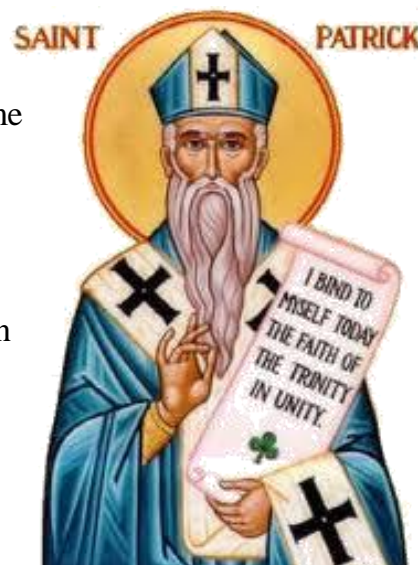




St. Patrick

A little History

The colour green, a shamrock, St. Paddy's Day parades? All of these things have become associated with our celebration of St. Patrick's Day every March. **But why?**



One of Christianity's most well-known figures, Saint Patrick was born in Britain to a wealthy family near the end of the fourth century. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders. He was carried away to Ireland where he was held captive for more than six years. During his time as a slave, Patrick worked as a shepherd, attending the flocks of his master. Alone and homesick, Patrick prayed many times a day while in the pastures with the sheep.

In Patrick's work, "Confessio", he wrote, "the love of God and His fear increased in me more and more, and the faith grew in me, and the spirit was aroused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers, and in the night nearly the same, so that whilst in the woods and on the mountain, even before the dawn, I was roused to prayer and felt no hurt from it, whether there was snow or ice or rain; nor was there any slothfulness in me such as I see now, because the spirit was then fervent within me."

While a slave in Ireland, Patrick learned the Celtic language and became familiar with the culture. After six years of living as a slave, he escaped from his master and set sail on a ship to Britain. Patrick was reunited with friends and family. However, things were different with Patrick when he returned. Patrick had a new desire in his heart and that was to devote himself to the service of God.

Patrick joined St. Martin's monastery at Tours, learning the Christian life, which would help prepare him for his future ministry amongst the Irish. After years of learning and growing in faith, Patrick and his companions set sail to Ireland in the summer months of 433. Upon his arrival, Patrick went to his former master to pay the price of ransom as well as to impart to him the blessings of God but by the time he had arrived, his master had set fire to his own mansion and treasures, even casting himself upon the flame.

Patrick evangelized in Ireland for many years. It wasn't easy as St. Patrick endured trials and persecutions from those who opposed the Christian faith. In his "Confessio", he tells of the numerous times he and his missionary companions were captured. But through these hardships, St. Patrick prevailed and remained steadfast in the faith, sharing the Gospel throughout Ireland.

St. Patrick used the shamrock, a three-leaf clover, to explain the difficult understanding of the Holy Trinity to the pre-Christian Irish. To this day, the shamrock has become a symbol of Ireland.



St. Patrick founded many churches in Ireland and continued looking after them until his death on March 17, 493. Every year, on March 17, millions of people celebrate this annual feast day that celebrates St. Patrick, a patron of Ireland. In Ireland, March 17 is a national holiday as they remember the life and work of Saint Patrick.



1. Where was St. Patrick born? _____
2. At the age of 16, what significant event happened to St. Patrick?

3. As a slave, what was St. Patrick's job?

4. While in Ireland, what language did St. Patrick learn?

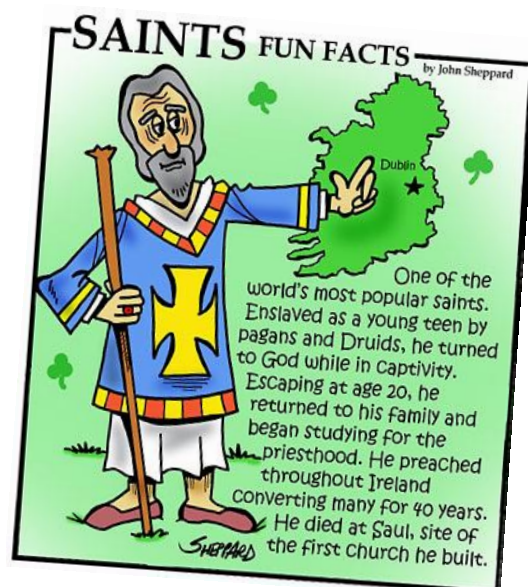
5. While alone in the fields tending to the sheep, what did St. Patrick do frequently?

6. After returning to his family, what new desire did St. Patrick have?

7. In what year did St. Patrick and his companions travel to Ireland as Missionaries?

8. What happened when St. Patrick tried to return to his former slave owner?

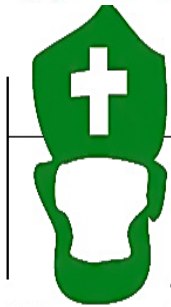
9. What did St. Patrick use the shamrock for? _____
10. What did St. Patrick establish in Ireland? _____
11. What day is St. Patrick's Day celebrated each year? _____



HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH

17th
Say no more



390 AD
Patrick is born in Roman Briton

MARCH 17, 461
Patrick dies

1762 — Irish soldiers in the British army march in New York City

AROUND 1800 — Irish immigrants begin using bagpipes and drums in their celebrations

1962 — Chicago begins dyeing the Chicago River green

9-10TH CENTURIES — Roman Catholics begin to hold a Feast Day on March 17.

AT AGE 16 Patrick is kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave
LATER He escapes but returns to preach Catholicism to the Irish

1848 — Irish Aid societies come together and host the first large-scale parade

LATE 1800s — Irish parades become a show of the numerical strength of the Irish immigrants

1948 — Harry Truman attends NYC Irish parade, signifying the acceptance of the Irish minority

1970s
Ireland allows pubs to be open for St. Patrick's Day, making it less of a religious holiday

1995 — Ireland begins a national campaign to use the holiday to grow tourism

Fun Facts

Saint Patrick's real name is Maewyn Succat. Try saying that five times, fast! After becoming a priest, Maewyn adopted the name "Patrick" which means "well-born" in Latin. If you really want to test the breadth of your friends' knowledge, wish them a "Happy Maewyn Succat Day" and wait for their response. If they give you a high five, you know you're both equally as informed, weird and destined to be lifelong friends!

- **The first Saint Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland, but in Boston.** - If there's one thing you should know about Boston, USA, it's that everyone will claim that they are part Irish at some point or another, even if they're not. No one knows why Bostonians and the Irish have such a strong emotional bond. Maybe it's the mass of people that immigrated here after the Great Potato Famine. It's important to note that Bostonians hosted the first St. Paddy's Day Parade, long before the Irish realized that that was their job.
- **Chicago dyes their main river green to celebrate the holiday.** Using a mixture of vegetable dye and other compounds, the city of Chicago dyes their main river green every year to commemorate the Irish holiday.
- **There are 10,000 three-leaf clovers for every 4-leaf clover.** The luck of finding a four-leaf clover is not exaggerated. Next time you find one (*if you find one*), spray it with hair-spray, stick it in a laminated folder and frame it on your wall with the caption "Thank God" beneath it because you may never find another one in your entire life!!

Some Irish Humour

What's your
LEPRECHAUN
name?



The first letter of your name:

A - Adorable H - Helpful O - Outgoing
B - Bubbly I - Itchy P - Playful
C - Cheerful J - Jolly Q - Quiet
D - Dreamy K - Kind R - Restless
E - Eager L - Lucky S - Silly
F - Fussy M - Musical T - Timid
G - Grouchy N - Noisy U - Useful

V - Vibrant
W - Witty
X - X-tra Special
Y - Youthful
Z - Zany



The month you were born:

Jan. - McCheesy May - McWiggles
Feb. - O'Gratin June - O'Lucky
March - McMuffin July - McNoodles
April - O'Really Aug. - O'Wacky

Sept. - McBlarney
Oct. - O'Doodles
Nov. - McWobbles
Dec. - O'Goofy

Q. What's Irish and stays out all night?

A. Patty O' furniture !!



Q. When is an Irish potato not an Irish potato?

A. When it's a FRENCH fry !!



Q. How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?



A. He's DUBLIN over with laughter!

Q. What does a leprechaun call a happy man wearing green?

A. A Jolly Green Giant!



Q. What do you get when 2 leprechauns have a conversation?

A. A lot of small talk.



Q. Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?

A. Because regular rocks are too heavy !!



Q. Where would you find a leprechaun baseball team?

A. In Little League !!



Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Irish. Irish who?
IRISH you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Attributed to St. Patrick

MAY THE ROAD
RISE TO MEET
YOU
MAY THE
WIND BE ALWAYS AT
YOUR BACK
MAY THE SUN SHINE WARM
UPON YOUR FACE
THE RAINS FALL | UPON YOUR
SOFT | FIELDS
 AND, UNTIL
WE MEET AGAIN
MAY GOD HOLD YOU
IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND