

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Let's face it, March 17th is coming fast and the large majority of us are going to be spending this green-themed holiday shit-faced in some pub or basement party around Prince George. We all enjoy green beer and portraying a stereotypical depiction of the Irish. To be fair, they're pretty good sports about their cultural appropriation. However, the traditional Saint Patrick's Day was not unlike the celebrations of today.

The story of Saint Patrick begins with rather unfortunate beginnings. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was kidnapped from the British Isles by Irish raider where he was taken as a slave for the purposes of labor in the emerald isles. While in slavery, Patrick claimed to experience the words of god. He then managed to mysteriously escape captivity and board a ship back to Britain.

It was not until years later when Patrick returned to Christianize Ireland that his legend would thrive. For example, Patrick has been accredited in legend and folklore to be the man responsible for banishing all snakes from Ireland when they attacked him following a 40-day fast... or so the story goes. Ever been curious about the shamrock and its relation as a symbol to St. Patrick's Day? Apparently Patrick used



the shamrock to explain the holy trinity to the pagans of Ireland.

Upon Patrick's supposed death on March 17th, the people of Ireland celebrated his namesake and pseudo-sainthood with a day of remembrance and feast. Even though St. Patrick has never been officially canonized by a pope, various members of the Catholic Church continue to declare the man a saint.

Flash-forward, in recent times, St. Patrick's Day is mostly celebrated by excessive alcohol consumption and the wearing of green, but why is that?

It is not because the Irish are alcoholics. That is a stereotype the Irish have been spending years to debunk.

Rather, people drink on St. Patrick's Day because it is the celebration of a wake and a feast day. It is traditionally acceptable to drink for both occasions in Irish culture. The feast is rather self-explanatory. For those of you who have never been to a traditional wake, having a little whiskey helps emotions when you have a dead relative lying on the same table as the bowl of chips and bottle of whiskey.