

St. Patrick's Day Mass



Ancient Order of Hibernians



Florida State Board

Prayers Before & During Mass

Prayer Before Mass

Eternal **Father**, we members of the **Ancient Order of Hibernians**, joined together with all of our members of the **AOH**, **LAOH** and **Christ's Mystical Body**, celebrate this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, this renewal and extension of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary, in spiritual union with --

Our Blessed **Lady of Knock** (Queen of the Universe),
The **angels** and **saints** in heaven, and
Our patron saints **St. Patrick** and **St. Brigit**.

Hail, Glorious St. Patrick

Hail, glorious St. Patrick! We honor thy name.
Tho' Erin may claim thee, the world knows thy fame.
The faith of our fathers is our treasure too.
How holy the thought, that they learned it from you.
Thru crosses and trials its fires burn bright,
They show us the way, and the truth, and the light.

**Great Saint! Intercede, that I always may be
Devoted and loyal, a true child of thee.
My love and devotion be ever like thine,
My thought be of Jesus, my heart be His shrine.
And when to the end of life's path I have trod,
Be near me great Bishop, Anointed of God.**



Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to our people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine **Son**, remembering **His** promise: *“Ask and you shall receive, Seek and you shall find”*.

- **Help me** to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to heaven.
- **Fill me** with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me.
- **Comfort me** when I am sick or lonely or depressed.
- **Teach me** how to take part ever more reverently in the holy Mass.
- **Pray for me** now, and at the hour of my death.

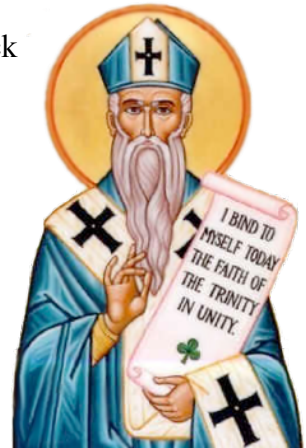
Amen.



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St. Patrick:

Although he was not the first Christian missionary to reach Ireland, Patrick is the principal force for converting the pagan island and establishing the Celtic church, which belongs to him. For it was Patrick who dedicated his life to, and braved all odds to share his faith with, the people of Ireland.



Celtic Cross:

Patrick preached to the people and easily converted them by the thousands. He never attempted to stamp out Irish rites and rituals. Instead, he blended them with Christian customs and teachings thus winning the Irish people over easily.

We can see the evidence of this in the Celtic Cross. Patrick combined the symbol of Christianity with the sun circle, to give pagan followers an idea of the importance of the cross by linking it with the idea of the life-giving properties of the sun and the symbol of eternity represented by the ring.

Shamrocks:

The druids in Ireland looked at the shamrock as a sacred plant because its leaves formed a triad. Three was a mystical number in the Celtic religion.

Legend tells us, the Shamrock was used by St. Patrick to represent the Trinity. The Shamrock symbolizes how The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit can be separate but also part of the same entity.

Irish Penal Rosary:

The Irish Penal Rosary was a single-decade rosary used in Ireland during penal times when religious objects were forbidden. The Penal Rosary was used by concealing the crucifix and beads inside one's pocket, sleeve, or palm while the ring was placed over the thumb as the first decade of the rosary was prayed.

The ring was then placed over the next finger as the second decade was prayed and so on until all five decades were recited.

Harp:

The harp has long been a symbol of Ireland. It's importance comes from the time when the bards would sing and tell stories of famous events to the Irish kings and chiefs.

During the early 1500s, under the rule of Henry VIII, the harp was first depicted on Irish coins. That tradition is carried on today as the harp is now used for official government duties such as the Irish state seal, official documents and official uniforms.