

## The Feast Day of Saint Patrick

March 17 is the Feast Day of Saint Patrick, one of the evangelizing saints. Although he is the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick was actually born in Roman Britain in the fifth century. When he was a teenager, he was captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. It was during this time, that he discovered his own faith, finding strength through his relationship with God. Saint Patrick's enslavement lasted for six years until he had a dream in which he was told to escape by going by way of the coast. He successfully made it back to Britain, but after a few years, he had a vision in which a man came to him from Ireland and gave him a letter with the heading "The Voice of the Irish." In his spiritual autobiography, the *Confessio*, Saint Patrick said that, at that moment, he heard the Irish people crying out, "We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us."

This led Patrick to further his education and study for the priesthood. He would later be ordained a bishop and was appointed as successor to Saint Palladius, the first bishop of Ireland. Saint Patrick spent the rest of his life bringing the Good News of the Gospel to the people of Ireland, which was a pagan country at the time. He is believed to have used the three leaves of the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity, and the shamrock remains associated with the saint and the Trinity to this day. Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461 and is now known also as the Apostle of Ireland. The prayer "Breastplate" is attributed to Saint Patrick. It reads in part:

*"Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."*



## Tell us Your Story for National Pet Day!

Next month we look forward to many important or jubilant days in the calendar...Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. There is another day we would like to celebrate in the Evangelist: National Pet Day!

To that end, we invite you to send us a photo of a pet (or your whole "pet posse") along with a few words. While not everyone has domestic pets, those who do (or have in the past) know that our fur friends can be as dear to us as our family. Often they are also our therapy, our bridge to connecting with others, our entertainment, our exercise buddies, and so much more.

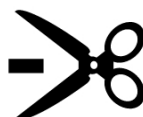


IF you would like to share a bit about your pet(s), email one photo and a description (75 words or less) about what he/she/they mean to you and/or all the humans in your household.

Submissions will be used based upon space availability. Please email Mary at [mwallar@sjtulsa.org](mailto:mwallar@sjtulsa.org) to participate! (PS, you don't have to be in the photo.)

## *Flowers for Easter Sunday*

Beauty is a treasured part of our worship tradition at Saint John's. If you would like to donate to our parish's Easter floral celebration, simply fill out and return the offering form below to the church office. Gifts received on or by March 30 are ideal.



## *Donation to the Altar Fund for Easter*

TO CONTRIBUTE, COMPLETE THIS FORM, INCLUDE A CHECK WRITTEN TO THE ALTAR FUND, AND NOTE "EASTER" IN THE MEMO LINE.

DONOR NAME:

DONOR ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

IS THIS GIFT A MEMORIAL? IF SO, LIST WHO THIS IS IN MEMORY OF HERE:

IS THIS GIFT OFFERED IN CELEBRATION? IF SO, LIST WHAT YOU OR YOUR FAMILY IS CELEBRATING OR GIVING THANKS FOR HERE:

