



St. Patrick

Apostle of Ireland

AD c.389-461

St. Patrick used the little green shamrock to teach that, just as the three leaves form one plant, the Three Persons of the Trinity are one God.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians now invite all area Kindergarten through 4th grade students to enter the St. Patrick Coloring Contest. **Three** winners will be chosen from each grade in addition to **ONE** Grand Prize winner

WINNERS AND FAMILIES WILL MARCH IN THE DENVER ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE WITH THE AOH/LAOH

This entry was created with **NO HELP** by:

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Phone: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____



Please have all entries postmarked **no later than 6 Mar**, and send them to:

AOH Coloring Contest
8163 W 98th Ave
Westminster, CO 80021

Come for the fun at the annual
St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday 16 March, 10:00 am

Filling the streets of LoDo
with lots of green and good Irish cheer

<http://www.milehibernians.com>

The History of Saint Patrick

St Patrick is known as the patron saint of Ireland. True, he was not born Irish. But he has become an integral part of the Irish heritage, mostly through his service across Ireland of the 5th century.

Patrick was born in the later half of the 4th century AD. There are differing views about the exact year and place of his birth. According to one opinion, he was born about 390 A.D., while others say it is about 373 AD. His birth place is said to be in either Scotland or Roman England. His real name was probably Maewyn Succat. Though Patricius was his Roman name, he was later came to be familiar as Patrick.

Patrick was the son of Calpornius, a Roman-British army officer. He was growing up as naturally as other kids in Britain. However, one day a band of pirates landed in south Wales and kidnapped this boy along with many others. Then they sold him into slavery in Ireland. He was enslaved for 6 years. During this time Patrick found his faith. He dreamed of having seen God. Legend says, he was then directed by God to escape with the help of a merchant ship.

Finally, he did escape and went to Britain. And then to France. There he joined a monastery and studied under St. Germain, the bishop of Auxerre. He spent around 12 years in study. And when he became a bishop he dreamed that the Irish were calling him back to Ireland to tell them about God. The Confession, Patrick's spiritual autobiography, is the most important document regarding this. It tells of a dream after his return to Britain, in which one Victoricus delivered him a letter headed "The Voice of the Irish."

So he set out for Ireland with the Pope's blessings. There he converted the Gaelic Irish, who were then mostly Pagans, to Christianity. He was confident in the Lord, he journeyed far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring zeal. And, in a diplomatic fashion he brought gifts to a king here and a lawgiver there, but accepted none from any.

Indeed, Patrick was quite successful at converting the Celts to Catholicism. Through active preaching, he made important converts even among the royal families. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. For 20 years he had traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion. He developed a native clergy, fostered the growth of monasticism, established dioceses, and held church councils.

Patrick's mission in Ireland lasted for over 20 years. He died on March 17, AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. The day's spirit is to celebrate the Catholic conversion of Ireland. Originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday. Or, rather, 'be an Irish Day'. And the Irish have accepted it as part of their national tradition in everyplace they have emigrated. The Catholic feast day for this most loved of Irish saints has become a holiday of celebration of the Irish and Irish culture.

