

Welcome to a Year of Celebration!

Week 10: March 6-12, 2022

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

This year, we are focusing on who God is and how we can celebrate him and the life that he offers to us. We will draw deeper into a relationship with the Lord through examining his nature and desire for personal intimacy with us as his people, and we are going to do so in such a fun way! We are going to journey in 2022 through practical ways to celebrate various holidays! We will look at many of your favorite celebrations: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day and much more. We will explore the historic, liturgical holidays of the year, learn about the Jewish festivals of the Bible days, and even consider some of the celebrations of other religious faiths. I'm so glad you will be on this journey with us.

In this packet, you will find some ideas for you to grow closer to God, your family, and others. Nothing is required. It is all for fun and your personal enjoyment and growth. There are enough activities that you could do one or two per day during the week if you want. If you don't want to do something, skip it. If another idea comes to mind, do it. Watch for God's abundant goodness and celebrate it.

Come Join Us as We
CELEBRATE GOD!



*"They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness."*

Dr. Patrick Wilson

(Psalm 145:7)

2022



Video Devotional

Go to Patrick Wilson's YouTube page and watch the video devotional for this week: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Then, consider and discuss with your family/friends the following questions:

- What do you enjoy most about St. Patrick's Day? Why?
- What is a Bible story that stands out to you where God rescues someone or provides an escape?
- Do you have toxic people in your life? What is something you need to change to address these situations?
- What is a sinful temptation you are facing? How is God providing a way out for you?
- How might you submit to God more this week?
- What part of St. Patrick's prayer should you focus on this week?

Craft: Shamrock Sun Catcher

1. Use this template or your own design to sketch a shamrock on a sheet of black cardstock and cut it out: <https://threelittleferns.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/clover.png>
2. Cut out the interior of the shamrock, leaving a border around the edges.
3. Roll out a piece of contact paper large enough to cover a complete side of your shamrock.
4. Place the shamrock on the adhesive side of the contact paper.
5. Cut small squares or shapes of various St. Patrick's Day colored tissue paper (i.e., greens, gold, yellow, orange), and place them generously throughout the cutout.
6. Place a second layer of contact paper (sticky side down) over the shamrock and smooth it in place.
7. Cut away excess contact paper around the shamrock.

Supplies:

- Sheet of Black Cardstock
- Tissue Paper (greens, gold, yellow, etc.)
- Contact Paper
- Scissors



Foods to Prepare

According to The Food Network, these are five obligatory Irish foods you should eat in celebration of St. Patrick's Day:

1. Corned Beef: Corned beef is a meat that has been cured in a salt solution or brine. In the US, it is common to use brisket.
2. Shepherd's Pie: Shepherd's Pie is a casserole from Britain and Ireland done in an American style that consists of ground beef or lamb, vegetables, and topped with mashed potatoes.

3. Irish Soda Bread: Irish Soda Bread is a simple bread that is typically made from flour, salt, baking soda, and buttermilk but without yeast. It resembles more of a scone-like bake.

4. Colcannon: Colcannon is a Irish mashed potato recipe with mixed greens, scallions, and a lot of butter and cream.

5. Cabbage: Cabbage cooked Irish style is typically shredded boiled and served as a side dish with melted butter.

Activity: Wear Green

Do you know why people wear green on St. Patrick's Day? Perhaps as a kid, you were told that if you didn't have green on, people would pinch you, so you clothed in at least one thread of green; but, there is more to this story.

As far back as the 17th century, people started wearing green ribbons or shamrocks to honor St. Patrick and the country of Ireland, known as the Emerald Isle. Irish immigrants to the United States believed that wearing green made them invisible to leprechauns. Leprechauns are fictional fairy creatures that are typically depicted as long bearded men, wearing a coat and a hat. They were always up to mischief, pranking people, and hiding their gold at the end of a rainbow.

According to tradition, pinching someone is not for punishment because they don't have green on. Rather, it is a subtle way to remind someone that they are visible and susceptible to the mischief of a leprechaun.

So, pull out some green and suit up for the day!



Movies to Watch

If you are movie fan, pick out a favorite movie to watch alone or with family/friends. Here are some of the best Irish themed movies, but you certainly are not limited to this list. Pop some popcorn, curl up on the couch, and enjoy the show!

Card Game of Luck

Most games are a combination of skill and luck (or happenstance). In other words, there are some games where a winner is determined by who makes the most strategic moves, but there are other games that have a greater dependence on the chance to have things go your way over that of your opponents. Many card games fall into the category of having greater emphasis on “luck.”

One of the themes commonly associated with St. Patrick’s Day is the “luck of the Irish.” So, pick out a card game or other game that is built largely on chance. Play that game once or multiple times throughout the week. See who wins the most and declare that person the “luckiest” member of the family. You might even award a prize or mock trophy to the winner.

Here are a few games you might consider:

- UNO
- Rummy
- Phase 10
- Go Fish
- Skip-Bo
- Old Maid
- Blackjack
- Spoons

Irish Movies:

- The Quiet Man
 - Far and Away
 - Leap Year
 - Michael Collins
 - The Devil’s Own
 - The Luck of the Irish
 - In the Name of the Father
 - The Crying Game
 - Wake Ned Devine
 - My Left Foot
 - Darby O’Gill and the Little People
 - Gangs of New York
 - Once
 - The Secret of Kells
 - The Commitments
 - P.S. I Love You
 - Sing Street
 - The Boxer
 - Dancing at Lughnasa
 - Circle of Friends
- 



Bible Study

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor. 13:14).

The concept of the Trinity is one of the most challenging for us to grasp as human beings because in our finite bodies, we have never experienced anything like three persons in one. St. Patrick used a three-leaf clover to try to help others understand the Trinity. While this concept remains unknown to our experience and is actually never shared explicitly in the Bible, it has been an orthodox view of the Church since the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.

In the above verse, we read references to “the Lord Jesus Christ,” “God,” and “the Holy Spirit” in Paul’s salutation at the end of this letter. Thus, all three persons of the Trinity are mentioned together. Notice what is attributed to their presence with us “all:” grace, love, and fellowship. Grace is being treated with favor that is not deserved. Love is being treated with sacrificial kindness that is not merited. Fellowship is being treated with inclusive acceptance that is not earned. Paul’s prayer is that the believers would experience such grace, love, and fellowship. Consider these blessings in your life. While we may not fully grasp the Trinity, we remain thankful for the blessings of God’s presence in our lives each day.

Prayer Time

This prayer of St. Patrick is so powerful. Be reflective and pray it throughout the week.

“May the Strength of God pilot us. May the Power of God preserve us.

May the Wisdom of God instruct us. May the Hand of God protect us.

May the Way of God direct us.

May the Shield of God defend us. May the Host of God guard us;

Against the snares of the evil ones, Against temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us! May Christ be before us!

May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!

May Thy Salvation, Lord; Always be ours,

This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.”



Service: Concern Worldwide

Concern Worldwide is one of the largest charities in the world and is based in Ireland. They help provide food, shelter, and healthcare to people in need all around the world. In 2020, Concern Worldwide ministered to 36.9 million people with programs to try to meet the needs of those in extreme poverty.

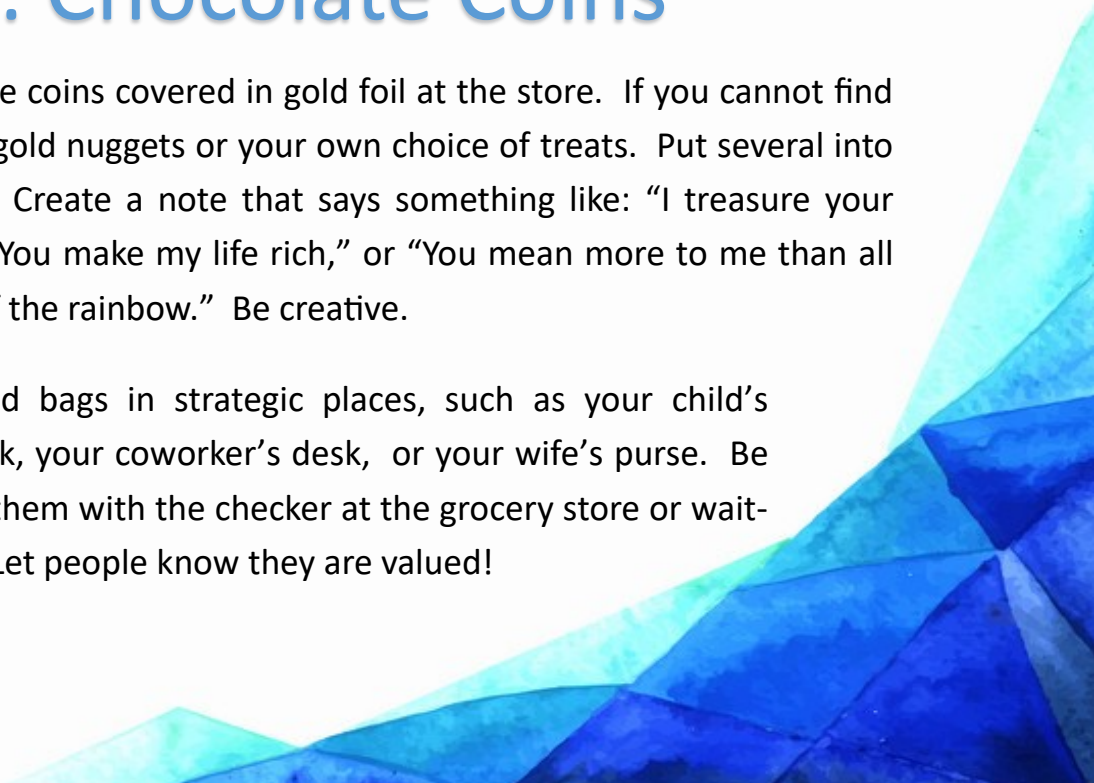
To learn more about Concern Worldwide and ways that you can give, visit their website at <https://www.concernusa.org>.

If you'd prefer to do something locally in your area, reach out to the organizations in your community and see if there is something that you can do to help those in need. If your town has a St. Patrick's Day race or parade, you might consider helping with that event or picking up trash after it is over. There are so many ways that we can serve others in our world as followers of Jesus.

Connect: Chocolate Coins

Get a bag of chocolate coins covered in gold foil at the store. If you cannot find them, use Hershey's gold nuggets or your own choice of treats. Put several into a ziplock snack bag. Create a note that says something like: "I treasure your friendship/service," "You make my life rich," or "You mean more to me than all the gold at the end of the rainbow." Be creative.

Place your completed bags in strategic places, such as your child's lunchbox or backpack, your coworker's desk, or your wife's purse. Be generous, and share them with the checker at the grocery store or waitress at a restaurant. Let people know they are valued!





Worship

Carve out some time to listen to worship music, hum or sing along. Here are some great songs to get you started. These songs focus on sharing the gospel. Look them up on YouTube if you don't have them in your music repertoire.

Pick your own songs and spend time worshipping and celebrating who God is to you and all the ways that he has blessed your life.

Sharing the Gospel Worship Songs:

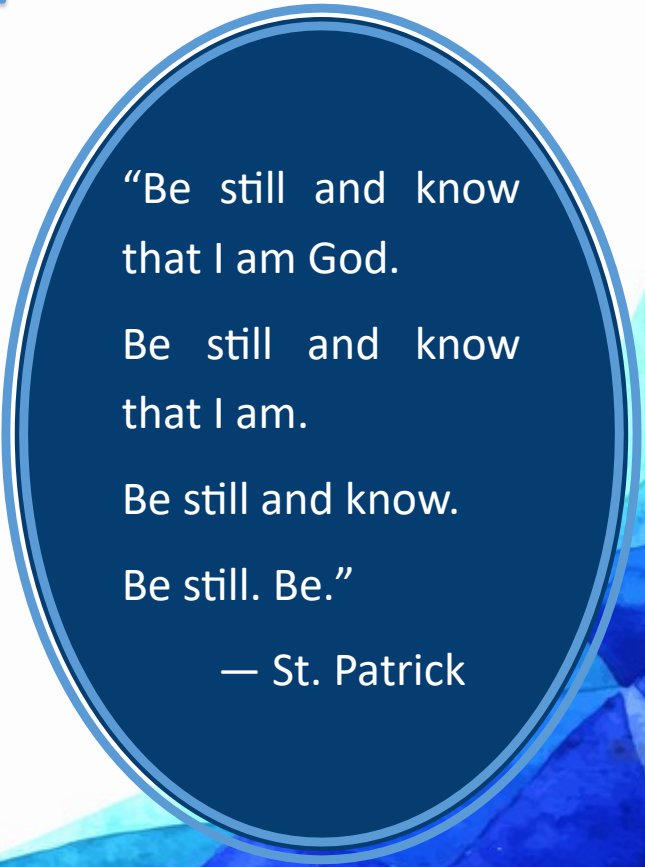
- Until the Whole World Hears
- Go Light Your World
- Your Love Awakens Me
- Follow You Anywhere
- Wherever He Leads, I'll Go
- Shout to the North
- People Need the Lord
- I Saw the Light
- I'll Fly Away
- Lead Me to the Cross

Challenge: Cheers!

St. Patrick's Day is notorious for people overindulging on alcoholic beverages. Instead of drinking a pint, consider some other Irish themed, non-alcoholic beverages.

Consider taking a friend out for Irish coffee at Starbucks or for a green milkshake at McDonald's. Or if you are really an adventurer, try to make your own concoction. Love to Know offers suggestions on how to make a variety of non-alcoholic drinks from shamrock punch to mint chocolate shakes. For more information go to

https://cocktails.lovetoknow.com/Non_Alcoholic_Irish_Drink_Recipes
or your favorite foodie website.



"Be still and know
that I am God.

Be still and know
that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still. Be."

— St. Patrick