SAINT PATRICK

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| KAI: | Hi, I'm Kai for Catholic Central. What do Lucky Charms, Shamrock Shakes, and celebratory shenanigans have to do with the real St. Patrick? Turns out, not much. But there's plenty more to know about Ireland's most famous saint. |
|  | Patrick is Ireland's patron saint but was actually a Roman born in Britain. Though not the first Christian ever to go to Ireland, St. Patrick was successful in bringing Christianity from continental Europe to the isle of Ireland in the 400s. |
|  | Patrick was born into an aristocratic Christian family. Around age 16, he was kidnapped by Celts and sold into slavery on the island of Ireland. The Celts were not so thrilled about Roman Christians. For six bleak years, he worked as a shepherd. During that time, he had a religious conversion, where his faith deepened. One night, a voice from God told him to escape and make his way to the coast. He did and boarded a ship sailing back to Britannia. |
|  | Back home, Patrick was ordained into the priesthood, but he didn't feel settled. He felt a pull to go back to Ireland and evangelize the Celts. So, he responded to another heavenly call and returned to the lands of his former kidnappers and captors, and brought many people to the Christian faith through argumentation and persuasion. He died peacefully on March 17th, paving the way for centuries of rowdy celebrations in his honor. |
|  | There are several myths surrounding the legend of St. Patrick. He did not drive snakes out of Ireland, because there weren't any snakes in Ireland at the time. The snakes were likely an allegory for Patrick driving Druid paganism from the isle. Also, unfortunately, there are no leprechauns anywhere in this story. |
|  | Early Irish-American immigrants celebrated St. Patrick's Day with parades to show solidarity at a time when they were not always treated with respect in the New World. Many of the traditions we associate with St. Patrick's Day are actually from these wee United States. One tradition you probably won't find in the green-beer line, but is more authentic, is St. Patrick's breastplate, which has become a song and a prayer. |
| ST. PATRICK KAI: | Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. |
| KAI: | According to tradition, these words aided St. Patrick when successfully converting King Leoghaire -- you can read it -- in 433 A.D. St. Patrick's legacy is a reminder for all of us. Beyond the green beer, questionable cultural appropriation and bar fights, St. Patrick holds up as one of the Church's most influential saints. |
|  | For Catholic Central, I'm Kai. Be sure to check out our website, CatholicCentral.com, for more information on Catholic traditions.CATHOLIC CENTRAL CLOSING CREDITS |

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