

**THE TOLEDO HIBERNIAN  
NEWSLETTER  
C/O MAURY COLLINS  
2847 NASH ROAD  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43613**



**BORDERLINE GENIUS, LLC**

IN GOD WE TRUST



**March 14 ~ Daylight savings time returns**

**March 14 ~ St. Patrick's Mass at the Historic  
Church of St. Patrick**

**March 17 ~ St. Patrick's Day**

**March 20 ~ Vernal Equinox (1st day of Spring)**

**March 28 ~ Palm Sunday**



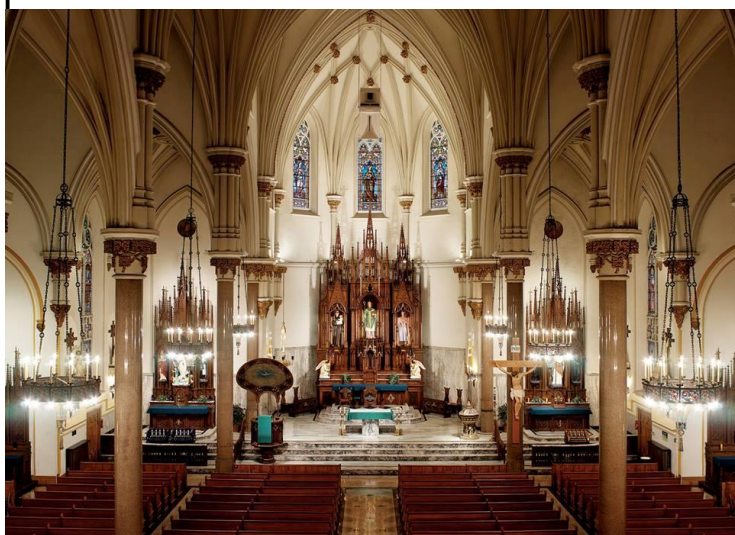
Mother McAuley Division

# HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER

March, 2021



John P. Kelly Division



## The Annual St. Patrick's Mass

### The Historic Church of Saint Patrick

130 Avondale Ave  
Toledo, Ohio

**March 14, 2021**

**9:30 AM Irish Sing a Long**

**10:00 AM St. Patrick's Day Liturgy**

**11:00 AM Reception in back of church**

**An Irish Welcome to All!!!!!!**






### **A Message from the crazy editor, Maury Collins**

When my children were young, there was no place in the area to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the whole family. We celebrated with Penny's soda bread, shamrock shakes and Irish music. The Hibernian "Family Friendly" worked out great thanks to all of you. Now, I am back to celebrating with Penny's soda bread and Irish music (I think I will skip the shamrock shake). Penny and I will be attending the St. Patrick's Mass at Historic St. Patrick's Church. Mask are required and separated seating is maintained.

**The annual Mass is a fine tradition. Come on down. Show your Irish pride!!  
I am working on a Irish Night at the Mud Hens and a Father Ray Kelly concert in the Fall!!!!!!**

# MARCH, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Echo's of Ireland</i> WCWA 1230 AM 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16		18	19	20 
21 <i>Echo's of Ireland</i> WCWA 1230 AM 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 	29	30	31			

May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full Moon on a dark night and the road downhill all the way to your door.

  
 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY  




## St. Patrick, The Rebel

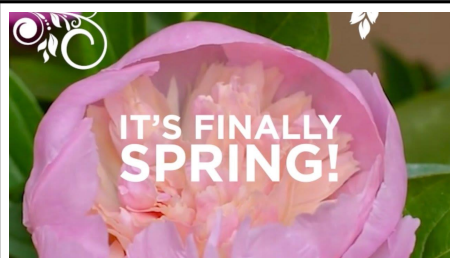
Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th was made an official Christian feast day in the early seventeenth century and is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the Church of Ireland, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Lutheran Church. Rumor has it, that Baptists are now considering it.

St Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to the pagan land Ireland. How did that happen? Well, St. Patrick was a rebel. The form of early Irish Christianity preached by Patrick was much more joyful than that of the official Church. It was not a theology of sin but rather of goodness. In fact, the conversion of Ireland is the first example of the Christian faith thriving in a culture, which celebrates life, where there is a sense of the entire world being holy. Also, hard to believe, but at the time, under the teaching of St. Augustine, the Church's attitude towards women was that they were temptations of the flesh. St. Patrick's spoke of women as individuals. Some feel he was the first significant male Christian, after Jesus, to consistently speak well of women. So naturally many of the Irish women of Ireland responded favorably to St. Patrick and his teachings, helping him spread the faith.



**Palm Sunday** commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are

widely recognized as symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic; it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.



March 20, 2021 ~In the Northern Hemisphere, the **March Equinox** (aka **spring equinox** or **vernal equinox**) occurs when **the Sun crosses the equator line, heading north in the sky**. This event marks the start of spring in the northern half of the globe. After this date, the Northern Hemisphere begins to be tilted more toward the Sun, resulting in increasing daylight hours and warming temperatures. (In

the Southern Hemisphere, it's the opposite: the March equinox marks the start of autumn as the Southern Hemisphere begins to be tilted away from the Sun.)

## Important March Dates in Irish History

March 4, 1978 - Death of General James Emmet Dalton, aged 80 (today is also his birthday). Dalton led the bombardment of the Four Courts in what effectively is the start of the Civil War, and is with Michael Collins at Béal na mBlátha when they are ambushed and Collins is assassinated

March 5, 2000 - The Government closes the book on the millennium bug after spending £40m preparing for a potential disaster that doesn't happen

March 5, 2003 - In Blarney, Co. Cork, pubs, restaurants and supermarkets enthusiastically embrace a no smoking day and the Blarney Stone restaurant in the town square takes the lead by slapping a permanent ban on smoking.

March 7, 2005 - Calling the story of the Irish in America "an important part of the history of our country," President George W. Bush proclaims March as Irish-American Heritage Month.

March 8, 1966 - Nelson's Pillar in Dublin is blown up

March 9, 1995 - U.S. President Bill Clinton approves a visa for Irish nationalist leader Gerry Adams to enter the United States

March 12, 1832 - Birth of Capt. Charles Boycott, despised English estate manager in Ireland, from whose name the word 'boycott' is taken

March 16, 2003 - More than 1,500 performers create a Mardi-Gras atmosphere on the streets of Limerick for the 33rd International Marching Band Parade and Competition.

March 18, In the old Celtic calendar, today is Sheelah's Day. In ancient Ireland, it was an annual festival to honor the fertility Goddess known as Sheela-na-gig. Naked Sheela-na-gig figures appeared in Irish churches constructed before the 16th century, but most were defaced or destroyed during the prudish Victorian age

March 23, 1847 - Choctaw Indians collect money to donate to starving Irish Hunger victims

March 24, 1995 - For the first time in 25 years, Britain halts all routine army patrols in Belfast

March 24, 2002 - Twenty-one whales are rescued after stranding themselves on a Kerry beach; with the other whales forming a circle around her, rescuers are thrilled to observe one of the whales giving birth minutes after being pulled back out to safety

March 28, 1957 - Death of Patrick "Jack" B. Yeats, Ireland's leading painter of the 20th century

March 31, 1871 - Birth in Dublin of Arthur Griffith, founder of Sinn Féin and co-signatory of Anglo-Irish treaty

# The Story of St. Patrick

by Mary Moore February 05, 2021



Our story begins with a young boy from a wealthy family named, not Patrick (yet), but rather Maewyn Succat - born somewhere in Britain that historians can't quite agree upon (although the name suggests Wales to me). When Maewyn was 16 years old, he was kidnapped by pirates who brought him back to Ireland to live his life as a slave. There he spent several years separated from his family and home, working hard and lonely days as a shepherd, with no one but the sheep he cared for as company. Before long he began to seek solace in spirituality, and reached out to God through prayer, a decision that would change the course of his life forever.

In his own accounts, now known as his "Confessions", he states that he strengthened his relationship with God over time and was given an opportunity to leave his old ways behind and truly convert to Christianity. After six years of this life, a voice came to him in his sleep telling him that now was the time to escape and if he traveled 200 miles to the port (thought to have been situated in what is now Co. Wicklow), a ship would be ready to take him home.

Miraculously Maewyn managed to escape his captors and make the long and arduous journey to the docks guided, some say, by the Holy Spirit. When he reached his destination, he put his charm to good use (he's been Irish for six years now, after all) and convinced the captain to let him onboard. The ship sailed for three days and nights landing at an unknown British port, where our patron saint was left to fend for himself once again. Although he grew tired from walking, faint from hunger and felt utterly lost he never gave up faith, and returned home to his family after a month's long journey.

Back home though he may have been, Maewyn never forgot the relationship he forged with God in his darkest hours, and decided to dedicate his life to Christianity. He traveled through Europe, immersing himself in his studies, and it is thought he was eventually ordained by Saint Germanus of Auxere in Burgundy.. Ireland's patron saint became much more recognizable upon joining the priesthood, changing his name to Patricius from the Latin root for father, giving us the old Irish Pátraic.

However, there was still the slight issue of him not actually being in Ireland, which was soon rectified by that same voice that had drawn him from his imprisonment all those years ago. This time Patrick (as we can now safely refer to him) felt himself being called back to the land of his captivity, to be a voice of God amongst those who lived there. And so began St Patrick's expedition to becoming the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. He is famed for ridding Ireland of snakes but considering that the slippery fiends haven't occurred naturally on Irish soil since the Ice Age! this is likely a metaphor for dispelling or converting the pagan leaders and rituals of the time. He is the star of many legends that have fascinated centuries of storytellers (both Christian and otherwise) in tales of magic battles with Druids or fearless escapes from his enemies, he even embraced the Irish ways and became a bit of a storyteller himself.



**Continued on page 7**

## The Story of St. Patrick Continued from page 6

On his mission to convert Ireland to Christianity, St. Patrick was met with his fair share of opposition and skepticism, and to be fair to the locals ó the concept of faith without proof is one that's hard to grasp by many even today. It is told that Patrick was trying to explain the Holy Trinity, that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all exist as one God, to a particularly doubtful audience who just couldn't wrap their heads around the concept. In order to illustrate his point, he plucked a common shamrock from the grass at his feet and held it up so his spectators could clearly see it. "This shamrock, he proclaimed, "is proof on earth that three can exist as one. If this plant had one leaf, it would fail to be a shamrock. Had it two, it would still not be recognizable as the sprig which I hold in my hand. It is only when the three leaves exist together, that the clover is complete, and so is the way with God." Whether or not this actually happened is difficult to prove, but the story has been so embedded in Ireland's culture and history that the shamrock became our national flower and a symbol of Irishness all over the world - especially on St. Patrick's Day.

He is said to have worked tirelessly to rid Ireland of its pagan influences and impart his teachings of Christianity to all who lived there ó occasionally being imprisoned for his efforts! In his time, he helped build schools, churches and monasteries all across the country, baptizing thousands of people and ordaining priests, nuns and monks to assist him in spreading the Word of God.

### Eileen Nora (Collins) Frazer



Eileen Nora (Collins) Frazer, age 76, passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at her home in Kenosha, WI, on Sunday, February 14, 2021

Born in Toledo on December 23, 1944, Eileen was the daughter of the late Maurice and Katie (Waters) Collins. Eileen was educated at St. Ann's parish grade school and Notre Dame Academy before earning her diploma from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing to be a Registered Nurse.

On September 30, 1972, Eileen was united in marriage to Thomas K. Frazer at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral. They relocated to Kenosha in 2007 to enjoy time with their grandchildren.

Eileen was a passionate Registered Nurse devoting many years to Mercy Hospital. She also worked at St. Charles Hospital, where she retired in 2007. Early in her career, she spent three years working at Mass General in Boston.

Throughout her life, Eileen valued her faith and was grateful for her blessings. She enjoyed reading ó always an avid patron of the local library, traveling ó especially to visit family in Ireland, Wales, and England, watching sports, spending time outdoors, baking Irish Soda Bread and cut-out sugar cookies, and participating in any activity involving Katie and Brody. She leaves behind many joyful memories for all of us - her love of life, her generous nature, her dreams for her daughter and her love of family near and far, as well as others who loved her.

Eileen is survived by her daughter, Eileen Megan Frazer, and loving son-in-law Bret Lokken; her grandchildren, Eileen Kathryn "Katie" and Brody Lokken; and her grand dog, Puck. She is also survived by her siblings, Sr. Peggy Collins, Maury (Penny) Collins, and Sr. Kathy Collins; and her nephews and nieces, Moe and Roxanne Collins, Matt and Freedom Collins, and Sarah and Mike Frost, and their families.

In addition to her parents, Eileen was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas K. Frazer.

A Memorial Mass at Historic St. Patrick's Church and Irish Celebration of Life will be held in early summer. In lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances benefiting St. Patrick Historic Church Outreach (130 Avondale Ave, Toledo, Ohio 43604), which hosts a soup kitchen and food pantry, would be appreciated.

## Sheela na gigs

While they're an interesting part of Irish mythology - it is possible you've never heard of them. After all, a woman brazenly showing her genitals may not have the same fireside appeal as stories of fairies and banshees.

Shane Lehane, a folklorist at University College Cork (UCC), said up until recently they were seen as "figures



representing the evils of lust or as ways of averting the evil eye". "More convincing reassessments have reinterpreted the Sheela-na-Gig, in line with the Cailleach (old woman or hag), as belonging to the realm of vernacular folk deities associated with the life-giving powers of birth and death," he said. "Placed with the cycles of both the natural and agricultural year and the human life cycle, she can be regarded as the embodiment of the cycle of fertility that overarches natural, agricultural and human procreation and death."

Sheela na gigs are figurative carvings of naked women displaying an exaggerated vulva. They are architectural grotesques found throughout most of Europe and the British Islands, on cathedrals, castles, and other buildings. The greatest concentrations can be found in Ireland. The carvings may have been used to ward off death, evil and demons. They often are positioned over doors or windows, presumably to protect these openings.

Shadow Side: A Christianized interpretation of Sheela Na Gig, unfortunately, says her image was used as a warning against relationships out of wedlock, a shocking thing during medieval times, instead of her positive intent to help people through the important gateways of their lives. This was a misunderstanding of the ancient symbol, and now, happily, many modern people in Britain and Ireland hold major life celebrations like weddings and baby naming near Sheela stones.

Mircea Eliade's *The Encyclopedia of Religion* (1993) draws parallels between the sheela na gig and the ancient Irish myth of the goddess who granted kingship. She would appear as a lustful hag, and most men would refuse her advances, except for one man who accepted. When he had relations with her, she was transformed into a beautiful maiden who would confer royalty onto him and bless his reign.

Sheela Na Gig is cheeky, irreverent, and somewhat frightening. She may lead you astray, but she is one of the oldest energies of the Celtic lands. folklore evidence suggests that sheela-na-gigs may have become associated with the protection and control of land and lordly status. It's entirely possible that the sheelas were not simply carvings of wanton and fertile women, or even of sin and lust, but guardians and protectors of the Irish people and the land upon which they lived.

Sheela Na Gig is a protectress of gateways, with the female genitalia being the primary gateway of that of all life. While there is some conjecture about the full function, magical or otherwise, of the carved Sheelas, she is generally thought to serve as protection, scaring away evil spirits or bringing good luck during child birth. When you are about to pass through a gateway such as graduation, birthday, a rite of passage, or even a real gateway in a new home or school, you may wish to honor Sheela and ask for her protection. This is an old, powerful, magical energy, and, as such, is very effective. Her energy is jolly, and yes a little wild but always with a positive intent

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# *When Irish Eyes are Smiling*

One Sunday morning, a Mother woke her son telling him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied; "I am not going." "Why not?" she asked. "I'd give you two good reasons" he said. "(1) they don't like me and (2) I don't like them." His Mother replied; "I'd give you two reasons why you SHOULD go to church. (1) You're 59 years old and (2) You are the pastor."

Paddy was forced to take a day off from work to appear for a minor traffic summons. He grew increasingly restless as he waited hour after endless hour for his case to be heard. When his name was called late in the afternoon, he stood before the judge, only to hear that court would be adjourned for the day and he would have to return the next day. "What for?" he snapped at the judge. His honor, equally irked by a tedious day and sharp query roared, "Twenty dollars contempt of court. That's why!" Then, noticing Paddy checking his wallet, the judge relented. "That's all right. You don't have to pay now." Paddy replied, "I'm just seeing if I have enough for two more words."

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her funeral service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

A 87-year old man, on his death bed and in pain, smells the aroma of fresh baked chocolate chip cookies coming from outside his bedroom. He thinks to himself, "my dear wife must be making my favorite cookies as a sentiment to our final hours together." So he musters up what little strength he has remaining in his feeble body and drags himself out of bed. Fighting off the pain and weakness, he stumbles into the hallway, down the stairs, and to the kitchen door. There, on the table, he sees a huge plate of chocolate chip cookies, the steam rising from the plate, the chocolate chips still soft and gooey. He thinks, "God bless my devoted wife for giving me such pleasure in my final hours on this earth", and he then falls to the floor and crawls towards the cookies. He gets to the table and, with the last ounce of strength he has left, reaches up with his hand to take a cookie. Just then, he feels the stinging Whack! of a metal spatula against his knuckles. He looks up to see his wife standing over him, saying "Don't you dare touch those cookies, they're for the wake!"

Margaret was death on smoking. When Paddy lit his pipe, Margaret told him "My husband is sixty years old and he never put a pipe in his mouth. Paddy answered "I am sixty five years old and I have never put my pipe anywhere else."

Paddy says to Mary if you were stranded on a desert island who would you like most to be with you? "My uncle Mick" replies Mary. "What's so special about him?" asks Paddy. "He's got a boat," says Mary

Casey married a rich widow, but they didn't get along. One day she said to him, "If it wasn't for my money, that new television wouldn't be here. If it wasn't for my money, that grand piano wouldn't be here. If it wasn't for my money, this house wouldn't be here." Casey mumbled, "If it wasn't for your money, I wouldn't be here."

The nurse called back to the doctor, saying there was a man in the waiting room, who claimed that he was invisible. The doctor replied; "Tell him, I can't see him today."

Mary Murphy's husband died and she was speaking with Father Sullivan about the eulogy for the Mass. Mary said; "He was a very good man. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus and the AOH. He volunteered at the hospital and at the soup kitchen." Father Sullivan said; "I heard the he was also a member of the KKK." "Father what is this KKK?" questioned Mary. Father replied; "you know, Mary. It's those devils beneath the sheets." "Oh Father" said Mary, "He was a charter member of that."



The year 1847 was an extremely difficult one for the Irish people. Known as "Black 47," this was the worst year of the famine in Ireland, where close to one million people were starving to death. Humanitarian aid came from around the world, but the unexpected generosity of the Choctaw Nation stands out, and began a bond between the two people that continues to this day.

The Choctaw Native Americans raised \$170 of their own money—equivalent to thousands of dollars today—in aid to supply food for the starving Irish. This exemplifies the incredible generosity of the Choctaw people, because just 16 years before, they were forced by U.S. President Andrew Jackson to leave their ancestral lands and march 500 miles on the "Trail of Tears," in terrible winter conditions. Many did not survive.

Today, the Irish people are still grateful for the generosity of the Choctaw people. A monument stands in Middleton's Bailick Park as a tribute to the tribe's charity during the Great Famine. Named "Kindred Spirits," the magnificent memorial features nine giant stainless steel feathers, shaped into an empty bowl.

Now hundreds of Irish people are repaying that old kindness, giving to a charity drive for two Native American tribes suffering in the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund raised \$1.8 Millions to help supply clean water, food and health supplies to people in the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Reservation.



## The Irish Madonna of St. Stephen's Church,

One of Toledo's treasures is a copy of the Irish Madonna, acquired by Bishop Schrembs in Hungary and given to St. Stephen's Church in Birmingham. What was an Irish Madonna doing in Hungary? That's quite a story.

The original painting is in the Cathedral of Győr, but it had come from the Cathedral of Clonfert, in Ireland. When Walter Lynch, Bishop of Clonfert, was arrested by Cromwell's troops, he was able to rescue the painting. Lynch had a particular devotion to the image and took it with him when he was sent into exile. He ended up serving as an auxiliary bishop in the diocese of Győr. He died there and is buried in the crypt of the cathedral, near the painting he had brought so far. But the story doesn't end there.

In 1697, a law was passed expelling all priests from Ireland, confiscating the churches, and outlawing the Faith. On March 17, 1697, the feast of St. Patrick, the image of Our Lady was seen to weep tears of blood. Remember, no one in Győr had any idea what was happening at the time in Ireland, the original home of the image. That was discovered much later. Thousands of people flocked to the cathedral and observed the miracle. People of all faiths, including Protestants and Jews attested to what they had witnessed. To this day, Catholics from all over the world go as pilgrims to Győr to pay homage to the image of Our Lady who cried for Ireland.

In 1913 Archbishop Schrembs of Toledo, visited Győr in Hungary. He saw the beautiful painting and was deeply moved when told of the wonderful event. He requested a copy for the many Irish Catholics in his diocese who would be happy to learn the history and to possess the picture of Our Lady of Ireland. The copy was placed face to face with the original for thirty days and then given to Bishop Schrembs.

On August 23, 1914, Archbishop Schrembs dedicated the new St Stephen's Church in Toledo, Ohio. The Hungarian people had paid about 2/3 of the expenses of the building. The Bishop was greatly moved by the unbelievable sacrifice which the poor, simple and hard working Hungarian people displayed in building such a magnificent church. He related to them in his sermon the history of the Madonna of Ireland. The Bishop presented the Madonna to this church, saying: "I am convinced that the picture will be treasured in a Hungarian Church just as much as it would be in an Irish one." Both Hungarians and Irish were thrilled. The image depicts Mary crowned as queen, Our Lady of Ireland, and before her, lying on several circular pillows, is the Infant, also crowned as the Little King, and covered with royal robes.



**I am of Irish America**  
**I am a child of immigrants.**  
**I am of a people who, for over eight hundred years**  
**have bowed a knee to no king but the King in heaven.**  
**And bowed a head to no queen but the Queen of Heaven.**  
**I am of a dispersed people sent**  
**In slavery to Barbados**  
**In chains to Australia**  
**In famine to America**  
**I am of a people who tore themselves from**  
**their father's trembling arms,**  
**Kissed their tearstained mother's face good bye**  
**and traveled all over the world**  
**to keep a roof over beloved heads**  
**and food on the hungry table.**  
**I am of an empire upon which no sun can set, for**  
**wherever you go in this whole wide world,**  
**Wherever a House of God has risen,**  
**Wherever a house of learning founded,**  
**Or a tree of a liberty planted by loving hands**  
**and watered by the tears of an Irish exile,**  
**There you will find the Irish Empire.**  
**I thank God for the Blood of my Fathers.**  
**I thank God for the Land of my birth.**  
**I pray God will save Ireland**  
**I pray God will continue to bless America**