

Saint Patrick - Patron of Ireland

Feast Day, March 17



March 2014 Monthly Saint Reflection
Saint Patrick and St. Margaret Mary Church

St Patrick of Ireland

Born 387 – died 461

Feast Day: March 17

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints.

Apostle of Ireland, born at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, in Scotland, in the year 387; died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, 17 March, 461.

Along with St. Nicholas and St. Valentine, the secular world shares our love of these saints. This is also a day when everyone's Irish.

There are many legends and stories of St. Patrick, but this is his story.

Patrick was born around 385 in Scotland, probably Kilpatrick. His parents were Calpornius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britain in charge of the colonies.

As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Ireland at this time was a land of Druids and pagans. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him. During his captivity, he turned to God in prayer. He wrote:

"The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same."

"I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he reunited with his family.

He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him "We beg you,

holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."

After returning to Britain, Patrick began his studies for the priesthood, and was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years.

Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says that he met a chieftain of one of the tribes whose name was Dichu. This chieftain tried to kill Patrick. Patrick converted Dichu after he was unable to move his arm until he became friendly to Patrick.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick by now had many disciples, among them Beningnus, Auxilius, Iserninus, and Fiac, (all later canonized as well).

Patrick preached for over 40 years, and converted all of Ireland. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died on March 17, 461, at Saul, where he had built the first church.

Why a shamrock?

Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity, and it has been associated with him and the Irish since that time.

In His Footsteps:

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. He feared nothing, not even death; so complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission.

St Margaret Mary and St Patrick

March 2014

Saint Patrick of Ireland

Week 1: Prepare

1. Set out holy cloth, bible, cross or crucifix, candle, rosary, etc.
2. Read the story of St. Patrick included in the packet.
 - How did young Patrick survive his captivity in Ireland?
 - How did Patrick explain the Trinity to the people?

Week 2: Take Action

1. Pray the prayer of St. Patrick
2. Design a float to be used in the St. Patrick Day parade.

Week 3: Discern

1. How did Patrick's faith help him to sainthood?
2. What lesson do we learn from Patrick's return to Ireland?

Week 4: Take Action

1. Color the pictures of St. Patrick included in the packet.
2. Gather your family together and make the Irish potato candy.

Prayer to Saint Patrick



As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen

The Legend of the Shamrock

Good Saint Patrick traveled far to teach God's Holy Word.
And when he came to Erin's sod, a wondrous thing occurred.
He plucked a shamrock from the earth and held it in his hand
to symbolize the Trinity that all may understand.
The first leaf for the Father, and the second for the Son,
The third leaf for The Holy Spirit three of them in one.





Saint Patrick

IRISH POTATOES

This is a favorite seasonal recipe that contains no potatoes. Instead, it gets its name from the look of the candy.

The recipe can be adapted for Easter eggs by dipping the confection balls into melted chocolate.



INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup softened butter
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (16 ounce) package confectioners' sugar
- 7 ounces sweetened flaked coconut (2 1/2 cups)
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

NOTE: Be sure to use regular cream cheese, not whipped or reduced fat type.

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and cream cheese.
2. Add vanilla and confectioners' sugar.
3. Beat until mixture forms a ball.
4. Stir in coconut with a spoon.
5. Roll the mixture between your hands to form small potato-shaped candies or roll into small balls.
6. Place cinnamon in a shallow dish and roll the balls in it.
7. Place the balls on a cookie sheet and chill for about 1 hour or until firm.
8. If you prefer "dirtier potatoes" roll the candy a second time after they have chilled.
9. Alternatively dip in melted chocolate for Easter eggs.