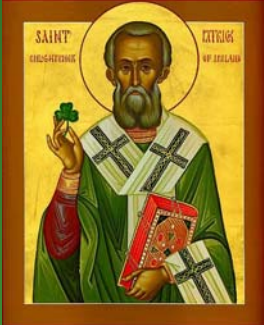
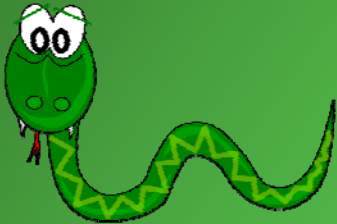


St. Patrick's Day

Fun Facts



St. Patrick lived from 387-461 AD. He was born in Scotland of Roman parents. He was sold into slavery in Ireland as a youth, but later escaped. After returning to his family, becoming a priest and bishop, went back to Ireland as a missionary. His feast is celebrated on March 17, the day of his death and entrance into eternal life.



Legend has it that St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. In reality, snakes have never inhabited Ireland. The “snakes” in the legend refer to paganism, which St. Patrick “drove out” by converting so many people to Christianity.



The shamrock, or clover, is a popular symbol associated with St. Patrick. Although it cannot be verified, St. Patrick is believed to have used the shamrock in his preaching as a symbol of the Trinity. The “luck” associated with finding a 4 leaf clover has nothing to do with St. Patrick—it came from Irish folklore.

**Blue or
Green?**

Blue is the color of St. Patrick. The color green, however, is the national color of Ireland. Green became associated with St. Patrick's Day in the 1800s.



While the feast of St. Patrick had already been celebrated for several centuries in Ireland, the first recorded origin of the celebration we now call “St. Patrick's Day” dates back to the city of Boston in 1937.



Leprechauns, rainbows and pots of gold have nothing to do with St. Patrick, but are popular on St. Patrick's Day because of their importance in Irish folklore and mythology as a legendary extension of the Tuatha de Danaan, an advanced tribe that ruled Ireland several thousand years ago.