

Themes & Plans for March, 2016

“March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil ... “ (Coleridge)



So tell me friends, how will March greet you this year? As a **LION** or a **LAMB**?
Or perhaps somewhere in between?

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Here in New England we've enjoyed a relatively mild Winter and this week looks to follow a similar pattern. Tomorrow (March 1st) is forecast to be sunny and 50° - not too *lion-ish* I'd say!

Though Old March can be fickle - chilly and gray one day, mild and bright the next - he brings with him Spring's first tender tidings - a soft breeze, a few bits of green, and the stirring of hope in our hearts. And so, with faith in Spring's return, I offer you some ...

~ Themes and Plans for March ~

Nature

- a quiet gray landscape, awaiting its green garb
- the old March wind arrives to blow winter away
- blackbirds returning (that squeaky gate sound)
- drip, drip, drip - melting underway
- pussywillows along the riverbank
- mud, mud and more mud!
- potholes that will eat your car in one gulp
- forsythia blushing yellow
- little pots of shamrocks at the grocer's
- The Full Sap (or Worm) Moon (23)
- migrating salamanders on mild, wet nights
- robins hopping in the yard
- maple sugaring in the woods
- the first colorful crocus, tiny jonquils, too ...
- the sun gains warmth; the days lengthen
- skunk cabbage in wetland areas
- fox sparrows passing through
- lambing time at the farm
- a surprise snowstorm is not out of the question ... ?

Folklore

- March gem: [aquamarine](#)
- March flower: [jonquil](#)
- *March comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb.*

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Food

- potatoes
- carrots
- turnip
- radishes
- spring onions
- early rhubarb
- leeks
- meatless Lenten Fridays
- egg custards
- maple syrup
- shamrock shakes
- Girl Scout cookies
- corned beef and cabbage
- Irish soda bread
- Irish coffee
- oatmeal scones
- sloppy joes
- donuts for St. Joseph
- fig tarts on Palm Sunday
- Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday
- cheesecake
- ricotta pie
- lamb cake
- baked ham

Faith

- Month of St. Joseph
- Liturgical seasons:
 - Lent
 - Eastertide
- St. David (1)
- Laetare Sunday (6)
- St. Patrick (17)
- St. Joseph (19)
- Holy Week:

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- Palm Sunday (20)
- Holy Monday (21)
- Holy Tuesday (22)
- Spy Wednesday (23)
- Holy Thursday (24)
- Good Friday (25)
- Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil (26)
- Easter Sunday (27)

Household

- Rake winter debris from yard.
- Sweep porches, doorsteps, decks and driveways.
- Inspect yard and home exterior for winter damage.
- Clean birdfeeders thoroughly.
- Plan garden plots.
- Start seeds indoors.
- Arrange for mulch delivery.
- Purchase fresh sandbox sand.
- Put windowboxes up; fill with hardy pansies!
- Launder spring bedding.
- Plan Easter dinner.
- Order ham.
- Order basket goodies.
- Buy Easter lilies at the nursery.
- Organize Easter clothes.
- Shampoo rugs.
- Take down storms; hang screens.
- Wash windows
- Polish woodwork with beeswax.
- Re-stock craft supplies for the spring.
- Organize rainy day play gear.
- Start planning summer vacation time.

Life

- National Craft Month
- National Hobby Month
- American Red Cross Month

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- National Nutrition Month
- Irish-American Heritage Month
- National Umbrella Month
- [March Madness](#)
- Peanut Butter Lovers Day (1)
- [Dr. Seuss's birthday](#) (2)
- Alexander Graham Bell's birthday (3)
- Antonio Vivaldi's birthday (4)
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning's birthday (6)
- National Mario Day (10)
- Daylight Savings Time begins (13)
- Uranus discovered (13)
- National Pi Day (14)
- Albert Einstein's birthday (14)
- The Ides of March (15)
- Return of the Swallows to San Juan Capistrano (19)
- National Agriculture Day (20)
- First Day of Spring (20)
- National Waffle Day (25)
- Make up Your Own Holiday Day (26)

Book Basket

- [*The Story of the Wind Children*](#)
- [*Feel the Wind*](#)
- [*Jamie O'Rourke and the Pooka*](#)
- [*Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato*](#)
- [*Song of the Swallows*](#)
- [*The St. Patrick's Day Shillelagh*](#)
- [*Small Beauties: The Journey of Darcy Heart O'Hara*](#)
- [*Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland*](#)
- [*Jack and the Leprechaun*](#)
- [*Clever Tom and the Leprechaun*](#)
- [*A Child's Book of Celtic Prayers*](#)
- [*St. Patrick's Day*](#)
- [*St. Patrick's Day in the Morning*](#)
- [*St. Patrick's Day Alphabet*](#)
- [*M is for Maple Syrup: a Vermont Alphabet*](#)

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- [Sugaring](#)
- [Sugarbush Spring](#)
- [The Sugaring-Off Party](#)
- [The Maple Syrup Book](#)
- [My Spring Robin](#)
- [Spring is Here](#)
- [Spring: An Alphabet Acrostic](#)
- [That's What Happens When it's Spring](#)
- [Pelle's New Suit](#)
- [Charlie Needs a Cloak](#)
- [Weaving the Rainbow](#)
- [The Year at Maple Hill Farm](#)
- [Our Animal Friends at Maple Hill Farm](#)
- [The Little Lamb](#)
- [Mary Had a Little Lamb](#)
- [Red Berry Wool](#)
- [The Very First Easter](#)
- [The Easter Story](#)
- [Petook: An Easter Story](#)
- [The Jesus Garden](#)
- [The Easter Swallows](#)
- [The Story of the Cross](#)
- [The Story of Easter](#)
- [A Tale for Easter](#)
- [Celebrate Easter with Colored Eggs, Flowers and Prayer](#)

Field Trips & Outings

- Maple sugaring demonstration
- Visit new lambs & fresh eggs at farm
- Children's Passion Play at church
- Museum of Science: [Planetarium](#)

Crafts & Activities

- Fly kites at the park.
- Make [a toad home](#).
- Make pinwheels.
- Hang a windsock.

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- Make a [palm weaving](#).
- Watch [Darby O'Gill and the Little People](#).
- Listen to [Irish music](#).
- Listen to [Irish legends](#).
- Make shamrock prayer bouquets.
- [Work with sheep's wool; make felt crafts](#).
- Make [beeswax egg candles](#).
- [Paint an umbrella](#).
- Blow [bubbles](#) on a windy day.
- Make a [wind guage](#) or a [rain gauge](#).
- Learn [weather folklore](#).
- Organize [a Palm Sunday procession](#) for the kids.
- Make homemade chocolates for Easter treats.
- Make Easter cards for family and friends.
- [Dye](#) and/or [decorate](#) eggs.
- Put out [nesting materials](#) for birds.
- Go on an early spring nature walk:
 - Search for signs of spring.
 - How many shades of green can you find?
 - Bring home spring branches to force.
- Make [lion and lamb cupcakes](#).



Now, I'd like to clarify that my family will *not* be observing each and every one of these March ideas! (Who ever could?!) But having them in mind - and even better, on paper - is a big help when I'm trying to weave a little seasonal awareness, organization and fun into our family life! I like to sit down once a month (usually the second to last weekend) to do a little planning ahead on the seasonal front. I make it part of my weekend "office hours." :) It might seem silly to work "seasonal planning" into an already busy family schedule, but honestly - if I didn't, it's unlikely I'd remember or even try to fit it in!

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Well my friends, I've rambled long enough ... thanks so much for stopping by and I hope your March is just lovely, whether **wild** or **mild**!

P.S. I wasn't on Pinterest back when I first wrote this post in 2008 - maybe it didn't even exist yet? - but I now have boards for "storing" seasonal ideas such as the ones linked above. I will go through these links to be sure they are still valid and then add them to my [March & April](#) board.)