

Saint Patrick

GRADE 6, UNIT 5, SESSION 24

Catechist Guide page 143

Faith Focus: As Christians we are called to support the common good and the fundamental rights of each person.

OUTCOMES

- Tell the story of Saint Patrick as someone who worked to help others achieve rights that supported their dignity and freedom.
- Name ways we can support the rights of others today.



About the Artist *Patricius* (Saint Patrick) is a remarkable stained-glass window made by a Dutch Oblate father, Holland’s Jan Tillemans, OMI. The stained-glass window was made for the Basilica of Our Lady of the Cape near Quebec, Canada. Several other windows were also made by Father Tillemans, each representing a different theme. Father Tillemans mounted all the stained-glass windows according to centuries-old techniques.

Art-i-facts The artwork shows a stained-glass portrait of Saint Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. Patrick is shown preaching, wearing a bishop’s mitre and pectoral cross, and holding a crozier. The following is the symbolism of each: mitre—headress that points toward Heaven; crozier (pastoral staff)—imitate Christ the Good Shepherd and lead all to Christ; and pectoral cross—worn on the chest close to the heart as a reminder of faith in Christ and the Passion.

CATECHIST DIRECTIONS

- MATERIALS**
- Saint Patrick Art Print
 - Children’s Book page 252

- TIME**
- 10–30 minutes

1 Begin

After completing page 143 in the Children’s Book, display the Art Print.

Briefly introduce and discuss the artwork, using information from About the Artist and Artifacts. Ask: **What do you know about Saint Patrick?** Tell children they will read more about him. **How are all the saints models for us?** (Possible answers: **They teach us how to show our love for God; they personify Jesus’ teachings.**) Share qualities Saint Patrick modeled for us to follow. Say: **Patrick did his best to bring Christianity to nonbelievers.**

Invite children to reflect on the artwork and to offer a prayer thanking God for his eye to watch over us and his ear to hear us. After the prayer, say: **God is constantly with all his faithful.**

2 Connect

Have children turn to page 252 in their books. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Ask four volunteers to read aloud the paragraphs that tell the story of Saint Patrick. Ask: **How did Patrick’s young life start out differently than he would have planned?** (He was captured and enslaved by pirates. He was forced to work as a shepherd. He suffered from hunger, cold, and loneliness.) Discuss what is amazing about Patrick’s return to Ireland after he became a bishop. Mention that he returned to the place where he was a slave and worked to teach the people and help them. Discuss ways we can support people’s rights to freedom and dignity today.

Have children complete the activity independently by writing a prayer that Patrick may have said as a slave and then as a bishop.

IF TIME ALLOWS

If time allows, complete one or more of the activities below.

Expression: Music

Blessing Prayer Invite children to sing along with the song “Blessing Prayer” [*Finding God* Grade 6 CD 2, Track 19] also known as the Irish blessing. If the CD is not available, have children chant the following words as a prayer:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Time: 10 minutes
Materials: CD player, song such as “Blessing Prayer” [*Finding God* Grade 6 CD 2, Track 19]

Expression: Art Studio

Prayer Mural Arrange children in groups. Give each group a section of mural paper and one line from the Blessing Prayer. [See the Expression: Music activity.] Have each group record the line from the prayer on the mural paper and illustrate its meaning. Close by joining individual murals into one collaborative mural of the Blessing Prayer. Invite children to preview the entire mural and reflect as they recite the blessing silently.

Time: 40 minutes
Materials: mural paper; tape, markers, paints, or pastels

Expression: Using Imagination in Prayer

Listening to Patrick Have children study the Art Print and imagine themselves living during Saint Patrick’s time, standing on a hillside, listening to Bishop Patrick preach about God and against slavery. When Patrick finishes preaching, have children imagine what they would ask him. Close with a silent prayer to Saint Patrick, thanking him for his support of the dignity and freedom of all people.

Time: 10 minutes
Materials: writing paper

For your convenience, the Children’s Book page is reproduced below.

EXPLORE
ART PRINT
24

Name _____ Date _____

Art Print 24 shows Saint Patrick. Why are the saints important role models in our faith?

The Slave Becomes the Servant

Saint Patrick knew what it was like to lose his rights as a person. The son of a military officer in Britain, he was captured by pirates and enslaved in Ireland. For six years he worked as a shepherd, suffering from hunger, cold, and loneliness. He never lost his faith and prayed to God daily.

Eventually Patrick escaped and returned home. Once free, he became a priest to help others achieve the same rights he once lost.

After several years in parish ministry, Patrick was ordained a bishop. He answered God’s call to return to Ireland. He returned and preached to the Celtic tribes, introducing them to Christianity. He changed the social life of Ireland by establishing monasteries, convents, and parishes, and by adapting pagan celebrations to Christian feasts.

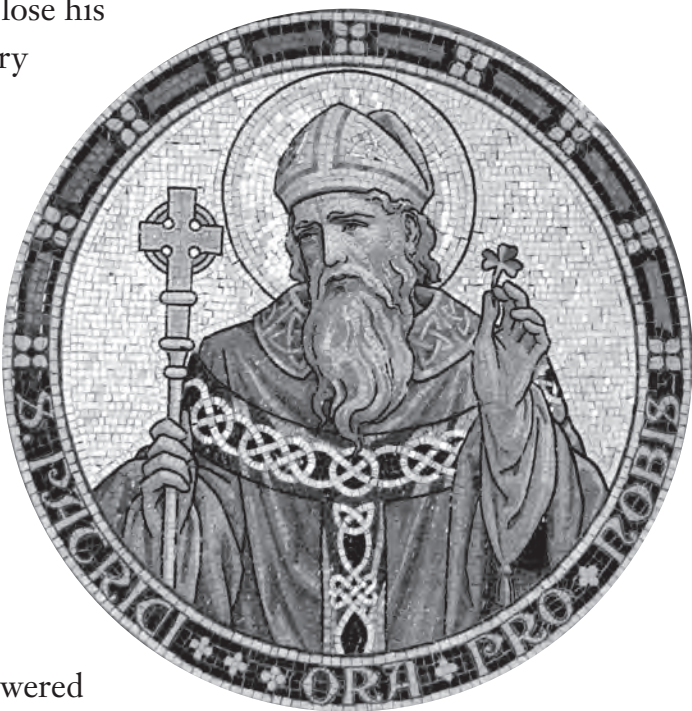
Patrick forgave those who had enslaved him and helped establish systems and practices that supported people’s dignity and freedom. His feast day is March 17.

Patrick Prays

Write a prayer Patrick may have said at these times in his life.

As a slave: _____

As a bishop: _____



Saint Patrick



Jan Tillemans, 1955–1964.