

# CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

## About Confirmation Names

Confirmation names are a special part of the confirmation process for Roman Catholics, especially those in English-speaking countries. Before the ritual of being confirmed, those seeking confirmation choose to take a saint's name with whom they identify. After confirmation the confirmed can pray to the saint for guidance and protection.

## Features

Roman Catholics going through confirmation choose a saint they feel an affinity for as their confirmation name. The patron saint then serves as their guide and protector.

## Types

The set of confirmation names is as long as the list of saints that can be found in the resources section below.

## Considerations

The common advice for those trying to decide on a name is to research saint names and find one that fits their personality or spiritual goals. Those seeking confirmation are also encouraged to pray and seek a saint that is willing to guide them as they seek a closer relationship with God.

## How to Choose A Saints Name

During the Catholic sacrament of Confirmation, God the Holy Spirit comes upon you to bestow numerous spiritual gifts and "confirm" the faith given you in Baptism when Original Sin was wiped away. You choose a Confirmation name before Confirmation. This new name, imposed by the Bishop or Priest during Confirmation, becomes a part of your full name. It comes after your first and middle names and before the last name.

- 1 Find a list of canonized saints in the Roman Catholic Church by reading a book or doing online research. Saints are people who have lived holy lives and are now in heaven as members of the Church Triumphant. Their life stories provide examples for others on how to overcome spiritual obstacles on Earth.
- 2 Read about male saints if you're male, and female saints if you're female. Generally speaking, but not required, you'll want to choose a name that matches your gender
- 3 Pray to the Holy Spirit, and ask Him for help in finding a saint whose life you'd like to imitate. This saint will be bonded with you spiritually, and in essence becomes your heavenly patron who intercedes for you before God.
- 4 Narrow your selection to two saints. One of them will be your new Confirmation name. Think about the specific virtues those saints exhibited, such as patience, perfection, diligence, humility, mortification, meekness, obedience, prayer, charity or simplicity. Find a virtue that connects with you.
- 5 Consider the one or two special stories told about those saints on your "short" list to help you find a spiritual connection. For example, St. Maximilian Kobe gave up his life for another person's life in a German concentration camp during World War II, and so showed the virtue of

selflessness. St. Francis, a spiritual leader who founded a religious order, led a simple life of poverty and greatly loved animals.

- 6 Take your list of two saints to a family member or friend who is a practicing Catholic. Talk about the saints' lives with that person, and discuss what attracts you spiritually to these holy people.
- 7 Select your Confirmation name, and inform your family and friends. Get used to it by saying it over and over again in your mind. Practice writing it as part of your full name.
- 8 Before you are confirmed, pray to the saint whose name you will be using as your Confirmation name. Ask this saint to intercede for you, to help you make the right moral choices, and overall to be a powerful spiritual guide the rest of your life.
- 9 Buy pictures, holy cards, statues and books associated with your Confirmation's namesake. These visual reminders of your saint will help you reflect upon his or her unique virtues. Check out saints on line.

## The following lists are sorted by their patron cause alphabetically and Patron Saints of Countries

*This list comes from The Catholic Source Book: Third Edition by Rev. Peter Klein (Brown-ROA, a division of Harcourt Brace & Company, Orlando, FL, 2000) with additions (without dates) from The HarperCollins Encyclopedia of Catholicism edited by Richard P. McBrien (HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., New York, NY, 1995).*

Abbreviations you will see are: ab -abbot, ap -apostle, aa -archangel, e -evangelist.

- **Accountants: Matthew**
- **Advertisers: Bernardino of Sena**
- **Altar boys: John Berchmans (August 13)**
- **Anesthetists: Rene Goupil**
- **Animals: Francis, October 4**
- **Animals, domestic: Ambrose, December 7; Cornelius, September 16**
- **Archers: Sebastian**
- **Architects/builders: Barbara (December 4 ); Thomas, ap, July 3**
- **Armorers: Sebastian, January 20**
- **Armories: Lawrence, August 10**

- Art: Catherine Bologna (March 9)
- Artillerymen: Barbara (December 4 )
- Artists: Luke, October 18; Michael, aa, September 29
- Astronomers: Dominic, August 8
- Athletes: Sebastian, January 20
- Authors: Francis de Sales, January 29; Lucy, December 13
- Aviators: Joseph of Cupertino (September 18); Therese of Lisieux, October 1; Our Lady of Loreto (December 10)
- Bakers: Elizabeth of Hungary, November 17; Nicholas of Myra, December 6; Peter, ap, June 29
- Bald people: Hedwig
- Bankers: Matthew, September 21
- Barbers: Cosmas and Damian, September 26; Louis of France, August 25
- Barren women: Anthony of Padua, June 13; Felicity, March 7
- Basket-makers: Anthony, ab, January 17
- Beekeepers: Ambrose, December 7; Bernard of Clairvaux, August 20
- Beggars: Elizabeth of Hungary, November 17; Giles (September 1); Alexis (July 17); Martin of Tours, November 11
- Blacksmiths: Dunstan (May 19)
- Blind: Dunstan (May 19); Odilia (December 13); Raphael, aa, September 29; Lucy, December 13
- Blood banks: Januarius
- Bodily ills: Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11
- Bookbinders: Peter Celestine (May 19)
- Bookkeepers: Matthew
- Booksellers: John, e, December 27
- Boy Scouts: George, April 23
- Brewers: Boniface, June 5; Augustine, August 28; Luke, October 18; Nicholas of Myra, Dec 6
- Bricklayers: Stephen, December 26
- Brides: Dorothy (February 6); Nicholas of Myra, December 6
- Builders: Vincent Ferrer, April 5
- Butchers: Anthony, ab, January 17; Adrian (September 8); Luke, e, October 18; Peter, ap, June 29
- Cab drivers: Fiacre (September 1 in Ireland)
- Cabinet makers: Anne, July 26
- Cancer patients: Peregrine (May 1)
- Canonists: Raymond of Penafort
- Captives: Nicholas of Myra, December 6
- Carpenters: Joseph, March 19; Thomas, July 3
- Catechists: Viator, Charles Borromeo, Robert Bellarmine
- Catholic action: Francis of Assisi, October 4

- Catholic writers/press: Francis de Sales, January 24
- Cattle: Cornelius, September 16
- Cavalrymen: George, April 23
- Charitable societies: Vincent de Paul, September 27
- Children: Nicholas of Myra, December 6; Pancras, May 12
- Children's choir: Holy Innocents, December 28 (;,I,
- Chivalry: George, April 23 ;i:
- Church universal: Joseph, March 19 ~'
- Clerics: Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother (February 27) (,;0;;;;
- Clock-makers: Peter, June 29 ;
- Cloth workers (fullers): Severus (October 22? , November 8?)
- Comedians: Vitus (June 15)
- Communication workers: Gabriel, September 29 r
- Confessors: Alphonsus Liguori, August 1; John Nepomucene (May 16)
- Convulsion in children: Scholastica, February 10
- Cooks: Lawrence, August 10; Martha, July 29
- Coppersmiths: Benedict, July 11
- Crops, protector of: Ansovinus
- Dairy workers: Bridget of Sweden, July 23
- Deaf: Francis de Sales, January 24
- Dentists: Apollonia (February 9)
- Desperate situations: Jude Thaddacus, October 28; Gregory of Neocaesarea ("the Wonderworker") (November 17)
- Dietitians, hospital: Martha
- Disabled: Giles (September 1)
- Dog bites: Vitus
- Drapers: Ursula (October 21)
- Druggists: Cosmas and Damian, September 26; James the Less, ap, May 3
- Dying: Joseph, March 19; Barbara (December 4)
- Ecology: Francis of Assisi, October 4
- Elderly: Anthony of Padua, June 13
- Emigrants: Frances Xavier Cabrini, November 13
- Engaged couples: Agnes, January 21
- Engineers: Joseph, March 19; Ferdinand III (May 30)
- Epilepsy: Vitus, Willibrord
- Expectant mothers: Raymond Nonnatus (August 31 ); Gerard Majella (October 16)
- Eye trouble: Lucy, December 13
- Falsely accused: Raymond Nonnatus (August 31 )
- Family: Joseph, March 19
- Farmers: George, April 23; Isidore, May 15
- Fire prevention: Catherine of Siena, April 29; Barbara (December 4)

- Firefighters: Florian
- First Communicants: Tarcisius (August 15)
- Fishermen: Andrew, November 30
- Florists: Dorothy (February 6); Therese of Lisieux, October 1
- Forest workers: John Gualbert (July 12)
- Founders: Barbara (December 4)
- Foundlings: Holy Innocents, December 28
- Funeral directors: Joseph of Arimathea (March 17); Dismas (March 25)
- Gardeners: Agnes, January 21; Dorothy (February 6); Trypho (November 10); Fiacre (September 1 in Ireland)
- Geometricians: Thomas, ap, July 3
- Glass workers: Luke, October 18
- Glaziers (people who fit glass in windows): Mark, April 25
- Goldsmiths: Dunstan (May 19)
- Grave diggers and graveyards: Anthony, ab, January 17
- Grace, those in need: Teresa of Avila, October 15
- Greetings: Valentine (February 14)
- Grocers: Michael, aa, September 29
- Guardian angels: Raphael, aa, September 29
- Gunners: Barbara (December 4)
- Hairdressers: Martin de Porres, November 3
- Happy death: Joseph, March 19
- Hatters: James the Less, ap, May 3
- Haymakers: Gervase and Protase (June 19)
- Headaches: Teresa of Avila, October 15
- Heart ailments: John of God, March 8
- Homemakers: Anne
- Hospitality: Julian the Hospitaller (February 12)
- Hospital Administrators: Basil the Great, Frances Xavier Cabrini
- Hospitals: Camillus de Lellis, July 14; John of God, March 8; Jude Thaddaeus, ap, October 28
- Housewives: Anne, July 26; Martha, July 29
- Hunters: Hubert (November 3)
- Immigrants: Frances Xavier Cabrini
- Innkeepers: Martin of Tours, November 11
- Interior souls: Joseph, March 19
- Invalids: Roch (August 16)
- Ironmongers: Sebastian, January 20
- Jewelers: Eligius (December 1)
- Journalists: Francis de Sales, January 24
- Jurists: Catherine of Alexandria (November 25); John of Capistrano, October 23

- Laborers: Isidore, May 15; James, July 25
- Lawyers: Ivo of Chartres (June 17); Genesisius (August 25)
- Learning: Ambrose, December 7; Acca (November 27)
- Librarians: Jerome, September 30
- Locksmiths: Dunstan (May 19)
- Lost things: Anthony, ab, January 17
- Lovers: Raphael, aa, September 29
- Maidens: Agnes, January 21; Margaret (July 20); Ursula (October 21 )
- Mail carriers: Gabriel, September 29
- Marble workers: Clement I (November 23)
- Mariners: Michael, aa, September 29; Nicholas of Tolentino (September 10)
- Medical technicians: Albertus Magnus
- Mentally ill: Dymphna (May 15)
- Merchants: Francis of Assisi, October 4; Nicholas of Myra, December 6
- Messengers: Gabriel, aa
- Metalworkers: Eligius (December 1 )
- Military chaplains: John Capistrano
- Millers: Victor (July 21 )
- Miners: Barbara (December 4)
- Missions: Francis Xavier, December 3; Therese of Lisieux, October 1
- Missions, Black: Peter Claver, September 9; Benedict the Moor (April 4)
- Missions, home: Leonard of Port Maurice (November 26)
- Moral theologians: Alphonsus Liguori, August 1
- Mothers: Monica, August 27; Anne, July 26
- Motorcyclists: Our Lady of Grace (May 31 )
- Motorists: Christopher (July 25)
- Mountaineers: Bernard of Menthon (May 28)
- Musicians: Cecilia, November 22; Gregory the Great, September 3; Paul, June 29
- Notaries: Mark, April 25; Luke, October 18
- Nurses: Agatha, February 5; Alexis (July 17); Camillus de Lellis, July 14; Raphael, September 29; John of God, March 8; Margaret of Scotland (November 16)
- Nursing and Nursing Services: Elizabeth of Hungary, Catherine of Siena
- Orators: John Chrysostom
- Orphans: Jerome Emiliani (July 20)
- Painters: John the Evangelist, December 27; Luke, October 18
- Paratroopers: Michael
- Pawnbrokers: Nicholas of Myra, December 6
- Peasants: Margaret (July 20)
- Penitents: Mary Magdalene, July 22
- Pharmacists: Cosmas and Damian, September 26

- Philosophers: Catherine of Alexandria (November 25); Justin, June 1
- Physicians: Cosmas and Damian, September 26; Luke, October 18; Raphael, September 29
- Pilgrims: Alexis (July 17); James, July 25
- Plague-stricken: Roch (August 16)
- Plasterers: Bartholomew, August 24
- Poets: Cecilia, November 22
- Poisoning: Benedict, July 11
- Policemen: Michael, September 29
- Poor: Lawrence, August 10; Anthony of Padua, June 13
- Porters: Christopher (July 25)
- Possessed: Bruno, October 6; Denis, October 9
- Postal workers: Gabriel, September 29
- Potters: Sebastian, January 20
- Preachers: John Chrysostom, September 13
- Priests: John Vianney, August 4; Paul, June 29
- Printers: Augustine, August 28; John the Evangelist, December 27; Genesius of Aries (August 25); John of God, March 8
- Prisoners: Dismas (March 26); Barbara (December 4)
- Prisons: Joseph Cafasso (June 23)
- Public relations: Bernardino of Siena
- Publishers: John the Evangelist, December 27; Francis de Sales, January 24
- Radiologists: Michael, aa, September 29
- Radio workers: Gabriel
- Retreats: Ignatius of Loyola, July 31
- Rheumatism: James the Greater, July 25
- Saddlers: Crispin and Crispinian (October 25)
- Sailors: Cuthbert (March 20); Erasmus (June 2); Nicholas of Tolentino, (September 10); Brendan (May 16); Eulalia (December 10); Christopher (July 25); Peter Gonzales (April 15)
- Scholars: Bridget of Sweden, July 23
- Schools: Thomas Aquinas, January 28
- School children: Benedict, July 11; Lawrence, August 10
- Scientists: Albert the Great, November 15
- Sculptors: Luke, October 18; Claude (November 8)
- Secretaries: Genesius of Aries (August 25)
- Seminarians: Charles Borromeo, November 4
- Servants, domestic: Zita (April 27); Martha, July 29 it
- Shepherds: Cuthbert (March 20)
- Shoemakers: Crispin and Crispinian (October 25) n:
- Sick: Michael, September 29; John of God, March 8; Philomena (August 11 )

- Silversmiths: Andronicus (October 11 )
- Singers: Gregory, September 3; Cecilia, November 22
- Singles: Andrew, November 30
- Skaters: Ledwina (April 14)
- Skiers: Bernard of Menthon (May 28)
- Social workers: Louise de Marillac
- Smiths: Eliguis (December 1 )
- Snake bites: Vitus
- Soldiers: George, April 23; Adrian (September 8); Michael, aa, September 29; Ignatius of Loyola, July 31; Sebastian, January 20; Martin of Tours, November 11; Joan of Arc (May 30)
- Sore throat: Blaise, February 3
- Speleologists: Benedict
- Spinsters: Catherine of Alexandria (November 25)
- Stenographers: Genesisius (August 25); Cassian (December 3)
- Stonecutters: Clement, November 23
- Stonemasons: Stephen, December 26; Barbara (December 4)
- Students: Catherine of Alexandria (November 25); Jerome, September 30; Thomas Aquinas, January 28
- Surgeons: Cosmas and Damian, September 26
- Swineherds: Anthony, June 13
- Tailors: Boniface, June 5; Martin of Tours, November 11; Homobonus (November 13)
- Tanners: Crispin and Crispinian (October 25); Lawrence, August 10
- Tax collectors: Matthew, September 21
- Teachers: Catherine of Alexandria (November 25); Gregory the Great, September 3; Ursula (October 21 ); John Baptist de La Salle, April 7
- Telegraph/Telephone/Television workers: Gabriel, aa, September 29; Clare, August 11
- Television: St. Clare, August 11
- Tentmakers: Paul, June 29
- Tertiaries: Louis of France, August 25; Elizabeth of Hungary, November 17
- Theologians: Augustine, August 28
- Travelers: Christopher (July 25); Julian the Hospitaller (February 12); Gertrude, November 16; Raphael, aa, September 29
- Universities: Blessed Contardo Ferrini
- Vocations: Alphonsus, August 1
- Watchmen: Peter of Alcantara (October 19)
- Weavers: Paul the Hermit (January 15); Anastasia (December 25)
- Wheelwrights: Catherine of Alexandria (November 25)



- Widows: Paula
- Wine growers: Vincent, January 22
- Wine merchants: Amand (February 6)
- Women in labor: Anne, July 26
- Womeds Army Corps: Genevieve (January 3)
- Workers: Joseph, May 1
- Writers: Francis de Sales
- Yachtsmen: Adjutor
- Young boys: Dominic Savio
- Young girls: Agnes, January 21
- Youth: Aloysius Gonzaga, June 21; John Berchmans (August 13); Gabriel Possenti (February 27)

## Patron Saints of Countries

- Americas: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Rose of Lima
- Angola: Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Argentina: Our Lady of Lujan
- Armenia: Gregory Illuminator (October 1 )
- Australia: Francis Xavier, December 3
- Belgium: Joseph, March 19
- Bohemia: Wenceslaus, September 28; Ludmilla, grandmother of Wenceslaus (September 16); John Nepomucene (May 16)
- Bolivia: Our Lady of Copacabana (“Virgen de la Candelaria”)
- Borneo: Francis Xavier, December 3
- Brazil: Immaculate Conception, December 8
- Canada: Joseph, March 19; Anne, July 26
- Chile: James the Greater, July 25; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16
- China: Joseph, March 19
- Colombia: Peter Claver, September 9; Louis Bertrand (October 9)
- Cuba: Our Lady of Charity
- Cyprus: Barnabas
- Czech Republic: Wenceslaus, September 28; John Nepomucene (May 16); Procopius (July 8)
- Denmark: Anskar, February 3; Canute IV (January 19)
- Dominican Republic: Our Lady of High Grace (April 4); Dominic, August 8
- East Indies: Thomas, ap, July 3
- Ecuador: Sacred Heart
- El Salvador: Our Lady of Peace
- England: George, April 23
- Ethiopia: Frumentius
- Europe (co-patrons): Benedict, July 11; Cyril and Methodius, February 14
- Finland: Henry I July 13

- France: Joan of Arc (May 30); Denis, October 9
- Germany: Boniface, June 5
- Greece: Nicholas of Myra, December 6
- Holland: Willibrord (November 7)
- Hungary: Stephen of Hungary (king), August 16
- Iceland: Thorlac
- India: Our Lady of Assumption, August 15
- Ireland: Patrick, March 17; Brigid of Kildare (February 1); Columba (June 9)
- Italy: Francis of Assisi, October 4; Catherine of Siena, April 29
- Japan: Peter Baptist (February 5)
- Korea: Joseph and Mary; Mother of the Church
- Lithuania: Casimir, March 4; Cunegunda (March 3)
- Luxembourg: Willibrord
- Malta: Paul, Our Lady of the Assumption
- Mexico: Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12
- Monaco: Devota
- Netherlands: Willibrord
- New Zealand: Our Lady Help of Christians
- Norway: Olaf (July 29)
- Paraguay: Our Lady of Assumption, August 15
- Papua New Guinea: Michael the Archangel
- Peru: Joseph
- Philippines: Sacred Heart of Mary (August 22)
- Poland: Casimir, March 4
- Portugal: Immaculate Conception, December 8; Francis Borgia (October 10); Anthony of Padua, June 13
- Russia: Andrew, November 30; Nicholas, December 6
- Scandinavia: Ansgar .,
- Scotland: Andrew, November 30
- Slovakia: Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15
- South America: Rose of Lima
- Solomon Islands: Most Holy Name of Mary
- Spain: James the Greater (July 25); Teresa, October 15
- Sri Lanka: Lawrence
- Sweden: Bridget, July 23; Eric (May 18)
- Switzerland: Gall
- Tanzania: Immaculate Conception
- Union of South Africa: Our Lady of Assumption, August 15
- United States of America: Immaculate Conception, December 8
- Uruguay: Our Lady of Lujan
- Venezuela: Our Lady of Coromoto
- Wales: David (March 1 )

- **West Indies: Gertrude**