

# A Family Guide For: St. Patrick's Day Traditions

## What to Talk About

- Talk about the missionary Saint Patrick and the way that through evil and tragedy God turned his heart to the people of Ireland so that they could know the Gospel.
- Talk about any missionaries you know and the sacrifices they have made.
- Talk about other cultures and about how God wants to save and redeem those of every tribe, tongue, and language.
- Talk about what it was like for Patrick to be a stranger, powerless in a foreign land.
- Talk about the Irish immigrants who came to our country to escape poverty and tyranny.



## What To Do

- Read the Breastplate of Saint Patrick &/or An Irish Blessing before a meal
- Make a traditional Irish breakfast of egg, bangers (sausage) or rashers (bacon), grilled tomatoes, boxty or mash (potato dishes) with some Irish Breakfast Tea such as Barry's.
- Print color pages that depict some of the legends of Saint Patrick, shamrocks, & the wee folk etc.
- Enjoy stories about Ireland, Saint Patrick, Irish immigrants, and the myths and folklore of Ireland. (*see resources*)
- Decorate your table with shamrocks & talk about the shamrock legend.
- Bake Irish Soda Bread together.
- Cook corned beef & cabbage or cottage pie for dinner.
- Pray together:
  - Pray for missionaries. Pray that as Patrick, they would be given inspiration and signs in sharing the Gospel with those who have not heard.
  - Pray for immigrants. Pray that those in our land would find comfort and Christ. Pray that we would have compassion on them and welcome them.
  - Pray for enemies. Pray that we would be able to love our enemies as Patrick did and to show them love.
- Make an Irish Coffee or enjoy a Guinness after the kids are in bed 😊



## What To Read

### For Kids

- The Story of Saint Patrick, Voice of the Martyrs (*historical story*)
- Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland, Tommie dePaola (*the traditional story*)
- The Man Who Loved Books (*the traditional story of St. Columba*)
- Brigid's Cloak (*traditional Irish legend*)
- A Pot o'Gold, Kathleen Krull (*collection of poetry, stories, and legends*)
- Fin M'Coul, Tommie dePaola (*traditional Irish myth*)
- Jamie O'Roarke and the Giant Potato (*fun Irish story*)
- Fiona's Luck, Teresa Bateman (*fun Irish story*)
- St. Patrick's Day in the Morning, Eve Bunting (*fun Irish story*)
- Fiona's Lace, Patricia Pallaco (*story of Irish immigrants in America*)
- Leprechauns & Irish Folklore: Magic Tree House Research Guide (*info on classic Celtic characters & myths*)

### *For Older Kids & Adults*

- Beyond the Western Sea, Avi (middle grade story about Irish immigrant children)
- The Confession of Saint Patrick, Saint Patrick (the classic work by Patrick)
- Patrick, by Jonathan Rogers (a short biography)
- The Celtic Way of Evangelism, G.G. Hunter (interesting discussion of Celtic missiology)
- Trinity, Leon Uris (classic historical fiction covering some of Ireland's major events)
- An Irish Country Doctor, Patrick Taylor
- How the Irish Saved Civilization, Thomas Cahill (a historical book about Ireland's early history)
- The Search for God and Guinness, Stephen Mansfield (fascinating story of the Guinness family and their remarkable company)

### **What To Listen To**

- Riverdance: The Music- Music from the iconic clogging group that will make your family want to get up & dance.
- The Essential Chieftains- Group playing traditional Irish music
- Celtic Treasures, Jim Weiss- Traditional Irish Myths told by Jim Weiss
- Saint Patrick: Heart Afire, Part 1 &2, Adventures in Odyssey, Days to Remember- An audio drama presentation of the life of Saint Patrick.

### **What To Watch**

#### *For Kids*

- The Book of Kells
- Torchlighters- Not about Ireland, but this animated series has the stories of several missionaries. Suitable for older grade school children.

#### *For Older Kids & Adults*

- Evelyn
- I Am Patrick

