

Getting to Know Your Saint

The Saints are our spiritual guides, our companions on life's journey. Their experiences show us the path we are to take in our own lives. The title of Saint tells us that the person lived a holy life, is in heaven, and is to be honored by the universal Church. Canonization does not "make" a person a Saint; it recognizes what God has already done.

Since Saints led holy lives and are close to God in heaven, we feel that their prayers are particularly effective. Often we ask Saints to pray for us if we feel they have a particular interest in our problem. For example, many people ask Saint Monica to pray for them if they have trouble with unanswered prayers, because Monica prayed for twenty years for her son's conversion. Finally her prayers were answered in a way she never dreamed of -- her son, Augustine, became a canonized Saint and a Doctor of the Church.

Patron Saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life. These areas can include occupations, illnesses, churches, countries, causes -- anything that is important to us. For example, Francis of Assisi loved nature and so he is patron of ecologists. Francis de Sales was a writer and so he is patron of journalists and writers. Clare of Assisi was named patron of television because one Christmas when she was too ill to leave her bed she saw and heard Christmas Mass -- even though it was taking place miles away.

During Confirmation you are given the opportunity to choose the name of a Saint with whose life and gifts you can identify. The following sites are great resources for you to use when researching Saints.

<http://Saints.sqpn.com/> - A good site to beginning looking for a Saint who you would feel a connection to. You can look for Saints by their occupation, life status (parent, widow, martyrs,...), religious life, or other characteristics. Although this is a great starting point, other sites give more detailed information about the Saint's lives.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx> - The stories about Saints on this site are very understandable.

<http://www.catholic-Saints.info/> - The stories about Saints on this site are very understandable.

<http://www.catholic.org/Saints/> - This site has very good detailed information. It sometimes uses vocabulary which is difficult to understand, but is still worth a look to find good information.

Once you have chosen a Saint's name, complete the questionnaire on the back of this page.

On February 6th, you will present your chosen Saint to your small group at Confirmation. Presentations will be approximately 3 minutes long.

Saint's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Name: _____

Due: February 6th, 2019

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Date of Death: _____ Place of Death: _____

Feast Day: _____

Is this Saint a Patron Saint? yes / no If yes, of: _____

Summarize in your own words the Saint's Life Story:

Why is this person a Saint?

Why have you chosen this Saint as someone with whom you can identify?

Three interesting facts you will share:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
