

Confirmation Saint Project – YEAR 1

Introduction to the Year 1 Saint Project:

So why do we learn about the Saints? The culmination of your preparation for Confirmation in Year 2 will be your selection of a saint's name that you will choose as your Confirmation name. This is the name that the Bishop will say when sealing you with the Gift of the Holy Spirit during the Confirmation Mass. It's important that you select a saint's name that speaks to your heart – a saint whose relationship with God is one that you can possibly relate to and look to for guidance and direction in your own relationship with God.

People sometimes misunderstand saints; they think of them as being nice people, good people, people who behave well and don't make mistakes. But saints aren't all like that. Saints can be crabby, cranky, cantankerous, bitter, ill-informed, racist, opinionated (lots in this category) – I could go on. Saints are **extremely human**, and they are products of their cultures and times.

Note that I'm using the present tense, not the past one. Saints aren't just people officially sainted by the Roman Catholic Church; they are all believers, all who have chosen to follow the Way of Christ however imperfectly. "Not one of us fails to charge off the path and into the bramble bushes, sometimes quite frequently. Not one of us fails to get it wrong at least once a week and probably much more often than that. But saints have shown us that there is the possibility of living Godwardly in this life, however imperfectly we do it." (-*Molly Wolf*) Saints are simply people who have chosen to point their lives in God's direction. The saints teach us...because through their trials and errors, we can learn how we too can rely on God's mercy.

Instructions for the Year 1 Saint Project:

This project is intended to further familiarize students with the lives of the saints so that in Year 2 of your preparation for Confirmation, you will be better able to select your Saint Name for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

For this project, you will be researching 3 Saints based on Feast Day, Patronage, and Martyrdom.

- You will be researching 1 Saint per month and your first Saint Report will be assigned at your October ONE EIGHT Night.
- Each report will be due on your ONE EIGHT Nights for the months of November, December, & January.
- On the November, December, & January ONE EIGHT Nights, you will be sharing your Saint Report with your Small Group during the BREAK.

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FEAST DAY SAINT REPORT: DUE at your November ONE EIGHT Night.

- a. Research: <http://www.catholic.org/saints/> - **Saint Feast Days by Month**
- b. Look up your Birthday and research one of the saints whose Feast Day is the same as your Birthday. If none are listed on your Birthday, search the day before or after your Birthday.
- c. Complete the Feast Day Saint Report & bring it with you on the Due Date. Be prepared to share your Saint with your Small Group.

MARTYRDOM: DUE at your December ONE EIGHT Night.

A martyred saint is a person who is “the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith: it means bearing witness to the faith even through pain and suffering unto death.” (CCC 2473).

- a. Research: <http://www.catholic.org/saints/> - **Browse Saints by Category - Martyr**
- b. Look through the list of martyred saints (read a few of the stories) and then select one martyred saint to research and report on.
- c. Complete the Martyrdom Saint Report & bring it with you on the Due Date. Be prepared to share your Saint with your Small Group.

PATRONAGE: DUE at your January ONE EIGHT Night.

- a. Research: <http://www.catholic.org/saints/> - **Browse Patron Saints by Alphabet**
- b. Consider your interests and hobbies...look through the alphabetical list to find something that speaks to YOU as being important in your life...something you aspire to do or be, or a cause that is close to your heart. Once you find the patronage that “speaks” to you, you will find the patron saint and this will be the saint you do your report on.
- c. Complete the Patronage Saint Report & bring it with you on the Due Date. Be prepared to share your Saint with your Small Group.

Additional Resources: The following online resources may assist you in your research...

- <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/>
- <http://www.officialcatholicdirectory.com/catholic-links/saints>

The report pages should be:

1. Neatly written or typed.
2. **Elaborate** on 3 facts for each saint, it should be **more** than a one or two sentence answer AND should be address challenges and trials in their life that that saint overcome through faith.
3. Include a **picture** of your saint – either printed from the computer, copied from a book, or bring the book in to share.

Identifying Qualities or Character Traits in the saints that we wish to develop and nurture in our own lives...

What is a “Quality” or “Character Trait”?

As defined by Webster’s Dictionary, a “quality” is a peculiar and essential character (trait), a distinguishing attribute and degree of excellence.

Character traits are all the aspects of a person’s behavior and attitudes that make up that person’s personality. Everyone has character traits, both good and bad. Even characters in books have character traits. Character traits are often shown with descriptive [adjectives](#), like patient, unfaithful, or jealous.

Types of Character Traits

The old expression that actions speak louder than words is very true when it comes to character traits. You learn about who people are and what their character traits are by watching how they interact with the world and paying attention to how they treat you and interact with people.

There are literally countless character traits that you can identify in others, and that you can identify in yourself.

Some character traits have to do with your underlying values or beliefs. Some examples of these types of character traits (or qualities) include:

- Adventurous
- Ambitious
- Cheerful
- Considerate
- Cooperative
- Determined
- Devoted
- Faithful
- Funny
- Happy
- Homebody
- Honest
- Kind
- Loving
- Loyal
- Optimistic
- Patient
- Persistent
- Pessimistic
- Religious
- Satisfied
- Sincere

NAME: _____
(First & Last Name)

FEAST DAY

Report on a saint who's Feast Day is shared with your birthday (or closest to your birthday).

Saint's Name: _____

Feast Day: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Place of Birth (City & Country): _____

Is a Patron of: _____

Provide a picture of your saint – you can print one off of the computer or from a book, or you can bring the book in to show us during your Small Group “share”. (If you need assistance with printing a picture from the computer, you can email Mrs. Pott at goodshepherdedge@gscceg.org).

Three interesting facts I learned about this saint are:

1. _____

2. _____

NAME: _____
(First & Last Name)

MARTYRDOM

Report on a saint who was martyred.

Saint's Name: _____

Feast Day: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Place of Birth (City & Country): _____

Is a Patron of: _____

Provide a picture of your saint – you can print one off of the computer or from a book, or you can bring the book in to show us during your Small Group “share”. (If you need assistance with printing a picture from the computer, you can email Mrs. Pott at goodshepherdedge@gscceg.org).

Three interesting facts I learned about this saint are:

1. _____

2. _____

NAME: _____
(First & Last Name)

PATRONAGE

Report on a saint who is a patron of something that “speaks” to your heart.

Saint’s Name: _____

Feast Day: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Place of Birth (City & Country): _____

Is a Patron of: _____

Provide a picture of your saint – you can print one off of the computer or from a book, or you can bring the book in to show us during your Small Group “share”. (If you need assistance with printing a picture from the computer, you can email Mrs. Pott at goodshepherdedge@gscceg.org).

Three interesting facts I learned about this saint are:

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2. _____

