



### Leap Year Facts

Leap years might strike you as an inconvenience or frivolous, but they do help keep our calendar aligned with the solar year. Our calendar has 365 days and the solar year (or the time it actually takes for the Earth to rotate around the Sun) is 365.2422 days. Doesn't seem like a big discrepancy but ....over time it does add up.

It was Pope Gregory who added the extra day, but other cultures have had other solutions. In ancient Egypt, there were twelve months, each one with 30 days and then an additional five days at the end of the year, during which end-of-the-year celebrations were held.

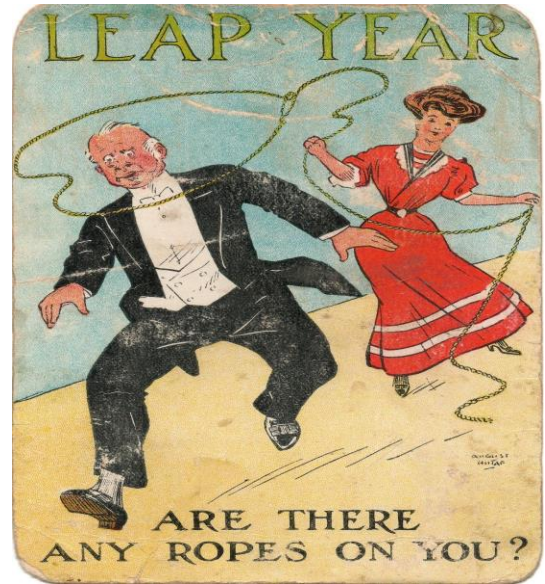
Under Julius Caesar, the Roman Empire moved from their traditional lunar calendar to a solar calendar, adopting the premise of the Egyptian calendar but adapting it just a bit, resulting in each year being 11 minutes and 14 seconds too long. Again, that doesn't seem like a big discrepancy.

But over the next 1000+ years those eleven-minute increments had accumulated into a ten-day discrepancy. Pope Gregory solved the immediate problem by simply adding 10 days to the calendar in 1582, thus you went to sleep on October 4 and woke up on October 15. To effectively align the calendar with the earth's rotation around the sun, he added a leap day to the calendar every fourth year (or almost).

That's right, that "every four-year rule" has a few exceptions. The year marking the start of a new century has no leap day – except for every 400<sup>th</sup> year. Skipping three leap days every 400 years does keep the calendar in alignment – almost. Sometime near the year 4000, the current calendar will be off by one day again.

The Gregorian calendar solution was not universally accepted. England and its colonies held out until 1752. It was only after Lord Chesterfield spoke in Parliament, saying, "It was not honorable of England to remain in gross and unavowed error, especially in such company as Russia."

Russia did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until the 20<sup>th</sup> C, resulting in some confusion because the so-called "October Revolution" was actually staged on November 7, 1917.



### Leap Year Fun

Does 2024 seem to be dragging just a bit? It might be that extra day we just had last month: February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Birthdays on February 29<sup>th</sup> can be an advantage; imagine only celebrating in "leap years". Would that mean you only grow one year older every four years? Actually, that was used to the disadvantage of a character in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. The pirate's apprentice discovered that his period of servitude which traditionally ended at the age of 21, would not be completed until he was 84 years old (all because he was born on February 29<sup>th</sup>).

There are several traditions associated with leap years and what is called leap day (February 29<sup>th</sup>). But many of them have not stood the test of time. In England and Ireland, women were allowed to propose marriage in leap years. That was a custom, supposedly initiated by Saint Brigid or St. Patrick, but was not practiced until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. SUPPOSEDLY it was Queen Margaret of Scotland who proposed fines for any man refusing said proposal.

A play in the 17<sup>th</sup> C proposed that women could wear breeches and later a scarlet petticoat. Fortunately, modern women don't have to wait for a leap year before they can propose marriage or wear pants. We have come a long way, baby!

## You Don't Want to Miss These Upcoming Programs

**Fridays in March**  
10AM, Accolti Room

Father Paul's Lenten series on the Sacraments, including reconciliation, the Eucharist, and the anointing of the sick. The series begins on March 1 and continues on successive Fridays, culminating on March 22 with a Mass and Anointing of the Sick.

**Friday, April 12**  
10AM Maraschi

Ann Homan is going to lead us on a virtual tour of Oracle Park, providing an "Insider's View". I bet she is going to hit it out of the ballpark!

**Do you have a program suggestion for an upcoming OWLS meeting? We need your ideas; please contact Barbara St. Marie ([bstmarie2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bstmarie2000@yahoo.com)) or Marsha Holm ([marsha.callholm@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.callholm@gmail.com)).**

## Happy Birthday to You



Mary Mellon	March 10	Carol Gleason	April 11
Maddy Davies	March 20	Joe Baldelli	April 13
Kevin Hanley	March 31	Florence Anylam	April 21
Bob Holm	April 2	Marilyn Orem	April 29

## Let Us Pray

### From the OWLS

Mila Cwiklinski (repose)  
Maria Boden (healing)  
Jay Davies (healing)  
Elsa Mederas (healing)

### From the Parish

For the sick and infirm of SI Parish  
For the intentions of the Pastor

### From Pope Francis

That those who risk their lives for the Gospel infame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.  
We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture

**Do YOU know of someone who needs our prayers? Please let us know; contact Marsha ([marsha.callholm@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.callholm@gmail.com)).**

You can access the full SI website at <https://stignatiussf.org/>.  
Check out the OWLS on the Saint Ignatius website (<https://stignatiussf.org/senior-ministry-owls>).

## Lenten ideas

From Mary Klipp: *I think we can agree that Lent provides a wonderful opportunity for a spiritual "reset!" One way to accomplish this is to participate in a special and familiar practice of prayer, the **Stations of the Cross**. St. Ignatius has Stations of the Cross which are absolutely stunning! Moving from one to another, depicting ourselves within their scenes as we pray, can be a powerful boost to our spirits and increase our love for Jesus. Please join us in this Devotion following the Friday 9:00 a.m. Mass during Lent. You can still make the OWLS Lecture Series held directly after.*

**St. Ignatius** also offers a variety of ways that we can mark the Lenten season, including a virtual pilgrimage with St. Ignatius. The app is available at <https://www.jesuits.global/2024/02/07/travel-miles-with-st-ignatius-during-lent/> or through your Apple App Store or Google Play.

## Announcements

We are happy to announce that **Teri Stanul** has agreed to coordinate the book exchange for the OWLS. Teri will be scheduling the exchange periodically. Look for it.

The **OWLS Newsletter** is going on hiatus as we look for a new editor. Interested? As the editor, you could reconceive the newsletter, utilizing your great ideas to make it even better. Contact Marsha Holm ([marsha.callholm@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.callholm@gmail.com)) if you would like to learn more. In the meantime, you can expect to hear from Barbara and Marsha as needs require. It has been a pleasure!

OWLS Contacts: **Barbara St. Marie** ([bstmarie2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bstmarie2000@yahoo.com)) or **Marsha Holm** ([marsha.callholm@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.callholm@gmail.com)).  
We are here to help.

## Tech Topics: Venmo: What we need to know

Venmo, which is a division of PayPal, is a payment app that makes it ever-so-convenient to send money to friends, family and businesses for all sorts of goods and services. Splitting a dinner or lunch bill? If your dining companion has a Venmo account, you can just pay them back electronically.

Venmo encrypts your financial information as well as offers PIN protection and multi-factor authentication that make it more difficult for cybercriminals to access your account, but you have to make sure to turn on these features under “Settings”.

If using Venmo, you do need to be aware of scams that have popped up, many of which sound familiar, but have been adapted to a new platform (aren’t cybercriminals inventive!). Some of those scams include:

**Accidentally sending you money** You suddenly get a message that several hundred dollars have been mistakenly transferred into your account and are then asked to return it. The fraudster has used a stolen credit or debit card, meaning that the bank will remove the money from your account but you will also lose the money you have returned to the sender. Unlike a credit or debit card, Venmo accepts no responsibility for reimbursing those lost funds.

**Requesting money with a fake link** (it is called smishing) You might receive an unsolicited message from “Venmo”, asking you to click on a link (it might even promise a cash reward for doing so). That link might take you to a fake Venmo login page where your user data and financials will be hacked as you try to log in.

**Pretending to be your friend/family and requesting money** This is similar to the phone calls from your “grandchild” who has been thrown in jail in Mexico. Verify with the individual making the request that funds are actually needed.

**Impersonating Venmo support** Need help? Be very careful when searching for “Venmo Customer Support”. On the imposter site, you’ll find a phony phone number that will be answered by a scammer who wants your Venmo login information to hijack your account. Venmo suggests using the “HELP” feature located in the app itself.

How can you avoid getting scammed on Venmo?

- Only use Venmo with people/organizations you trust.
- If you get an unexpected request from someone you know, reach out to that individual to confirm.
- Practice good password security.
- DO NOT click on links that appear in text messages or emails sent to you.

For more information on Venmo security and potential scams, check out <http://venmo.com/about/security>. And, as always, use your common sense and intuition when working on-line.

## Think about it...

**I was taking** a walk in the Wall Street area a few years ago when I decided to pop into a deli. I ordered a sandwich and began chatting with the proprietor as he made it. Our conversation eventually turned to the shop’s location. I asked whether being in the financial district ever caused him to play the stock market or led to his getting valuable tips from informed customers.

He paused his sandwich-making, put down his knife and looked at me with a perplexed expression. “Every day, those brokers come in here,” he said. “They get their bagels, sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee, cigarettes ...”

He paused again and pointed toward the door of his shop, “... and every day, they’re out there on the sidewalk, pushing and shoving on a door that is clearly marked ‘pull’”.

*Submitted by Bob Holm*

## Thoughts From Later In Life

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes ... so she hugged me.

My wife says I only have 2 faults. I don't listen and something else.

I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps, got lost on the way back, now I have no idea what's going on.

Life is too short to waste time matching socks.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed and we're having a staff meeting.

I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.

Wi-fi went down for five minutes, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.

I really don't mind getting old, but my body is having a major fit.

*Submitted by Maddy Davies*

**You Are Invited** to attend the OWLS' Steering Committee meeting on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, following Father Paul's talk. You can lend your assistance as we organize and plan future meetings. Hope to see you there.

# ST PATRICK'S DAY

## Word Search

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

CABBAGE

JIG

POT OF GOLD

CLOVER

LEPRECHAUN

RAINBOW

CORNER BEEF

LUCKY

SHAMROCK

GREEN

MARCH

ST PATRICK

IRELAND

PARADE

TRADITION



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