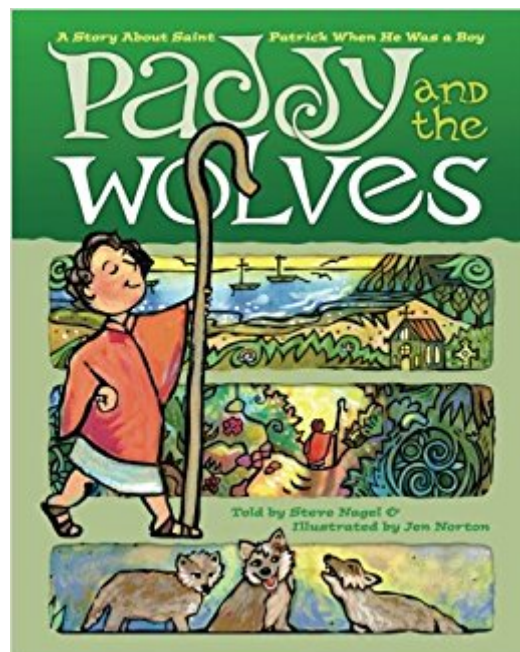




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# Paddy And The Wolves: A Story About Saint Patrick When He Was A Boy



## Synopsis

While young Paddy can't sit still during prayers, he's more than happy to help the Irish shepherd Barra watch sheep for the day! But who will watch Paddy when he wanders into the woods. Paddy finds delights and dangers--both deepen his understanding of the prayers of his people. *Paddy and the Wolves* imagines Saint Patrick as a young boy, weaving a story that uses the saint's childhood adventures to foreshadow events in Saint Patrick's adult life. Award-winning Catholic folk artist Jen Norton creates a lush panorama of Paddy's world, filled with bears and bluebells, flashy fish and furry friends--and grace. *Paddy and the Wolves* includes a bonus section with the Prayer of Saint Patrick, adapted for children, suggestions for celebrating Saint Patrick's Day at home (including an oatcake recipe), and also a biographical sketch.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Catholic Library World: "Recommended for home, school, and public libraries" Young readers will relate to this popular saint....Readers will be challenged but not frustrated by the vocabulary. The plot is engaging and appealing to boys. Prayers, recipes, ideas to celebrate the feast of Saint Patrick, and facts about Saint Patrick's life are at the back of the book. The back cover can be used to play a game. Information about purchasing the corresponding coloring book is provided at the end of the book. Jen Norton's illustrations are colorful and detailed. Norton's folk art style is beautiful, classic, and effective artistic storytelling. The illustrations have many Christian

signs and symbols. Each drawing invites the reader to spend time exploring the images. Prayers, mentions of Jesus, and other elements of Catholic faith in this story make it a strong choice for Catholic family and school bookshelves. [emphasis added]. Prayer, Wine, Chocolate: "... I love Jen Norton's work..." It's no secret that I love Jen Norton's work.... Her style is friendly, inviting, fun and colorful. I feel like no matter how much I praise her talent with words, I cannot do it justice... The author not only allows the readers to get a glimpse of St. Patrick's childhood by revolving the story around shepherding, but also allows the child practice in sitting still! The book is just long enough to catch my "almost 5" year olds attention... I read it to him once and he listened and went on his way. Another time my husband read it to him and I heard our little boy ask, "what does obey mean?"... My husband was able to explain the meaning of that word, and explain how it is important for children to obey their parents. Thank you, Steve Nagel, for that wonderful opportunity! Lovely Little Lives: "My daughters loved this book" My daughters loved this book. I sat down to read it to them and they listened intently to the whole story, even though it was a little longer than the stories I usually read to them. They are ages three and four and their attention span held throughout the story because the pictures are very colorful and detailed. This is an imaginative story about what it was like for St. Patrick as a boy. Life, Love, and Sacred Art: "...breathe new life into how you celebrate St. Patrick's day..." I am so thrilled to have been introduced to Paddy and the Wolves. It is a delightful children's book with gorgeous illustrations and will be a treasure for our collection for years to come. The best part of this book is that it encourages little ones to praise the Lord in a special way. If you want to breathe new life into how you celebrate St. Patrick's day this year pick up a copy this great book and it's coloring companion. "Not So Formulaic: "...my whole family enjoyed it..." Nagel's gentle prose is designed for children in grades K-2, but my whole family enjoyed it.... As for Nagel's included activities, I ate about half of the oatcake dough before it even went in the oven, and the girls had a great time playing the game on the book's back cover. As a homeschooling mom, I found the information at the end of the book most helpful. Nagel provides a fascinating biographical sketch, a recipe for the aforementioned (really tasty) oat cakes, and suggestions for celebrating St. Patrick's Day as a family. Nagel also adapts for little ones several of the prayers attributed to St. Patrick, including the powerful Loric.

The story of Paddy and the Wolves comes from my heart. My mother taught me my name in Gaelic. She could still speak some Gaelic having been raised in Nova Scotia, Canada--Scottish Gaelic maybe but nonetheless a bit of a shared history with Patrick, who had a Gaelic name but was not

Irish. More importantly, I took a liking to Patrick in my reading his "Confession." His voice is full of faith in God and doubt in himself. His feelings about his worth and work are undisguised. Patrick did great and good works but clearly they did not come cheap at the price. Patrick, Saint Patrick!, was not Irish? Patrick was not Irish by birth. Probably he was a Briton--one of the Gaelic-speaking people who lived in the west of Roman Britain, what's now Wales. We know he had a Gaelic name at birth. Hamlets and farmsteads dotted this coastal region as Patrick knew it. In his own words, he says his upbringing was "simple and rustic." So how did Patrick get to Ireland? Well, the first time he went to Ireland unwillingly. Patrick says, "When I was a rebellious sixteen-year-old, I was taken captive to Ireland along with many others." He was set to work shepherding. While he was a slave, Patrick prayed, he says, night and day. "It was there ... I turned with all my heart to the Lord my God...." When did Patrick become a priest and missionary? After six years as a slave and shepherd, Patrick escaped by boat but returned home a changed person. He had a vision in which the voice of the Irish people called to him "'We beg you, holy boy, to come and walk again among us.'" Patrick left his family again, trained as a priest, and returned to Ireland to bring the Christian faith to its people. Patrick persisted in his efforts for maybe forty years, and his mission met with all sorts of resistance. He was robbed, attacked, and imprisoned, but Patrick never gave up. He succeeded in converting thousands, he says--both chieftains and commoners. Before the Irish, no people had submitted to the Christian faith that were not within the Empire. Patrick didn't hate the people who made him a slave? Slavery was everywhere--at the time maybe a quarter of the population were slaves. Slaves were considered merely another kind of property in the ancient world. So it was at least uncommon and perhaps revolutionary that Patrick publicly contested slavery and pled the plight of women slaves, saying that they faced special threats and terrors. Patrick clearly detested slavery itself, in a way only a person who had been a slave might. Saint Patrick's prayer was not created by him...but it could have been. The Loric of Saint Patrick is a prayer hymn attributed to Patrick. And it has the feel of traditional Irish blessings and prayers. But modern experts date it from the 700s. It is a prayer for protection--the word "lorica" means breastplate. A lovely tradition has it that the Loric shielded Patrick and his companions from ambush by a chieftain's soldiers. Afterwards Patrick's group approached the chieftain chanting, "Let them that will, trust in chariots and horses, but we walk in the name of the Lord." What about the Saint Patrick's Day celebrations in America? Well, they began in the later 1700s in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Over the next century the celebration spread across the new nation. By 1900, Saint Patrick's Day

parades became demonstrations of Irish Catholic pride and, later, of social and political power. And it's fitting because at its heart stands Patrick, someone who defended the powerless and loved the Irish with all his heart.

I was provided with a copy of *Paddy and the Wolves* by the publisher, Grace Watch Media. This doesn't impact my review, though: *Paddy and the Wolves* is an imaginative tale that sparked my children's imagination and inspired their creativity. Nagel's story begins in the countryside of the British Isles with a young St. Patrick just too fidgety for prayer. When his mother sends him out to help Barra, the shepherd, Paddy's encounters with nature reveal the importance of allowing Jesus to go before, beside, and behind him. While Paddy begins his afternoon adventure with Barra, the young saint eventually takes to solitary exploration of the nearby woods. God has given Paddy three great gifts: a mother who prays unceasingly; a mentor (Barra) who instructs him gently; and a deep, childlike abiding faith which leads him safely through interaction with a bear cub, a snake, and a hungry pack of wolves. Paddy returns home to his mother once the sojourn is over, but not before remembering to praise God for the beauty of his wondrous creation. Nagel's gentle prose is designed for children in grades K-2, but my whole family enjoyed it. My girls (10 and 6) were immediately drawn to the wolf aspect of the narrative (go figure), and my son (2.5) spent several minutes ooh-ing and ahh-ing over Jen Norton's lush illustrations. As for Nagel's included activities, I ate about half of the oatcake dough before it even went in the oven, and the girls had a great time playing the game on the book's back cover. As a homeschooling mom, I found the information at the end of the book most helpful. Nagel provides a fascinating biographical sketch, a recipe for the aforementioned (really tasty) oat cakes, and suggestions for celebrating St. Patrick's Day as a family. Nagel also adapts for little ones several of the prayers attributed to St. Patrick, including the powerful *Lorica*. God has given us a great gift in the lives of the saints. Their humanity makes their wisdom accessible; their example makes our salvation attainable. Even those of us who start as fidgety, adventure-loving kiddos have the potential for sainthood. Kudos to Steve Nagel and the publishers at Grace Watch Media for bringing that reminder home.

Written for small children, I found myself, as the mother, extremely encouraged by this story. The story begins with a fidgety young boy, struggling to sit through the prayers his mama is saying, and as she sends him off for a day of adventure, he goes off with a prayer from her. Throughout the

story, prayers this young Paddy has learned at home come back to him - a blessing of protection, a call to God to ask for help, and a prayer of thanksgiving. What this story imparted on me, as a mother, is that even if my young children are not sitting through my prayers, and they are not seeming to listen, the prayers and the message behind the prayers are sinking in their young minds. In regard to reaching younger audiences, my four year old son was emphatic he did not want to read a story about wolves, since he prefers dogs! However, as I read the story aloud, and expressed admiration for the pictures, I noticed he would surreptitiously peak over my shoulder, as he was drawn further into the story. The artwork and illustrations were beautiful, and the story was engaging, even with a recalcitrant preschooler! Furthermore, the end of the book shares extended prayers, and has a recipe and some family-friendly activities to help bring the story of Paddy (or, an older St. Patrick) to life. This book is also one with messages extending past St. Patrick's Day, so is suitable for reading year round. Great book, and I was honored to have been asked to write a review.

As an bookseller of 15 years, you can imagine the number of children's books I've read. This charming volume offers a wonderful story of St. Patrick with top notch illustration. (Oh...and I'm married to an Irish Catholic, so it has become a household favorite.) A must-have for religion-based preschool and elementary classrooms as well. I'd love to see more from this author and illustrator team.

This book is wonderful!! The story is a fantastic message for children, showing that Jesus is always with us if we listen to Him and choose to be with Him. The story is not overly complicated, so my 4 and 5 year olds follow it, but it has a very deep message. The illustrations are BEAUTIFUL! I would love to see more work by this author and illustrator!

This is a delightful children's book with beautiful illustrations. I love how in the back of the book there are prayers, activity suggestions and little tid-bit facts about St. Patrick. This is definitely going to be a favorite book in our collection and St. Patrick's Day celebration staple for years to come!

A great book to help children learn about St. Patrick as a boy and to encourage faith and prayer in young children. The extra resources in the back of the book are also helpful to celebrate St. Patrick's day with family and friends.

Nice story especially for active boys

A great story! The Art is amazing. I love the Celtic knot work embedded in all the images. I also liked the reference material at the end.

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