



Father Tim Dempsey

Father Tim Dempsey was appointed pastor of Saint Patrick's in 1898. The parish was located at 1201 Sixth Street in the city's original Irish neighborhood.

For many years the main event at the church on St. Patrick's Day was the solemn high Mass concelebrated by Archbishop John Glennon and many other priests. It was often followed by dinners and traditional piping. Fr. Dempsey served as the pastor of the downtown parish for almost 28 years until his death in 1936.

A native of County Offaly in central Ireland, Fr. Dempsey was tireless advocate of the poor, organizing soup kitchens and lodging for the homeless. In 1908, he established a shelter for homeless men at Eighth and Franklin streets (current site of America's Center) for homeless men. For years, it was known as Father Dempsey's hotel.

He died on April 6, 1936, at age 65. Father Dempsey's Charities continues operating a soup kitchen and residence for men at 3427 Washington Avenue.

--Courtesy St. Louis Post-Dispatch