



2016

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Dogtown Pastor Grand Marshal of 2016 Hibernian Saint Patrick's Day Parade

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) have selected Father Christopher Dunlap, pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Dogtown, as Grand Marshal of the 33rd annual AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The Irish gala gets underway at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 17, Saint Patrick's Day.

Fr. Dunlap has been pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Dogtown since June, 2014. He youngest pastor in the history of the parish, being ordained a priest on May 27, 2006. Previous to arriving at the St. James Parish and the Dogtown neighborhood, that some call the Irish Center of St. Louis, he served as Associate Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi in Oakville and at Holy Infant in Ballwin.

Born and raised in Peoria, Illinois, Father Dunlap considers himself a "transplanted" native of St. Louis, having lived here for almost 20 years. For many of those years, he has attended or participated in the annual Hibernian Saint Patrick's Day parade.

"I am extremely honored to have been chosen the Grand Marshal of the 2016 AOH St. Patrick's Day parade," Dunlap said. "I am extremely happy to represent St. James the Greater and the neighborhood as well. Community really does happen in Dogtown, and I'm really looking forward to it," he added.

The annual parade, sponsored by the St. Louis and St. Louis County Hibernians, honors Saint Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland, and highlights the contributions the Irish and Irish-Americans have made to the United States. The parade passes through one of St. Louis' oldest Irish neighborhoods.

The 2016 AOH parade will start south of the Tamm Avenue overpass at Oakland Avenue, travel south on Tamm Avenue past St. James the Greater Catholic Church and end at Manchester. This year's parade will feature over 100 colorful floats and marching units. Like traditional Saint Patrick's Day parades held in Ireland, many St. Louis Irish will march under their family crests and banners.

The Dogtown Business Merchants Association and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, in partnership with the Clayton Tamm Community Association, have once again adopted a 'no cooler/backpack' rule for the parade.

This year's parade is once again being dedicated to firefighters, law enforcement, public safety personnel and union members killed in the line of duty since September 11, 2001. Among those being recognized as distinguished honorees during this year's parade will be firefighters and law enforcement officers from St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

More information on the parade and the Ancient Order of Hibernians can be found at:

<http://www.stlhibernians.com>