

POINTS OF INTEREST

St. Patrick's Day. The Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon will be on **March 15** at 11:00 a.m. The cost will be \$8.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children and children under 5 for free.

Maronite Christian Formation. The MCF will be held on **March 15** from 9-9.45 am in the Church Hall.

Candles & Crafts Sale. The Daughters of Saint Ann will be selling decorated candles and crafts On Sunday **March 15** and **March 22** in the church hall after the Divine Liturgy.

First Penance. The children of the first communion will have their first penance on Sunday March 22 at 9.30 am in preparation for the first communion that will be celebrated on May 3rd.

St Ann's Discussion Group. Join us to watch the movie of Saint Sharbel the Maronite monk on **Wednesday March 25** at 6.30 PM in the church hall.

Family Movie Night. Friday March 27 at **7:30 PM** after the *Ramsho* prayer we will be showing the movie of the Passion of the Christ.

Memorials & Liturgy Intentions. If you like to offer a Memorial or a Divine Liturgy intention for your loved ones, write or call the parish office. In preparing your will, you might wish to arrange for the celebration of Divine Liturgies for yourself and your family.

St Ann Parishioners Got Talents. Do you sing, dance, act or have any other talent? Hurry and become part of our first **St Ann's Got Talents** event that will be held on New Sunday April 12 during our Annual Easter, Pot Luck Luncheon starting at 11 am. Register your name on the Signup sheet in the Church hall before April 5.



Verse Of The Week

"Your sins are forgiven. Stand up, and take your mat and walk."

(Cf. Mk 2:9)

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Born 315 A.D.

Died 386 A.D.

Bishop of Jerusalem and Doctor of the Church.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem is one of the most important sources we have for how the church celebrated the liturgy and sacraments during the first few decades after the legalization of Christianity.

In his famous 24 lectures, commonly known as the Jerusalem Catecheses, Saint Cyril instructs new Christians in the days immediately before and after their initiation into the life of the Church at the Easter Vigil. In these catechetical instructions, which are the only documents that survive by St. Cyril, we find very strong insistence on the value and efficacy of the sacrament of baptism as well as heavy emphasis on the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the Early Church Fathers and is also reckoned among the number of the Doctors of the Catholic Church.

Saint's Quote

"There are in truth three states of the converted: the beginning, the middle, and the perfection. In the beginning they experience the charms of sweetness; in the middle the contests of temptation; and in the end the fullness of perfection."

Pope St. Gregory the Great

Bet you didn't know these 10 things about St. Patrick and Ireland!

10. March 17th is when Patrick died

After spending most of his adult life converting the pagans of Ireland to Christianity, St. Patrick went to his reward on March 17, 461 AD.

9. St. Patrick wasn't Irish

Patrick's parents were Roman citizens living in modern-day England. He was born in 385 AD. By that time, most Romans were Christians and Christianity was spreading rapidly across Europe.

8. St. Patrick was a slave

At age 16, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders who sold him as a slave. He spent several years in Ireland herding sheep and learning about the people there. At age 22, he managed to escape and made his way to a monastery in England where he spent 12 years growing closer to God.

7. St. Patrick used the shamrock to preach about the Trinity

Many claim the shamrock represents faith, hope, and love, or any number of other things but it was actually used by Patrick to teach the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and how three things, the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit could be separate entities, yet one in the same.

6. Legend says St. Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland

According to legend, St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. There is no evidence that snakes have ever existed in Ireland, the climate being too cool for them to thrive. Despite that, scholars suggest that the term "snakes" may be figurative and refer to pagan religious beliefs and practices rather than reptiles or amphibians.

5. Patrick's color is blue

The original color associated with St. Patrick is blue, not green as commonly believed. In several artworks depicting the saint, he is shown wearing blue vestments. Green was associated with the country later, presumably because of the greenness of the countryside, which is so because Ireland receives plentiful rainfall.

4. The Shamrock is not the symbol of Ireland

The shamrock is a popular Irish symbol, but not the symbol of Ireland. Since the medieval period, the harp has represented the nation. King Henry VIII used the harp on coins as early as 1534. Starting in 1642 the harp appeared on flags during rebellions against English rule. When Ireland became an independent country in 1921, it adopted the harp as the national symbol.

3. There are more Irish in the USA than Ireland

An estimated 34 million Americans have Irish ancestry. Some are pure-blood Irish, but many more have mixed ancestry. By contrast, there are 4.2 million people living in Ireland. This peculiarity has a lot to do with the troubled history of Ireland. During the potato famine in Ireland, millions of Irish left the country for the US. Great numbers of Irish immigrants filled factories, served as railroad laborers --and even joined the military, sometimes immediately upon stepping foot on American soil! During the US Civil War, entire regiments of troops were comprised exclusively of Irish immigrants. It wasn't until the economic boom of the 1990s that more Irish stayed in their native country than traveled abroad searching for better opportunities.

2. St. Patrick's Day in the US has a strong political history

In the mid 19th century, the Irish faced discrimination much like that faced by African Americans. In a few rare instances, prejudice against the Irish was even fiercer! The Irish were culturally unique, Catholic, and because of deplorable conditions in Ireland, flooded into the US in large numbers. They were perceived as disloyal and were treated harshly. To combat this, the American Irish began to organize themselves politically. By the end of the 19th century, St. Patrick's Day was a large holiday for the Irish and an occasion for them to demonstrate their collective political and social might. While the political emphasis has faded along with the discrimination, the holiday remains ever popular as an opportunity for festivity regardless of one's cultural background.

1. St. Patrick's was a dry holiday in Ireland until 1970

Aside from the color green, the activity most associated with St. Patrick's Day is drinking. However, Irish law, from 1903 to 1970, declared St. Patrick's Day a religious observance for the entire country meaning that all pubs were shut down for the day. That meant no beer, not even the green kind, for public celebrants. The law was overturned in 1970, when St. Patrick's was reclassified as a national holiday - allowing the taps to flow freely once again.



The Pope Tweets

"Humility saves man: pride makes him lose his way."

@ Pontifex / Mar 9, 2015