

# An afternoon in Ireland

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A series of three concerts known as the Eastman at Albion Court-house Square program is slated for this spring.

The first of these concerts will treat attendees to "An Afternoon In Ireland," starting at 3 p.m. March 13 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 106 S. Main St.

The concert will feature Irish music with Striking Strings, a hammered-dulcimer ensemble directed by Mitzie Collins. Roxanne Ziegler on Celtic harp and Eric Rounds on fiddle will entertain concert-goers, who will also hear the Albion High School Saxophone Ensemble, giving its take on some traditional Celtic tunes.

This is the second season for Eastman School of Music professors and students to perform concerts in Albion. One of the missions of this series is to showcase the extraordinary historic church architecture at the courthouse square in the village.

With St. Joseph's Church as the setting for the Irish concert March 13, it is appropriate to note St. Patrick.

Surely no Roman Catholic Church built in the 19th century was complete without a depiction of St. Patrick, either in stained glass or statuary. As we note the names on many of the stained glass windows at St. Joseph's Church, it is obvious this was at one time a congregation of largely Irish communicants.

St. Patrick from our

## Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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photo appears in the right lancet of a window in the nave facing west. The other half, or left lancet, portrays St. Peter. These windows are believed to have been created by European artisans of both painted and translucent glass.

Here we see the venerable St. Patrick as the patron saint of Ireland, known as the apostle to the Irish. He is shown as a bishop wearing the bishop's mitre and holding a crosier, a symbol of authority and jurisdiction. It resembles a shepherd's staff and symbolizes pastoral care.

It was only natural that two priests, Rev. Dr. Nash and Rev. P. Grant, gave this window.

If our photo was in color we would see St. Patrick dressed in an unmistakable shamrock green chasuble, the typical color associated with the Irish. Near St. Patrick's feet we see a snake. According to legend, "He cast out snakes and every poisonous animal from Ireland by the staff of Jesus."

He was born about 389 AD, possibly in Britain, and pursued a religious education. As a result, he became driven to convert the Irish to Christianity. He became Bishop of Ireland about 432 AD, beginning his work of preaching Christianity in northern and western Ireland and eventually



throughout the entire countryside. He established many churches and as legend suggests, used the shamrock to explain the concept of the trinity.

He died about 461 AD at Saul on Strangford Lough. Today, throughout the world, Irish Catholics — as well as many others — celebrate March 17 as St. Patrick's Day.

For "An Afternoon In Ireland," tickets may be obtained at [www.eastmanatalbion.com](http://www.eastmanatalbion.com) or from the following retailers: Elsewhere Cafe, 118 N. Main St., Albion; Bloom's Flower Shop, 139 S. Main St., Albion; The Book Shoppe, 519 Main St., Medina; and Roxy's Music Store, 228 W. Main St., Batavia.

*C. W. Lattin is the Orleans county historian. His column appears every Thursday in The Journal-Register and The Albion-Advertiser.*