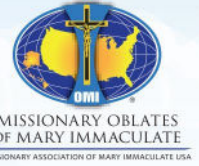




OBLATE ACADEMY

HELPING CHILDREN KEEP GOD IN THEIR LIVES



Saint of the Month for March 2024: Saint Patrick

Teaching Tips for Grades 3-5

St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain. His birthplace and exact birthdate are not known, but he is believed to be born around the year 385. He was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. He is known as the “Apostle of Ireland,” and today he is the primary saint of Ireland.

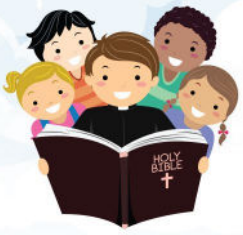
Patrick was never fully canonized because he was living prior to the current laws of the Catholic Church. However, he is still seen as a saint in the Catholic Church. Early medieval tradition credits him with being the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland and names him as the founder of Christianity in Ireland.

Patrick’s father, Calpurnius, was a tax collector, senator and a deacon. His grandfather Potitus was a priest from Bonaven Tabernia. However, Patrick was not an active believer in his youth.

At age 16, he was captured and enslaved by a group of Irish pirates, who would hold him captive for six years. During his captivity, he worked as a shepherd and strengthened his relationship with God through prayer, eventually converting to Christianity. After six years of captivity, he heard a voice telling him he would soon go home and that a ship was waiting.

He fled to a port 200 miles away, where he persuaded a captain to take him on his ship. He sailed for three days until they landed in Britain. He then walked for 28 days in a wilderness, where he became very faint and hungry—but he prayed to God for sustenance and asked his group to have faith. After Patrick prayed, they encountered a herd of wild boar they were able to eat, and his prestige in the group increased. After various adventures, he returned home in his early 20s to Britain, where he continued to study Christianity.

Patrick had a vision and returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. He traveled far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring passion. He brought gifts to the kings and lawmakers but accepted none in return. He lived in constant danger, dealing with the non-Christian Irish. He was a very humble man and always gave thanks to God for choosing him as an instrument to help convert people to Christianity.



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By the time of his death on March 17, he had established monasteries, churches and schools. St Patrick's feast day is March 17.

Prayer of St. Patrick

St. Patrick, please be my friend.

Help me to be like you and practice charity with others
and share the gifts God has given me every day.

Pray for me so I might serve the poor and others
in their time of need.

St Patrick, pray for us! Amen.