

CELEBRATIONS





Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!



Who St. Patrick was?

St. Patrick's Day has its origin in ancient times. Legend tells us that a young boy named Patrick lived in the British Isles. At the age of 16 Patrick was captured by Irish people, who often raided the territory of the British Isles.





Patrick travelled from village to village and talked about the Christ. He believed that he was called by God to perform this important mission and convert the Celtic people to the Christian religion. But they didn't understand him and didn't believe in the Holy Trinity. One day Patrick picked up one of the plentiful shamrocks, growing wild in Ireland. It struck him how to explain.

«Here are there leaves», he said to the people «but yet one plant. Imagine the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit as each of three leaves. Here they are and they are the one».



From that time on, the shamrock has become the symbol of Ireland.



On that day Irish people all over the world put on green clothes and go out to the streets. As you probably know, green colour is a national colour of the country.



Shamrocks, saint and shillelaghs

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17, honors Ireland's patron saint who died on that day in 461. Icons of the Irish holiday and the history of St. Patrick:

Shamrock

■ Small, three-leaved herb appears on United Kingdom's coat of arms with English rose, Scottish thistle



Irish flag

■ Green stands for Catholics; orange for Protestants; white for wish for harmony



Leprechauns

■ Fairies who work day and night mending shoes of other fairies



Shillelagh (shi-lay'-lee)

■ Walking stick; word is Irish for stout oak club or cudgel; also name of a forest that once stood in County Wicklow



Patrick: Saint and legend

387: Born in Britain to a Roman family; his father served as a magistrate; his original name was Maewyn

Early 400s: Taken to Ireland as a slave; after six years, he escaped to France where he studied for priesthood

432: Sent to Ireland as a Christian missionary by Pope Celestine I, who named him Patricius, which means noble in Latin; he introduced Roman alphabet, Latin literature; Christianized land

Familiar legend
He drove the snakes from Ireland by beating a drum

Thanksgiving Day



Thanksgiving Day is traditionally a day for families and friends to get together for a special meal. It is a time for many people to give thanks for what they have. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated in Canada and the United States. It is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States.



Traditional Food

The traditional thanksgiving meal consists of roast turkey stuffed with herb-flavoured bread, cranberry jelly, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie. Other dishes may vary as to region: ham, sweet potatoes, creamed corn.



Family Reunion and Feasting

Family feast is an important tradition during Thanksgiving. The entire family sits at the table during dinner and offer prayer to the Lord for his continuous grace. It is also a time for relatives living in different places to come together and celebrate.



Charity

Americans organize charity dinners, concerts. Even in the subway stations there are tables where every american who wants to help brings food and donations.



A Thanksgiving-themed still life. In the center is a roasted turkey garnished with rosemary. To the left are autumn leaves and green grapes. To the right is a wicker basket filled with red grapes, apples, and green pears. The background is a warm, textured orange-brown.

happy Thanksgiving

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse



HAPPY GUY FAWKES DAY!



James the First was a Protestant and didn't like Catholics.



In 1604 a group of Catholics decided to kill the King. Guy Fawkes was one of them.

But Guy Fawkes was unable to realize his plan and was caught and later, hanged.







Also known as "Firework Night" and "Bonfire Night,"
The event is accompanied by firework displays, the lighting
of bonfires and the ceremonial burning of one Guy Fawkes.



Since that time English people have been celebrating Guy Fawkes Night as a day of thanksgiving for "the joyful day of deliverance".

