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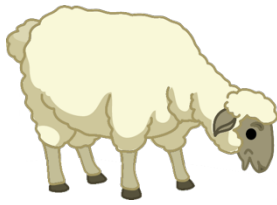
The Legend of St. Patrick



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St. Patrick was born in Britain around 400 A.D. When Patrick was 16, he was taken captive and forced to go to Ireland.



He became a slave and was sold to work as a shepherd on the wild mountains. Each day, he took care of the sheep. It was a hard life. He was sad when he thought of his family and home and he would often ask God to help him escape.

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After six years, he dreamed that God was calling him to escape. He was scared because he knew it was very dangerous.

3



He left his hut and made his way down the mountain. Patrick found his ship and escaped to go home to his family.



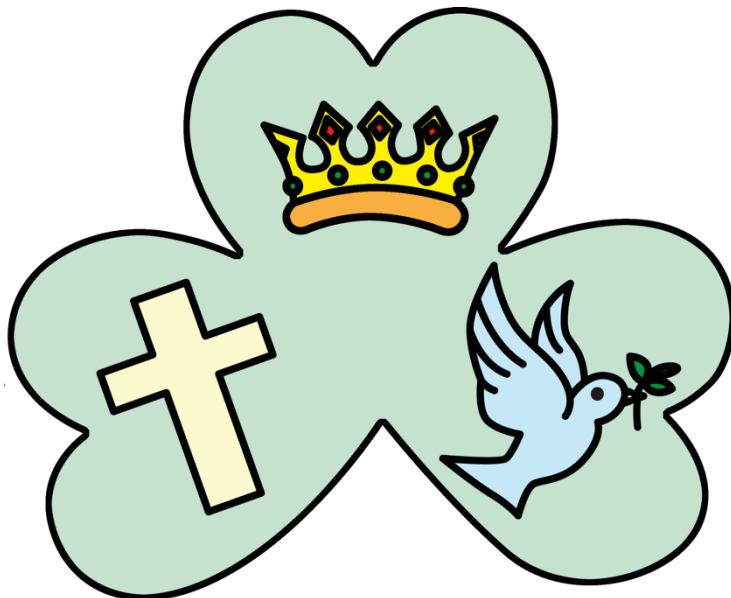
Later he had another dream. The voices were Irish and were telling Patrick to come back to Ireland to tell them about God.



He left Britain and became a monk. He was made a bishop and in the year 432, Pope Celestine sent him to Ireland with some other monks.

In Ireland, he endured hardships and people did not like him because he believed in God, not the gods they believed in.

6



St. Patrick found a shamrock on the ground and explained that this plant with three leaves is like the Trinity. One God, three divine persons.

7



One time, St. Patrick was in the West and a huge snake wrapped around him and was going to crush him to death. Patrick grabbed a stick and with one miraculous blow the snake was dead.



He spent 40 days and nights fasting on a mountaintop, giving thanks to God. Out of nowhere, tons of snakes came and attacked him. St. Patrick prayed to God and God answered him. The snakes all hissed and turned away and disappeared into the sea. St. Patrick was known as the man who drove out the snakes.



St. Patrick died on the 17th of March 461. However, the legend of St. Patrick lives on!

10



People wear green on this March 17th because it is Ireland's national color. Shamrocks are popular on St. Patrick's Day because he used them in his teachings about the Trinity.

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