



## **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

### **17 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

In honor of St Paddy's Day, we thought we'd share some tidbits that offer a bit of insight into the day when "everyone is Irish."

1. March 17th is the Roman Catholic feast day for Ireland's St Patrick, patron saint, who was not born in Ireland, but originally brought there as a slave.
2. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in 1737 in Boston. New York City started the first organized parade 25 years later. Meanwhile, Dublin's parade began 70 years after that.
3. Until the 1970s, St Patrick's Day was considered a minor holiday but at that time began gaining popularity in the U.S.
4. The village of Dripsey in County Cork hosts the world's shortest parade, which runs 77 feet between the town's two bars.
5. The Irish raise their glass and say "Slainté" (pronounced SLAN-cha), the Irish word for "health."
6. Ireland was never home to any native species of snakes.
7. More American's claim Irish heritage than the entire populations of Ireland... and on St Patrick's Day that number seems to grow even more.
8. Part of St Patrick's success in converting the Irish to Christianity in the 5th Century was his familiarity with the Irish language and traditions. He combined many non-Christian practices with his teachings,

such as bonfires and superimposing the image of the sun over the cross to create what we now know as the Celtic Cross.

9. Chicago first dyed their river green on March 17, 1961.

10. Until the 1970s, Irish pubs were closed on St Patrick's Day.

11. In the US, there are 21 towns named Dublin. They are in the states of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania (3), Texas, Virginia.

12. Four towns in the US are named Shamrock in Indiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mount Gay-Shamrock, West Virginia.

13. Only one town in the US is named in honor of Saint Patrick's – in Missouri.

14. While everyone sees green on St Patrick's Day, blue was traditionally the color associated with the saint and Ireland.

15. 1 in every 10,000 clover has four leaves. The record for the highest number of leaves is 14.

16. On St Patrick's Day, the daily worldwide consumption of Guinness jumps from 5.5 million pints to 13 million!

17. St Patrick's Day is often shortened to St Paddy's... not St Patty's.

For a bit more Irish Trivia visit [www.irishcultureandcustoms.com](http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com)

For more information on the Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade:

<http://www.stlhibernians.com>.