



2023 Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade

2023 Hibernian Parade Chairman Safety Message

The Ancient Order of Hibernians of St. Louis want to make sure you and your friends stay safe this St. Patrick's Day, by remembering one important piece of advice: *Don't drink and drive!*

This means that if you plan to drink any alcoholic beverage on March 17, even a watered-down green beer, it's essential that you plan ahead.

"We want our community to enjoy St. Patrick's Day, and we expect drivers to take responsibility for their actions," commented 2023 AOH Parade Chairman Joe Murphy, "If you've been drinking, make the right choice to find a sober driver to get you, and your friends, home safely".

If you do not have designated driver, Murphy advises using the ride-hailing area for both cabs and ride-sharing services located on Clayton near Crescent, in the Zoo's Frog Lot.

During 2020 the St. Patrick's Day period (6 p.m. March 16 to 5:59 a.m. March 18), more than a third (36%) involved a drunk driver. In fact, from 2016 to 2020, 287 lives were lost in drunk driving crashes during the St. Patrick's Day period.

The Hibernians supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in its efforts to spread the message about the dangers of drunk driving. Because even one drink can be one too many.

A driver is legally considered drunk when their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is 0.08 or higher, and it takes about three standard drinks for an adult to reach this BAC level, which of impair judgment, limiting a driver's ability to operate a vehicle. The outcomes of drunk driving can be severe and that is why driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs is illegal in all states. Drunk driving kills 28 people daily, translating to one death every 52 minutes. Over 100,000 people die yearly due to drunk driving.

Drivers should also keep an eye out for pedestrians who have had too much to drink. Walking while intoxicated can also be deadly, as lack of attention to their surroundings could put pedestrians at risk of getting hit by a vehicle.

“People need to know that they can go out for a night of fun and return home safely. Don't be the reason someone — including yourself — doesn't get home. Don't let St. Patrick's Day become an anniversary of a tragic night,” said Murphy. “This St. Patrick's Day, the Ancient Order of Hibernians urge everyone to make your travel arrangements before heading out for the evening.”

Drunk driving isn't the only risk on the road: Drug-impaired driving is also an increasing problem, for men and for women alike. If drivers are impaired by any substance — alcohol or other drugs — they should not get behind the wheel of a vehicle. It is illegal in all states to drive impaired by alcohol or drugs. Remember: Driving while impaired is illegal, period.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an Irish Catholic fraternal organization that seeks to promote Irish heritage, history, culture and faith. It also does charitable work in both the United States and Ireland. For information on the Ancient Order of Hibernians, or the 2023 AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade, visit the Hibernian website at <http://www.stlhibernians.com/> or contact Parade Chairman, Joe Murphy via e-mail; murfefam@htc.net