

Saint Project
7th Grade Candidate & Sponsor Activity
Due Monday, May 8, 2023

The Candidate and Sponsor are to work on the ‘Saint Project’ activity together. The nature of the activity allows for completion of the project whether it be in person, over the phone, or through video chat.

Purpose of selecting a Confirmation Name

We all need companions on our journey of faith. The Saints are not only examples for us, but also intercessors. When we pick a Saint as a patron in Confirmation, that Saint will be praying for us in a particular way for the rest of our lives.

Candidates are to select a Saint for their Confirmation Name. The Saint should be one with whom the Candidate has a connection– whether it be the specific patronage the Saint holds, the place the Saint was born, an interest the Saint had during their life, or something specific about the life of the Saint. A Candidate should select a Saint through prayer and discernment, the decision should not be rushed.

Part 1

Journey through the Saint Selection process with your Sponsor. Candidates and Sponsors should take the time to talk about Saints they already know and research new Saints. A good starting point in researching Saints is to choose something about the Candidate (heritage, interests, future career desires) and see which Saints share some of those commonalities.

Part 2

Candidate and Sponsor should work on a Saint Project. The Project should be completed on a small poster board, and it should be evident that time/care was taken in completing the work. The Saint Project should include the following:

- A picture of the Saint
- Name of the Saint
- The date of Canonization
- What the Saint is the Patron of
- A little bit about the Saint
- Why the Candidate selected the Saint

* During the Candidate's 8th grade year, we will talk about the Confirmation Saints often and the Candidates will need to know information about their Saint. Additionally, the candidate should be praying to their Saint daily!

** The Bishop *does* ask questions about a Candidate's Saint during the Confirmation Ceremony, so the project helps the Candidate be prepared to talk about their Saint.

When discussing and researching Saints, make sure to look at the life of the Saint and what their patronage is, so that you can see if there is anything about the Saint that relates to your life. As Catholics, we should know about the different canonized Saints in heaven, so that we know who we can turn to in moments of crisis. For example, when we have lost something, we can ask St. Anthony of Padua for help; if we know someone who is having eye problems, we can ask St. Lucy for help; if we have anxiety or depression we can turn to St. Dymphna for help. There are thousands of Saints that have been canonized and they are just waiting for us to ask them for assistance (they are in heaven with God, and they desire deeply to pray for us!). Miss Jill's example below will help you see what information you should be looking for and what information you will need to include on your Saint project.

Miss Jill's Example



Saint: Elizabeth Ann Seton (often called Mother Seton)

Born: August 28, 1774

Canonized: September 14, 1975

About: Elizabeth married William Seton in 1794 and they had five children together. In 1803, William died from Tuberculosis while in Italy. It was in Italy that Elizabeth discovered the Catholic Faith; however, having been raised in an Episcopalian family, her relatives were strongly against her newfound Faith and threatened to disown her should she convert. Despite protests and threats from her family, Elizabeth entered the Catholic Faith in 1805. In 1809 she moved her family to Emmitsburg, Maryland where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first religious community for women in the United States. In addition, Elizabeth began the St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which was the first sprouting of Catholic Education as we know it. Mother Seton was the first from the United States to be canonized a Saint! Her legacy continues in her religious community and in the United States Catholic Education.

Patronage: Catholic Schools, widows, seafarers, educators/teachers

Reason for selecting: As a convert myself, I was drawn to Elizabeth's story, especially her determination in becoming Catholic despite the opposition she received from her family. Mother Seton's desire to spread the faith through establishment of Catholic schools is inspirational to me and has sparked the desire in me to teach the Faith.