of Seville)	4-Apr	bishop and doctor
James the Greater	25-Jul	apostle
James the Lesser	3-May	apostle - with Philip
<i>Jane Frances de Chantal</i>	18-Aug	<i>religious, foundress</i>
Januarius	19-Sep	bishop, martyr
Jerome	September 30 1	priest and doctor
Jerome Emiliarni	8-Feb	patron saint of orphanages and abandoned children
Joachim	26-Jul	father of Mary
<i>Joan of Arc (Jeanne La Pucelle)</i>	30-May	<i>not in Roman Calendar</i>
John	27-Dec	apostle, evangelist
John Baptist de la Salle	7-Apr	priest, educator, founder
John Bosco	31-Jan	priest, founder of the Salesians
John Cantius (Kanty)	31-May	priest, patron of Poland and Lithuania
John Chrysostom	13-Sep	bishop and doctor
John de Brebeuf	19-Oct	martyr - with companions
John Eudes	19-Aug	priest, founder of devotion to the Sacred Heart
John Fisher	22-Jun	bishop and martyr
John Leonardi	9-Oct	priest, founder
John the Baptist	24-Jun	precursor of the Messiah, martyr (August 29)
John Vianney	4-Aug	priest
Joseph	19-Mar	husband of Mary, patron of workers (May 1)
<i>Josephine Bakhita</i>	8-Feb	<i>religious, kidnapped and sold into slavery - canonized 2000</i>
Juan Diego	9-Dec	had visions of the Lady of Guadalupe - canonized 2002
Justin Martyr	1-Jun	martyr, philosopher, apologist
Jude (or Thaddeus)	28-Oct	apostle, patron of lost causes
<i>Katharine Drexel</i>	3-Mar	<i>religious, foundress of schools canonized 2000</i>
Lawrence	10-Aug	deacon, martyr
Lawrence of Brindisi	21-Jul	priest, doctor
Lawrence Ruiz	29-Sep	martyr - with companions- canonized 1987
Leo the Great	10-Nov	pope, doctor
Louis Mary de Montfort	28-Apr	priest, devotion to Mary and the rosary
Louis Baba	25-Aug	martyr
<i>Lucy {of Syracuse}</i>	13-Dec	<i>virgin, martyr</i>
Luke	18-Oct	apostle, evangelist, patron of doctors
Malachy O'More	3-Nov	abbot, bishop
Marcellin Joseph Benoit Champagnat	6-Jun	priest, founder of the Society of Mary canonized 1999
Marcellinus	2-Jun	martyr - with Peter
<i>Margaret Mary Alacoque</i>	16-Oct	<i>virgin, martyr, leader of devotions to the Sacred Heart</i>
<i>Marguerite Bourgeoys</i>	19-Jan	<i>religious, foundress - canonized 1982</i>
<i>Margaret of Scotland</i>	16-Nov	<i>virgin, model of charity</i>
<i>Maria Josefa of the Heart of Jesus</i>	20-Mar	<i>religious, co-foundress - canonized 2000</i>
<i>Sancho de Guerra</i>		
<i>Maria Goretti</i>	6-Jul	<i>virgin, martyr</i>
<i>Marie Marguerite d'Youville</i>	11-Apr	<i>religious, foundress of Sisters of Charity - canonized 1990</i>
Mark	25-Apr	apostle, evangelist

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<i>Martha</i>	29-Jul	<i>sister to Sts. Lazarus and Mary at Bethany, patroness of cooks</i>
Martin de Porres	3-Nov	religious, founder of orphanage, ministered to Slaves
Martin of Tours	11-Nov	bishop, founder
<i>Mary Faustina Kowalski</i>	5-Oct	<i>religious, visionary of the Divine Mercy - canonized 2000</i>
<i>Mary Magdalene</i>	22-Jul	<i>apostle to the apostles</i>
<i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	1-Jan	<i>Mother of Jesus - has many feast days</i>
Matthew, apostle	21-Sep	apostle, evangelist
Matthias, apostle	14-May	apostle (replaced Judas Iscariot)
Maximilian Maria Kolbe	14-Aug	priest, martyr, died in Nazi concentration camp
Methodius	14-Feb	bishop-with Cyril
Michael the Archangel	29-Sep	protector of the Chosen People -with Gabriel and Raphael
<i>Monica</i>	27-Aug	<i>widow, mother of St. Augustine</i>
Nereus	12-May	martyr - with Achilleus
Nicholas	6-Dec	bishop, patron of children
Norbert	6-Jun	bishop, founder
Pancras	12-May	martyr
Patrick	17-Mar	bishop, patron of Ireland
Paul	29-Jun	apostle, with Peter
Paul Moo	6-Feb	martyr - with companions
<i>Paola (Paula) Frassinetti</i>	11-Jun	<i>foundress - canonized 1984</i>
<i>Paula Montal Fornes De San Jose Calasanz</i>	25-Nov	<i>foundress of Daughters of Mary - canonized 1983</i>
Paulinus of Nola	22-Jun	bishop
<i>Perpetua</i>	7-Mar	<i>martyr - with Felicity and companions</i>
Peter	29-Jun	apostle, first pope - with Paul
Peter Damian	21-Feb	bishop, doctor
Philip	3-May	apostle - with James
Philip Neri	26-May	priest, missionary, founder
Pio da Pietrelcina	23-Sep	priest, devoted to prayer - canonized 2002
Pius V	30-Apr	pope
Pius X	21-Aug	pope
Polycarp	23-Feb	bishop, martyr
Pontian	13-Aug	pope and martyr
Raymond of Penafort	7-Jan	priest
<i>Rita of Cascia</i>	22-May	<i>religious, patroness of hopeless causes</i>
Robert Bellarmine	17-Sep	bishop, doctor
Romuald	19-Jun	abbot
<i>Rose of Lima</i>	23-Aug	<i>virgin, foundress for care of the Native Americans of Peru</i>
<i>Rose-Philippini Duchesne</i>	17-Nov	<i>religious, foundress - canonized 1988</i>
Raphael the Archangel	29-Sep	with Michael and Gabriel
<i>Scholastica</i>	10-Feb	<i>virgin, abbess and founder</i>
Sebastian	20-Jan	martyr
Simon	28-Oct	apostle - with Jude
Sixtus II	7-Aug	pope, martyr - with companions
Stanislaus	11-Apr	bishop, martyr, patron of Poland
Stephen	26-Dec	apostle, first martyr
Stephen of Hungary	16-Aug	married man, ruler
Sylvester I	31-Dec	pope
<i>Teresa of Jesus</i>	15-Oct	<i>virgin and doctor</i>
<i>Therese of Lisieux</i>	1-Oct	<i>religious, doctor, "the Little Flower" canonized 1997</i>
Thomas	3-Jul	apostle
Thomas Aquinas	28-Jan	priest and doctor
Thomas Becket	29-Dec	bishop and martyr
Thomas More	22-Jun	martyr, with John Fisher
Timothy	26-Jan	bishop - with Titus
Titus	26-Jan	bishop - with Timothy
Vincent	22-Jan	deacon, martyr
Vincent de Paul	27-Sep	priest, founder of Lazarist Fathers and Sisters of Charity
Vincent Ferrer	5-Apr	priest
Wenceslaus	28-Sep	martyr
Willibrord	7-Nov	bishop, missionary to Frisia (modern Netherlands) not in Calendar
Zachary	5-Nov	father of John the Baptist (Zachariah)