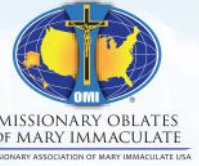




# OBLATE ACADEMY

HELPING CHILDREN KEEP GOD IN THEIR LIVES



## **Saint of the Month for March 2024: Saint Patrick**

### **Teaching Tips for Grades K-2**

Most children know St. Patrick through the day in the middle of March we celebrate by wearing green and looking out for leprechauns and their pot of gold. But St. Patrick's Day is actually the celebration of a Catholic saint who teaches us about forgiveness.

St. Patrick was born in what today is Great Britain sometime around the year 385. He was a missionary and bishop in Ireland and is the primary saint in that country. He is also known as the founder of Christianity in Ireland.

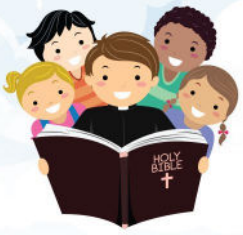
Patrick's father, Calpornius, was a tax collector, senator and a deacon. His grandfather Potitus was a priest. However, Patrick was not an active believer in his youth.

At age 16, he was captured and enslaved by a group of Irish pirates, who held him captive for six years. During his captivity, he strengthened his relationship with God through prayer and became a Christian. 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. Patrick prayed to God for food and for his group to have faith. After Patrick prayed, they encountered a herd of wild boar they were able to eat. After various adventures, he returned home to Britain and continued to study Christianity.

Patrick had a vision and returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary. He traveled far and wide, baptizing and confirming new Christians. He brought gifts to the kings and lawmakers but accepted nothing 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.

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



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MISSIONARY OBLATES  
OF MARY IMMACULATE  
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## **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.