

MARCH - Saint Patrick's Day Program (2 minutes)

Participants: 2 to 5 people – a family, a group of teens, or a group of adults

Scripts: Print 2 to 5 scripts (included on next page) depending on the number of participants. Fold each in half and insert it into a “folder” made of green construction paper.

Assign each person to read one or more paragraphs from the script.

Props: 1. Irish Hats: Have each person wear a green Irish hat (check Dollar Tree or Hobby Lobby), a green scarf or tie, or other green garments.

2. A large 3-leaf clover: hold this up to show the imagery of the “3 in 1” symbolism of the Trinity

Purpose: To show how evangelism or missionary work influenced a whole nation. The pastor may comment on how our work in sharing the Good News may influence a whole group of people. If your church is going on a mission trip, this might a good time to mention St. Patrick's influence as we look forward to reaching others. Perhaps one of the hats could be passed through the congregation to collect money for the expenses for the mission trip.

Benefits: If children or teens participate, it gives them a chance to be part of things. If the mission team members are the participants, it gives them the recognition so that church members can encourage them and contribute funds for their efforts.

Also, the story of St. Patrick and the telling of it can add an interesting piece of Christian history to the worship service.

Music: “Be Thou My Vision”

Social Hall opportunities: Perhaps the congregation can be encouraged to bring pot luck items for a “Corned Beef and Cabbage” dinner after church to raise money for a mission trip Encourage people to bring “green” desserts, Irish dishes (shepherd's pie, colcannon, fish and chips, green ginger ale) or any other dishes that would add to the festivities.

“Saint Patrick”

When we think of St. Patrick’s Day in America, we often think of green beer, corned beef and cabbage meals, lucky four leaf clovers, and dancing an Irish jig to a boisterous Irish band. And although the practice of these customs is very true, the basis for St. Patrick’s Day, March 17 is one of deeper meaning and tremendous Christian significance to the Irish people and many around the world.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. As a Christian missionary he is revered as the person who brought the love of Jesus and the faith to a pagan Ireland in the 400s. Although Patrick was not Irish, the tale of his connection to Ireland is one to be often told. He was born somewhere in Scotland around 375 AD. His real name was thought to be Maewyn Succat, and was the son of two Roman citizens: Calpurnis and Conchessa who were in charge of the Roman colonies in Britain.

As a teen Patrick was kidnapped by pirates who sold him as a slave to Irish landholders. He was forced into labor as a shepherd, and during this time developed a deep prayer life with God. He also learned the Irish language. One night while praying to God, Patrick was told in a dream to escape to the coast where he would find a ship that would take him home. When he got home, it was believed that he found his parents in Wales. Then he felt called to become a priest and went to France to study for his new vocation.

In another dream, Patrick heard God calling him back to Ireland to convert the pagan peoples to Christianity. He was enormously successful at this work and the Irish designated him to be their patron saint.

This Irish often wore the shamrock as a cross – and many claim that Patrick taught about the three aspects of the Trinity through the use of the shamrock - The one plant (God) has three leaves (persons) – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.