



# Fourth Sunday in Lent

## *Almsgiving This Week*

In his 2018 Message for Lent, Pope Francis said, “Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone . . . When we give alms, we share in God’s providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.”

Consider making a donation to the Catholic Relief Services on Sunday, February 11, during their annual national collection. For more information about how to give, visit, [www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/how-to-give.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/how-to-give.cfm).

## *Prayer for the Poor*

God of Justice,  
open our eyes  
to see you in the face of the poor. Open our ears  
to hear you in the cries of the exploited. Open  
our mouths  
to defend you in the public squares as well as in  
private deeds.  
Remind us that what we do  
to the least ones,  
we do to you.  
Amen.

— CCHD Prayer

## *Saint of the Week*

### **St. Patrick**

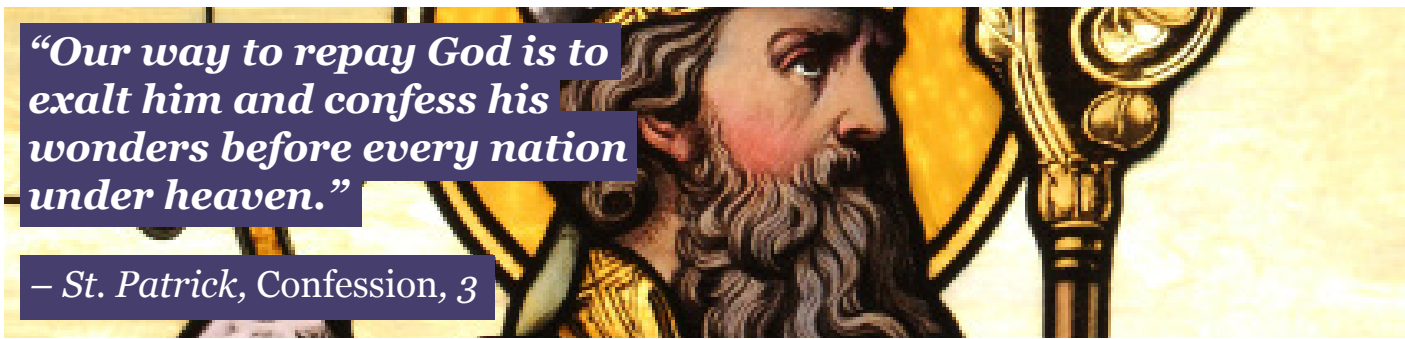
c. 389–461

Feast Day — March 17

The patron saint of Ireland, Patrick was born in Roman Britain. He describes his life and ministry, including his work to convert the Irish people, in his short autobiography and testimony, *Confessions*. Kidnapped at age 16 by Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland, his time spent in captivity transformed him spiritually. He was a lonely shepherd for six years before escaping and returning home.

After returning home, his dream of converting the Irish from pagan belief propelled him to priestly studies in Gaul (now France). In about 432, Pope Celestine I consecrated him as a bishop and sent him to Ireland. For nearly 30 years, he preached tirelessly, made countless converts, founded monasteries, and established the primatial see at Armagh in modern-day Northern Ireland.

Toward the end of his life, he made a 40-day retreat on Croagh Patrick mountain in present-day County Mayo. That gave rise to the pilgrimages that are made on the mountain to this day. Stories that Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity and drove snakes from the island are unconfirmed legend.



***“Our way to repay God is to exalt him and confess his wonders before every nation under heaven.”***

***— St. Patrick, Confession, 3***



*Biography of St. Patrick originally published by Catholic News Service.*

*Prayer taken from “Being Neighbor, the Catechism and Social Justice,” Catholic Campaign for Human Development.*

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