



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Wow! What a week here at St. Patrick with our Parish Mission. A word of thanks to all who participated, it was truly a retreat experience for all: good teaching, wonderful opportunity for prayer and such great community. These are the ingredients of the Christian Life and in a world deprived of these things, to have experienced them in this way was a great shot in the arm! May we continue to avail our minds to **Truth**, our hearts to **God's Presence** and our actions to **loving service** of others. In doing this, we help the "War Effort" and glorify God!

As we enter mid-March, the Third week of Lent, we celebrate our Patron, St. Patrick. I share here his own self-description and commend you to his courage, his zeal and his faith. May Christ be all around us and may we be all about Christ! St. Patrick, Pray for us!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

A REFLECTION OF ST. PATRICK *(In his own words)*

My name is Patrick. I am a sinner, a simple country person, and the least of all believers...I was taken into captivity in Ireland, along with thousands of others. We deserved this, because we had gone away from God, and did not keep his commandments.

It was there that the Lord opened up my awareness of my lack of faith. Even though it came about late, I recognized my failings. So I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God, and he looked down on my lowliness and had mercy on my youthful ignorance. He protected me and consoled me as a father does for his son.

This is why I cannot be silent – nor would it be good to do so—about such great blessings and such a gift that the Lord so kindly bestowed in the land of my captivity. This is how we can repay such blessings, when our lives change and we come to know God, to praise and bear witness to his great wonders before every nation under heaven.

After I arrive in Ireland, I tended sheep every day, and I prayed frequently during the day. More and more the love of God increased, and my sense of awe before God. Faith grew, and my spirit was moved, so that in one day I would pray up to one hundred times, and at night perhaps the same. I even remained in the woods on the mountain and I would rise to pray before dawn in snow and ice and rain. I never felt the worse for it, and I never felt lazy—as I realize now, the spirit was burning in me at this time....

I remained on in Ireland and that not of my own choosing, until I almost perished. However it was very good for me, since God straightened me out, and he prepared me for what I would be today. I was far different then from what I am now, and I have care for others. I must take care not to hide the gift of God which he has generously given us in the land of my captivity. It was then that I looked for him with all my strength, and there I found him, he protected me from all evils--- this is what I believe---on account of his Spirit living and working in me to this very day....So I'll never stop giving thanks to my God who kept me faithful in that time of my temptation, I can today with confidence offer my soul to Christ my Lord as a living victim. He is the one who defended me in all my difficulties...Whatever comes about for me, good or bad, I ought to accept them equally and give thanks to God. He has shown me that I can put my faith in him without wavering and without end.

(Confessions of Saint Patrick, 1-3;16-28; 33-34)



**"Saint Matthew:
Tax Collector, Apostle, Evangelist ~
and his Gospel"
with Fr. Michael Connolly**

St. Matthew's primary audience were Jewish/Christians in 1st century Palestine. His primary message was to identify Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah. His perspective was as unique as is

His Gospel. **What does St. Matthew's Gospel tell us about Jesus? About the community Jesus left behind-the Church? And about our 21st Century Christian lives, especially in this Year of the Eucharist? All are welcome to come and learn about St. Matthew with Fr. Michael Connolly:**

Sunday, March 26 & Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 1:00PM

St. Joseph Room

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