



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and

τηρώ

Σαρακοστή

τηγαίνω- παρακολουθώ

σαρακοστιανός

αίρω

people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

λάχανο

## Who Was St. Patrick?

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the (1)..... saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

αποδίδω τα εύσημα

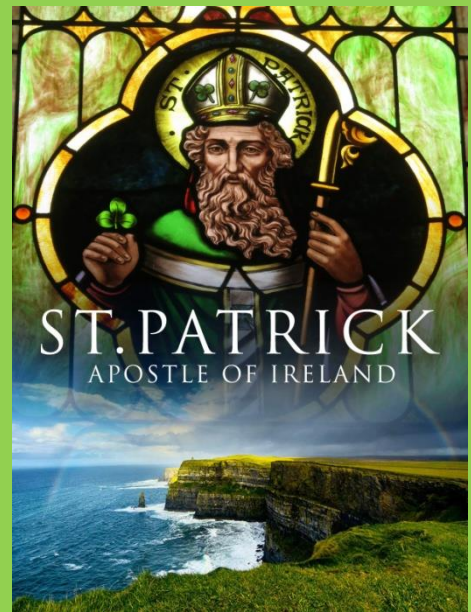
In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy

εδραιωμένος,

(2)..... (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

τριφύλλι

τετράφυλλο τριφύλλι



## When Was the First St. Patrick's Day Celebrated?

Since around the ninth or 10th century, people in Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America (what is now St. Augustine, Florida).

γιορτή

παρέλαση

On March 17, 1772 (3)..... Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City to honour the Irish patron saint. Enthusiasm for the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York City, Boston and other early American cities only grew from there.

στρατός

## Growth of St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, they would hold annual parades featuring (4)..... (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

σέηντ

ανθίζω

οπου υπάρχει

τριάδα

Trinity, stems, απορρέει

νοσταλγός

homesick, bagpipes, γκάντα

starvation, patron

πείνα

προστάτης

ομάδα, σύλλογος



In 1848, several New York Irish societies decided to unite their parades to form one official New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. That parade is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the United States, with over 150,000 participants. Nearly 3 million people line the 1.5-mile parade route to watch the procession.

από πολίτες

συμμετέχοντες

διαδρομή

ακολουθία

## The Irish in America

Up until the mid-19th century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to 1 million poor and uneducated Irish Catholics began pouring into America to escape

λοιμός

περίπου

ρέουν

(5).....

μισητός

ξένος

ανοίκειος

Despised for their alien religious beliefs and unfamiliar accents by the American

ευτελής, χειρονακτικός

Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs.

The American Irish soon began to realize, however, that their large numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and

προικίζω

που ακόμα δεν έχει... εκμεταλεύομαι

εκλογικό σώμα

ανατρέπω

their voting bloc, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for

φερελτίς

political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates.

σωρεία

υποψήφιος

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish Americans whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in the New World.

πρόγονος

αποδοχή

## What Do Leprechauns Have to Do With St. Patrick's Day?

One icon of the Irish holiday is the Leprechaun. The original Irish name for these figures of folklore is "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow." Belief in leprechauns probably

σύμβολο

κ

λαϊκή παράδοση

(6)..... from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their

magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies.

"στοιμμένος"

επιδιορθώνω

Though only minor figures in Celtic folklore, leprechauns were known for their trickery,

ήσων, μικρός

ζαβολιά

which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Leprechauns have their own holiday on May 13, but are also celebrated on St. Patrick's.

θουλούμενος



Sources: <https://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day/history-of-st-patricks-day>

[Patrick - YouTube](#)