



2025 Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade

2025 Hibernian Parade Chairman: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*

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: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*.

While it is fun to celebrate with friends and family, statistics on death and injury on St. Patrick's Day are alarming. It is estimated that one drunk driving death occurs every 30 minutes during St. Patrick's Day. Between 2016 and 2020, 287 lives were lost in the United States due to drunk driving related crashes. 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.

AOH 2025 Parade Chairman Dennis Pogue stated, "We want our community to enjoy St. Patrick's Day, and we expect drivers to take responsibility for their actions. If you've been drinking, make the right choice to find a sober driver to get you, and your friends, home safely. Before you put your keys in the ignition, remind yourself: *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. If you feel a buzz, you are in no shape to drive."

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 Pogue. “This St. Patrick’s Day, the Ancient Order of Hibernians urge drivers to designate a sober driver 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 bottom line is this: *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*. It’s that simple.