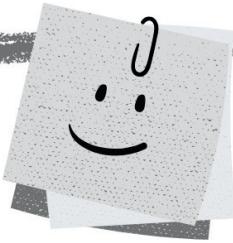


Faith and Funnies

A newsletter from Faithful Friends KY

March, Vol. 2-25



Leprechaun Laughs

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APrayer of Saint Patrick

May the Strength of God pilot us.

May the Power of God preserve us.

May the Wisdom of God instruct us.

May the Hand of God protect us.

May the Way of God direct us.

May the Shield of God defend us.

May the Host of God guard us.

Against the snares of the evil ones.

Against temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us!

May Christ be before us!

May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!

May Thy Salvation, Lord, Always be ours,

This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.



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



Because you can't wear real rocks...they are too heavy!

Why do leprechauns enjoy recycling?



Because they like to go green!

Why do you never want to iron a four-leaf-clover?



Because you don't want to press your luck!

Why do leprechauns hate running?



They'd rather jig than jog!

What do you call a fake Irish stone?

A sham-rock!



The Real Saint Patrick

written by Marla Carter



What do you think of when you think about St. Patrick's Day? Leprechauns? Parades? The color green? Shamrocks? A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? There are many legends and myths that have come to be associated with the holiday, most of which have absolutely nothing to do with the real Saint Patrick. Ever hear the story about how Saint Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland? (That story, by the way, is not true.) When it comes to the real Patrick, the true story is far better than any legends.

Patrick was not Irish and his name was not Patrick. That was the name he gave himself later in life when he became a priest. His birth name was Maewyn Succat and he was likely born in either Scotland or Britain. At the age of 16, Irish barbarian pirates came ashore his homeland and kidnapped him. He was taken to Ireland and sold into slavery where he was a shepherd and farm worker for six years. During those six years, he began to develop a faith in God. He prayed day and night. One night, he had a dream in which God told him there was a ship waiting to take him home, and He showed Patrick the way to get there. Patrick traveled the 200 mile journey, fleeing from his captors, and then he sailed home.

His family was overjoyed to see him, but he did not stay home long. God began to burden his heart for the pagan people of Ireland. Patrick studied to become a missionary, and in AD 432, 25 years after fleeing Ireland, Patrick returned to the place of his bondage. Instead of harboring hatred or bitterness in his heart, he had compassion on the people of Ireland and desired that they would convert to Christianity. What an unselfish man he was!

Continued on the next page...

Patrick served in regions of Ireland where outsiders had never traveled. While roaming through the countryside he preached to pagans and also instructed Christian believers. Patrick trained Irish helpers and ordained native clergy. He was bringing a new way of life to a violent, war-oriented pagan culture.

The people of Ireland were not exactly happy to have Patrick going around spreading the Gospel. Violent warlords and a brutal king felt threatened by Patrick's work among the people, and they sought to hurt him or even kill him. Yet Patrick was not afraid. "Daily I expect to be murdered or betrayed or reduced to slavery if the occasion arises," Patrick wrote while serving in Ireland. "But I fear nothing, because of the promises of heaven." Yet, despite these setbacks, Patrick persisted. Eventually the king converted and was baptized by Patrick and much of the people of Ireland followed suit.

Patrick entered an Ireland full of paganism and idol worship. But just a few short decades after Patrick arrived, a healthy, Christ-honoring church was thriving. The Irish church was so strong that in the centuries to come it would send missionaries to evangelize much of continental Europe. Patrick lived in a way that brought honor to God. His devotion and resolute obedience offer examples for all followers of Christ. Patrick stood in the face of great challenges and did not falter. His service, his life, and his unwavering commitment to spreading the gospel of Christ are as commendable today as they were in the fifth century.

*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 down, Christ
when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man 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.*

--The Prayer of St. Patrick



St. Patrick's Day

Word Search

T	A	C	O	M	I	S	C	H	I	E	F
R	O	L	L	I	S	C	H	A	F	U	L
E	C	O	E	W	G	C	O	I	A	L	E
A	U	V	E	P	N	O	M	I	U	W	G
S	M	E	K	I	R	E	L	A	N	D	E
U	A	R	P	O	A	E	U	D	R	S	N
R	G	A	R	M	I	N	C	O	I	C	D
E	I	M	R	O	N	E	K	H	E	O	H
E	C	A	O	C	B	A	E	U	A	N	O
S	H	A	M	R	O	C	K	A	M	U	I
C	O	M	R	O	W	A	G	R	E	E	N

LEPRECHAUN
LUCK
GREEN
GOLD

RAINBOW
IRELAND
SHAMROCK
CLOVER

COINS
TREASURE
CHARM
PINCH

MAGIC
MISCHIEF
LEGEND