

St. Patrick—March 17

Not many facts are known about the life of St. Patrick. We know that he was born around 415 AD, and was a Roman Briton. When he was about 16, while he was tending his sheep some Irish raiders captured him and made him a slave. He eventually was able to escape and return to Britain. There he heard the call to return and bring Christianity to Ireland. He was ordained a priest, consecrated a bishop and came back to Ireland around 435 AD. Many legends are associated around St. Patrick: how he drove the snakes out of Ireland, and the use of the shamrock to teach the mystery of the Trinity. Whether or not the legends are true, St. Patrick succeeded in bringing Catholicism to Ireland, and in time, the whole country converted from their pagan gods to the one true God.



Although a small country, Ireland has played a large role in saving and bringing Christianity throughout the world. During the early Dark Ages, the Irish monasteries preserved Western writings while Europe remained in darkness. But as the Catholic country remained solidly Catholic, the Irish spread the faith to all corners of the world. To learn more on this subject, read Thomas Cahill's *How the Irish Saved Civilization*.

We have a few works attributed to St. Patrick, one being his autobiography called *Confessions*. It is a short summary of the events in his life, written in true humility. Below is a short excerpt:

I am greatly God's debtor, because he granted me so much grace, that through me many people would be reborn in God, and soon after confirmed, and that clergy would be ordained everywhere for them, the masses lately come to belief, whom the Lord drew from the ends of the earth, just as he once promised through his prophets: "To you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Our fathers have inherited naught but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit." And again: "I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles that you may bring salvation to the uttermost ends of the earth."

Patronage: against fear of snakes; against ophidiophobia; against snake bites; against snakes; barbers; barrel makers; blacksmiths; cattle; coopers; engineers; excluded people; hairdressers; miners; ophidiophobics; Ireland; Nigeria (1961)

(via CatholicCulture.org)

St. Joseph—March 19

St. Joseph was an ordinary manual laborer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, "Foster-father of Jesus." About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man—an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.

The darkest hours of his life may well have been those when he first learned of Mary's pregnancy; but precisely in this time of trial Joseph showed himself great. His suffering, which likewise formed a part of the work of the redemption, was not without great providential import: Joseph was to be, for all times, the trustworthy witness of the Messiah's virgin birth. After this, he modestly retires into the background of holy Scripture.

Of St. Joseph's death the Bible tells us nothing. There are indications, however, that he died before the beginning of Christ's public life. His was the most beautiful death that one could have, in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Humbly and unknown, he passed his years at Nazareth, silent and almost forgotten he remained in the background through centuries of Church history. Only in more recent times has he been accorded greater honor. Liturgical veneration of St. Joseph began in the fifteenth century, fostered by Sts. Brigid of Sweden and Bernardino of Siena. St. Teresa, too, did much to further his cult.

At present there are two major feasts in his honor. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honor him as the patron of workmen throughout the world and as our guide in the difficult matter of establishing equitable norms regarding obligations and rights in the social order.

—Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his death-bed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.

(via CatholicCulture.org)

Do you prefer *paperless*? St. Mary's now uses online giving!
Text "GIVE" to 845-478-8212
to give a one-time or recurring donation today!

- **Stations of the Cross** are prayed every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church. Altar servers are encouraged to sign up in the vesting sacristy.

Confessions will be heard after Stations as well.

- We will soon begin cleaning up at St. Mary's Cemetery. Kindly remove any holiday wreaths. As a reminder, no personal decorations including but not limited to, solar lights are not allowed.

If you need a copy of the cemetery bylaws, please call the parish office.

- **Court Madonna #114** are selling 21 Club tickets. \$20 gives you multiple chances to win. Proceeds go towards scholarships for high school seniors in the Port Jervis and Delaware Valley school districts. Drawing April 8th.

Tickets available through any CDA member.

- **JCDA Ct. Madonna 114** invite all middle and high school girls to a Lenten Day of Recollection on Saturday, March 22 in St. Mary's Most Sacred Heart Hall. The day will begin at 10:00; registration and morning snack available from 9:30-9:50 a.m. Led by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal and Fr. Giacomona, there will be Adoration, Mass, Confession, ice breaker games, speakers, and a Lenten Activity to help the sisters in their work with the poor. The day will end after the 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Church.

For info. jcdacourtmadonna114@gmail.com.

- **Camp Veritas** is a one week sleep away camp for teens ages 12-18. The recipe is play-and-pray with a full immersion in the Catholic faith through sacraments and activities.

The Junior Catholic Daughters will be awarding 5 - \$50.00 scholarships to students who are registered to attend Camp Veritas for summer 2025. For info. & application email jcdacourtmadonna114@gmail.com. Deadline is March 25. Learn more about Camp Veritas: www.campveritas.org

- Teenagers planning on attending Camp Veritas will be selling Palm Crosses the weekend of April 6th and 13th.
- The Knights will be selling solid chocolate crosses after all masses during lent. Prices are as follows 1-\$8 2 \$15 3 \$20. Thank you for your support.
- Join us as we navigate the Gospel of Matthew using the Formed.org platform. Scripture scholars Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Michael Barber will guide us through the book of Matthew in this series.

Bring your Bible and eagerness to learn more about God through the eyes of one of his beloved disciples.

We will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

(Subject to change depending on weather and holidays) 10am-11am. Call the parish office if you are interested in attending these classes.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 15

- 4:00pm – The parishioners of St. Mary's
- Rayola McLaughlin, *r/b Barbara and Dick Drew*

Sunday, March 16 (Second Sunday of Lent)

- 8:30am – Betty Hartmann, *r/b Joe and Joyce Klimkiewicz*
- 11:30am – Vincent Livingston, *r/b Knights of Columbus Co. #471*

Monday, March 17 (Patrick, Bishop)

- 9:00am– Dolly and Lou Klotz, *r/b loving family*
- Eileen Darcy, *r/b her family*

Tuesday, March 18 (Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church)

- 9:00am – Ints. Kathleen Fabula, *r/b Paul Brislin*

Wednesday, March 19 (Joseph, spouse of the BVM)

- 9:00am– Josef Kucher, *r/b Joan and Len Prager*
- Violanda Taubenheim, *r/b Harry and Diane Cole*

Thursday, March 20

- 9:00am – Jocelyn Britt and Ints. of Brittany Vleck, *r/b Vleck family*

Saturday, March 22

- 4:00pm– Franz and Maria Kucher, *r/b Hannelore Kucher*

Sunday, March 23 (Third Sunday of Lent)

- 8:30am – The parishioners of St. Mary's
- Jackie Mundy, *r/b Ken Mundy*
- 11:30am – Emil Moglia, *r/b Knights of Columbus Co. #471*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Nenita Costescu, Dante Bello, MaryAnn Morrison, David Wohrman, Theodore Kozloski, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, James Lincoln, Loni-Case-Theodore, Vera Zuyus, Jacqueline Hamilton, Jose Brito, Ayden Tirtulli, and Ramon Abreu.

- This year's annual **Cardinal's Appeal** has begun. Our goal is **\$25,600**. We have currently received \$5,165 from 18 families. Please help us reach our goal. Our parish number is **518**. Please be sure to write this number on donations so that our parish gets credit.

The collection for March 8th/9th was \$5234
Thank you for your continued generosity.