



# Saint Patrick Faith Formation Newsletter

March 2004

Volume 1 Issue 3

## *The History of St. Patrick*

**Y**ou probably know that St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. But did you know that St. Patrick himself was not Irish? Why, he was not from Ireland at all!

His birth name was Maewyn Succat. He took on the name Patrick or Patricus, after he became a priest, much later in his life. Patrick is a Latin name that means noble. Someone who is noble has important family connections.

Patrick was born about 390 A.D. into a Roman family living in Britain. His father, Calpurnius, was a Roman official and a deacon of the Church. Patrick grew up in a Christian family, but he himself was not overly religious. But when Patrick was 16 years old, something unexpected happened.

Patrick was among thousands of people who were captured by raiders, taken across the sea, and sold into slavery in Ireland. It is believed that Patrick ended up in County Mayo working for Milchu, a local chieftain. For 6 years, he labored as a slave, longing to escape. The only comfort he found was in prayer.

For the first time Patrick became truly aware of God's presence with him. He turned to God for help. He learned to listen for God's voice and to have faith that God heard his cries. He was confident that God would lead him. Finally, Patrick heard God say to him, "Your ship is ready." Escaping his captors, Patrick fled 200 miles to the sea.

After a long difficult journey, Patrick finally returned

home, in Britain. Although he has suffered, Patrick had found something valuable during his struggle in Ireland. He had found the strength that comes from relying on God every day. Patrick embraced a new life in God's service, devoting himself to God and his people as a priest. He studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for twelve years. He came to believe that it was his calling to go back to Ireland and convert the pagans of Ireland to Christianity. Patrick was about sixty years old when he arrived in Ireland and it is said that he had a winning personality that helped him win converts. He used the shamrock, which resembles a three-leaved clover, to help explain the concept of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Legend has it that Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. Evidently, they all went into the sea and drowned. The snake is a pagan symbol and perhaps this is a figurative tale explaining that he drove paganism out of Ireland.

Patrick's mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. He then retired to County Down and died on March 17 in 461 AD. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. The first year St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in this country was 1737 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Patrick was truly noble, not because of his family connections, but because he lived everyday of his life with God. We can choose God's way of our lives everyday too, in little and big ways.

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## *Faith Formation Activities & Events*



### **Faith Formation Registration 2004-2005**

This year's program is coming to an end with only three months left. Do you want to re-register your child for next year's Faith Formation 2004-2005 Program? Re-registering your child is EASY. Your Child will bring home a pre-registration letter. The Forms are pre-filled out with the same information you provided us with this year.

All you have to do is initial each section, fill out the medical release form, and send in your registration fee. Financial assistance is available, please do not hesitate to ask. It is important that your child continues their faith journey in life, it is an on-going journey. If, you have any questions contact Beverly Pascua, 510-799-4434.

## Musical: Godspell

St. Patrick School Students (6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grades) will be performing a musical called Godspell on April 2, and April 3. Based on the Gospel according to Matthew, *Godspell* tells the story of the last seven days of Christ's life. *Godspell* teaches love and joy in the hearts of people rather than hate and sadness. It speaks of loving your neighbor, forgiveness, tolerance and celebration. Tickets will be sold in the School Office, \$2 for adults and \$1 Child. For more information, contact Sarah Barrett at 510-799-2506. It will be an exciting family event!

## Faith Formation Board Meeting

Calling all PARENTS!!! Our next Board Meeting will be on March 25 at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Meetings are held every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Next meeting, we will be talking about our End of the Year Party, Teacher Appreciation Day, Family Fun Days, Sacramental Prep Classes, and more. *Our goal is to have a representative for each grade level.* Everyone is welcomed!!! If you have any questions, please contact Beverly 510-799-4434 or email [faithformation@stpatrickrodeo.org](mailto:faithformation@stpatrickrodeo.org)

## The Seder Meal



On March 25, at 4:30 pm in the Hall, we will celebrate a traditional Seder Meal, to remind us of Passover and the Last Supper.

We are asking families to bring part of the meal, to help us celebrate. Please bring the items listed for your grade, on March 25, at 4:20 pm (Right before class starts, to give us some time to prepare.)

If you would like to help out, please contact Beverly Pascua at 510-799-4434 or email to [faithformation@stpatrickrodeo.org](mailto:faithformation@stpatrickrodeo.org)

### Grade Item

1 <sup>st</sup>	Flowers & 3 peeled hard boiled eggs
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 bunch of parley & 2 sliced horseradish
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 dozen un-frosted cupcakes
4 <sup>th</sup>	1 large bottle of purple Grape Juice
5 <sup>th</sup>	Haroset (see recipe) (Food process till in small chunks: 4 apples; 1 teaspoon cinnamon; 3 tablespoons of honey; then place in zip lock bag
6 <sup>th</sup>	7 peeled hard boiled eggs
7 <sup>th</sup> / 8 <sup>th</sup>	1 large bottle of purple Grape Juice



## Operation Rice Bowl

During Lent, we will be participating in Operation Rice Bowl. Operation Rice Bowl brings families, parishes, schools, and

other faith communities together to pray, fast, learn, and give. Operation Rice Bowl challenges us to put our faith into action and walk into solidarity with our neighbors in need around the world. Through daily reflection, prayer, and action; Operation Rice Bowl connects you with our global community.

Last week, your child was given a Rice Bowl (It is different than the one given on Ash Wednesday.) The money we usually spend on ourselves should be placed in the rice bowl, which will help the poor around the world. The Rice Bowls are due March 25, 2004. If your child did not receive a Rice Bowl, please contact Beverly Pasuca at 510-799-4434 or email [faithformation@stpatrickrodeo.org](mailto:faithformation@stpatrickrodeo.org)



## Pretzel Prayer

Pretzels were an important part of early Christian's diet during Lent. Because the followers of Jesus fasted from meat, eggs, and

butter during this potential season; they made the first pretzels out of water, flour, and salt. The Pretzels were shaped in the form of arms crossed in prayer.

Place a bowl pretzels in the middle of a table and gather the members of the family around the table. Talk about the origin of the pretzel, and what it symbolizes. Read *Luke 11:1-13*, give everyone a chance to share his or her understanding of the passage. This is a simple treat you may want to try; dip the pretzels in melted white chocolate and let them harden. ENJOY!!



## Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent our Faith Formation classes will be recalling Jesus' sacrifice. At the start of class, we will go into the Church and learn about the Stations of the Cross.

## Fast & Abstinence

We are asked to abstain from eating meat on the Fridays of Lent. If you chose not to, then some other form of penance or charity should be practiced.



## Lenten Penance Service

During Lent, we seek forgiveness, for our sins, reconcile with God and others, and to ask God for strength and wisdom especially during these 40 days. The Faith Formation Lenten Penance (Confession/Reconciliation) Service will be held on March 18, during class in the Church. (Please be sure your child is on time and in Church at the start of class.)

How to go to Confession:

1. Say hello to Father and make the sign of the cross
2. Tell Father when you had your last confession
3. Confess your sins
4. The Father will give you penance
5. Pray the Act of Contrition
6. The Father will say the Prayer of Absolution & will bless you

## The Act of Contrition

My God,  
I am Sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong  
and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you  
whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend with your help,  
to do penance,  
to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ  
suffered and died for us.  
In his name, My God, have mercy.  
Amen.

### Happy Birthday!



Jessica Cantiller	4 <sup>th</sup>	March 5
Angelica Rodriguez	1 <sup>st</sup>	March 8
Regina Trinidad	P.Schl	March 9
Michael Mauler	5 <sup>th</sup>	March 14
Jayann Yalung	2 <sup>nd</sup>	March 25
Joyce Alcantara	5 <sup>th</sup>	March 26
Benjamin Ochoa	7 <sup>th</sup>	March 30

### Up Coming Events

- Thursday, March 11, 2004**  
First Communion Parent Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Sunday, March 13, 2004**  
St. Patrick Dinner/Dance
- Wednesday, March 17, 2004**  
St. Patrick's Day
- Thursday, March 18, 2004**  
Faith Formation Reconciliation Service
- Thursday, March 25, 2004**  
Seder Meal
- Thursday, April 8, 2004**  
NO Faith Formation Class-Holy Thursday
- Sunday, April 11, 2004**  
Easter Sunday!
- Thursday, April 15, 2004**  
NO Faith Formation Class
- Thursday, April 29, 2004**  
NO Faith Formation Class-Confirmation Mass

#### Newsletter Committee:

Beverly Pascua  
Andres Lerma  
D'Anna Lerma

#### Contribute to the Newsletter:

If you have an article you would like placed in the Newsletter email it to  
faithformation@stpatrickrodeo.org

**ST. PATRICK CHURCH  
EASTER EGG HUNT &  
EASTER BUNNY PHOTO SHOOT**

**APRIL 11  
AFTER 9:30 MASS**

**Children must have their parent present at all times.  
To make this Easter Egg Hunt FREE for our children  
we need your help.**

***WE NEED CANDIES & PLASTICS EGGS***  
**Students can bring them to class next week.**

**You may also take pictures with the Easter Bunny.  
4x6 are \$5.00 and 8x12 are \$10.00  
*(All proceeds benefit St. Patrick's Youth Group.)***

