



# Holy Holidays!: The Catholic Origins of Celebration

*Greg Tobin*

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How did Sunday become the "Sabbath Day?" Why did St. Valentine become the patron saint of lovebirds? Most people happily participate in Mardi Gras, Halloween, and St. Patrick's Day with very little knowledge of the origins and meanings of those celebrations. Greg Tobin unearths the religious roots of the seemingly secular, offering historical trivia and the sometimes bizarre origins of the days throughout the year that bring people together.

In these pages, readers will discover that:

- Jesus was not born on Christmas Day.
- The Easter Bunny is a deeply pagan tradition that simply could not be suppressed by the Church. Same with Easter eggs.
- Mother's Day falls in early May, the month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Christ and the Catholic symbol of motherhood.
- Saint Patrick is not only the patron saint of Ireland but also Nigeria.

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