



# St. Patrick

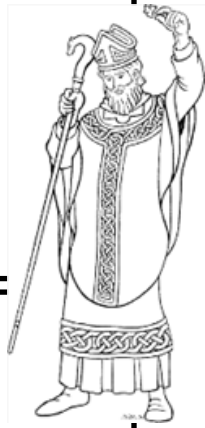
## Apostle of Ireland

### Teacher's Guide

Preparing for the Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read and review the provided St. Patrick biography, activity sheet, and entry form.</li><li>• For grade 1, selecting an age appropriate storybook about St. Patrick is recommended.</li></ul>
Suggested Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grade 11, read a story about St. Patrick and verbally discuss the activity sheet topics.</li><li>• Grades 2-4, read the provided biography about St. Patrick to the class and complete the activity sheet.</li><li>• Grades 1-4, complete the coloring entry form.</li></ul>
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Story or biography sheet about St. Patrick</li><li>• Activity sheets for students, grades 2-4</li><li>• Entry forms for students, grades 1-4</li><li>• Crayons</li></ul>
Student Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coloring by wax crayon only</li><li>• Student work only</li><li>• First name and grade only on the front of the entry form</li><li>• Last name and school information on the back of the entry form</li></ul>

# St. Patrick

## Apostle of Ireland



St. Patrick was said to have used the little green

\_\_\_\_\_ to

teach that, just as the three \_\_\_\_\_

form one

plant, the \_\_\_\_\_ Persons of the

\_\_\_\_\_ are one

God.



### St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated  
on March \_\_\_\_\_ each year.

It has been celebrated for over  
\_\_\_\_\_ years!

### Around the World

In what country was St. Patrick born:

\_\_\_\_\_

In what country did he study to become a  
priest:

\_\_\_\_\_

Of what country did he become the patron  
saint:

\_\_\_\_\_

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is known for spreading Christianity throughout the country. He wrote of himself in a humble voice. What does it mean to be **humble**?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

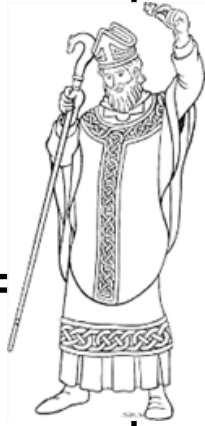
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# St. Patrick

Answer Key

Apostle of Ireland



St. Patrick was said to have 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.



## St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated  
on March 17th each year.

It has been celebrated for over  
1,000 years!

## Around the World

In what country was St. Patrick born:

Britain

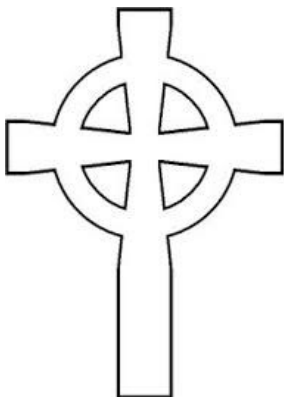
In what country did he study to become a  
priest:

France

Of what country did he become the patron  
saint:

Ireland

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is known for spreading Christianity throughout the country. He wrote of himself in a humble voice. What does it mean to be **humble**?



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## St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland

St. Patrick was born in Britain about the year 386 A.D. His father was from a prominent Roman family. His mother was a close relative of St. Martin of Tours. Patrick himself was not especially religious or educated.

When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by Irish pirates. They brought him to Ireland where he was sold into slavery. There his job was to tend sheep.

Patrick came to view his enslavement as God's test of his faith. During his six years of captivity, he became deeply devoted to Christianity through constant prayer. In a vision, he saw the children of Ireland reaching out their hands to him and grew increasingly determined to convert the Irish to Christianity.

After dreaming about escaping captivity, Patrick convinced some sailors to let him board their ship. After three days of sailing, he and the crew abandoned the vessel in France and wandered, lost, but eventually Patrick found his family.

In France, Patrick studied and entered the priesthood under the guidance of St. Germain. In 432 A.D., he was ordained as a bishop and was soon sent by Pope Celestine I to Ireland to spread the gospel to non-believers while also providing support to the small community of Christians already living there.

Patrick spread Christian teachings far and wide. Recognizing the history of spiritual practices already in place, nature-oriented rituals were also incorporated into church practices. Patrick may also have introduced the Celtic cross, which combined the native sun symbol with that of the Christian cross.

Throughout his missionary work, Patrick supported church officials, created councils, founded monasteries and organized Ireland into dioceses.

St. Patrick died about 461 A.D. in Saul, Ireland, and is said to have been buried in the nearby town of Downpatrick. St. Patrick is recognized as the patron saint of Ireland, and his writings, noted for their humble voice.

Many legends also have been associated with his life including that he drove away all the snakes from Ireland and he introduced the Holy Trinity through the three-leaved shamrock. St. Patrick was said to have 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.

St. Patrick is annually honored with the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup>, which falls during the Christian season of Lent. For more than 1,000 years, the Irish have observed St. Patrick's Day as a religious holiday.

Traditionally, on St. Patrick's Day, families attend church in the morning and observe other rituals—including eating a traditional meal of cabbage and Irish bacon. The holiday has expanded into the secular world as well, becoming a robust international celebration of Irish culture and heritage.

Adapted from Biography.com.