



# 2016

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

### Frequently Asked Questions

**When is the parade?** The parade is always held on March 17, the feast day of Saint Patrick. This year the 17<sup>th</sup> falls on a Thursday.

**Who will be marching in this year's parade?** This year's parade will feature over 100 colorful floats and marching units. The Grand Marshal of the 2016 parade is Father Christopher Dunlap, pastor of St. James the Greater Parish in Dogtown. Like traditional Saint Patrick's Day parades held in Ireland, many St. Louis Irish will march under their family crests and banners.

**What is the purpose of the parade?** The parade, sponsored by the St. Louis and St. Louis County Boards of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, is held annually on March 17<sup>th</sup> to honor Saint Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland, celebrate Irish culture, heritage and faith and highlight the contributions the Irish and Irish-Americans have made to the United States.

**Is there a cost to attend the parade?** There is no charge to attend the parade itself, but you may have to pay for parking (*see parking below*) and Dogtown businesses, including St. James the Greater parish will be selling food and refreshments through the day.

**What time does the parade start?** The parade begins at 12:30 pm.

**What is the parade route?** The parade begins just south of the Tamm Avenue overpass at Oakland Avenue, and travels south on Tamm Avenue, past St. James the Greater Catholic Church. The parade officially ends at Manchester Avenue. As a reminder, spectators are not allowed to view the parade from the Tamm Avenue overpass above Highway 40.

**What time do the streets shut down prior to the parade?** There will once again be traffic restrictions in the Dogtown neighborhood and on Manchester Avenue during this year's Ancient Order of the Hibernians' St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17. Residential streets in the immediate parade route area will be blocked to traffic by closing access to the parade area from

Hampton on the East and Kraft on the West. Also there will be lane on Manchester Ave. from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The following streets will be closed March 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Berthold from Graham to Art Hill Place, Clayton from Graham to Childress, Wise from Tamm to Childress, Victoria from Tamm to Graham, Nashville from Tamm to Childress, Wade from Graham to Childress, Lloyd from Gregg to Childress, Brock Schmidt from Tamm to Childress.

On the South perimeter of the Dogtown festival area access from Sproule, Gregg, Graham, Tamm, Dale, Mitchell will be closed. On the West perimeter streets running east from Kraft to Mitchell to Berthold and Clayton on the North are closed. Oakland will also be closed to traffic at Hampton and vehicles traveling east at Fairmount. Traffic restrictions on Wells Avenue in Forest Park will remain the same as previous years.

**How long does the parade last?** It takes each unit approximately 90 minutes to travel the parade route. In the past, the parades have lasted a little over two hours.

**Where is the best place to watch the parade?** You can watch the parade from anywhere along Tamm Avenue, but the crowds are usually quite large at the intersection Tamm and Clayton. It is less crowded toward the end of the parade route at Manchester Avenue.

**Where should I park?** There are no designated parking areas for the parade. Parking is on a “first come/first served” basis. The Dogtown neighborhood itself has limited parking and it can be difficult to find a parking spot on St. Patrick's Day One option is to park for a fee at the St. Louis Zoo South parking lot. There is also free parking in Forest Park, but choose your spot wisely because police will ticket anyone parked illegally. Parking is also available at St. Louis Marketplace on Manchester for a fee, but only in certain areas. All other areas of lot are "no parking areas" and vehicles could be towed. Many other businesses in the area also have paid parking. These businesses charge anywhere from \$10-\$20 to park on their lots. None of the paid parking lots are connected to the Hibernians and the organization receives no proceeds from the lots.

**How should I dress for the parade?** March is a month that St. Louis transitions from wintertime to spring, so what you wear is really dependent on the forecast for March 17. But there is only one dress code for St. Patrick's Day—you must wear green!!!!

**Are there any rules for the parade?** As in previous years there is a “no cooler/backpack” rule for those attending the parade. Also in the interest of public safety all glass containers will be banned in the parade area. But the first rule is to have fun. However, the Hibernians ask every parade goer to show respect for the neighborhood, the police and security officials and for your fellow parade goers. Respecting the neighborhood means not littering or doing any other action

or activities that you wouldn't want to happen to your home or in your neighborhood. The police and security officials are there for **YOUR** protection. Please cooperate if one of them asks you to do something. It will make your experience (and everyone else's) on March 17<sup>th</sup> if you do. Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Dogtown Business Association also encourages everyone to drink responsibly on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Designate a sober driver ahead of time, or call a taxi to make sure you get home safely. If you need transportation home you call **Alert Cab at 314-652-TAXI**, or text your pick-up address to **314-403-7000**, **Yellow Cab 314-993-TAXI** or text your pick-up address to **314-971-8294**. Or use one of the mobile ride request apps.

**What about Underage Drinking?** Police and security officials **WILL** be checking for underage drinking in the Clayton-Tamm area. A minor in possession of alcohol can be charged with a Class D misdemeanor and subject to a \$300 fine.

**What is the Irish Festival?** Immediately following the parade, a portion of Tamm Ave. and numerous side streets are blocked off for the "Irish Festival" where everyone gathers to continue the St. Patrick's Day celebration. Outside sales of alcohol ends at 6:00 pm and all restaurants and shops in Dogtown close at 8 p.m.