

Hibernian Parade Celebrates 41 Years!

A Proud St. Louis and Irish Tradition Returns Once Again!

For centuries, the Irish have honored St. Patrick's feast day with faith, family, and community, gathering to march to church and celebrate their patron saint. This cherished tradition continues in St. Louis, where on March 17 at 11:00 AM, the Ancient Order of Hibernians will step off for their 41st annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dogtown, proudly carrying forward both their Catholic faith and Irish heritage.

St. Louis' connection to St. Patrick's Day dates back more than 200 years, with the first recorded celebration taking place in 1820, when a small group of Irish settlers gathered in the city's streets to honor their patron saint. Today, the Hibernians continue that legacy, bringing together families, friends, and entire clans to march in unity—just as their ancestors did in Ireland. Set in the historic Dogtown neighborhood, one of the city's last remaining Irish enclaves, the parade is more than just a celebration; it's a testament to faith, family, and tradition. Whether you are of Irish descent or simply wish to partake in the spirit of the day, all are welcome to join in this time-honored tradition of prayer, festivity, and community on March 17.

But the festivities do not end with the parade. This year will be the 6th (sixth) year of the Dogtown Irish Festival, an event that continues the tradition of St. Patrick's Day celebrations held for generations in Dogtown area. The neighborhood today represents a mix of cultures and

ethnicities, but the neighborhood gathers, along with many throughout the St. Louis region, to celebrate the neighborhood's Irish heritage on March 17.

The 2025 Ancient Order of Hibernians

Saint Patrick's Day Parade

The parade, sponsored the Ancient Order of Hibernians was created in 1984 to highlight the many contributions of the Irish people to America. This year's parade will contain almost 100 units featuring floats highlighting Irish dancing, music and salutes to Irish history and culture. Like traditional parades held in the Emerald Isle on Saint Patrick's feast day, a good portion of St. Louis' Irish American community will also be marching as clans under their family crests and banners.

The 2025 Dogtown Irish Festival

The 6th Annual Dogtown Irish Festival also will have plenty of fun, food, music and attractions for the enjoyment of all ages. The festival, a joint effort of Dogtown United, a non-profit led by community and businesses leaders, and the Hibernians was launched in 2018.

The festival begins at 9:00 AM, featuring food and drinks from numerous vendors. The festival was created to highlight the unique spirit and celebrated history of the Dogtown neighborhood.

Like last year the Irish Festival, the event will be divided into multiple "zones."

The key sponsors of the 2025 Bud Light, NÜTRL Vodka Seltzer, Guinness, Jameson Irish Whiskey, Tullamore D.E.W. Irish Whiskey, Heavy Riff Brewing Company, Dogtown Pizza, POWERS Insurance & Risk Management, BeatBox: The Original Party Punch, Angry Orchard, LIT Cigar Lounge and more!

Guinness Irish Cultural Zone

Anchoring the South leg of the festival area will be the Irish Cultural Zone, sponsored by Guinness, at Saint James the Greater Parish, 1360 Tamm Ave.

Once again one of the best places in St. Louis to truly “get your Irish on” will be at the Saint James the Greater Annual Saint Patrick’s Day celebration. The parish has been the “cultural heart” of the Dogtown neighborhood for over 160 years. The first pastor, and many that followed, were actually Irishmen from “the old sod,” which helped establish both the “Irish” identity of the parish and the surrounding neighborhood.

The parish kicks off the Saint Patrick’s Day festivities the night before, on Sunday March 16, with a special mass at 4:00 PM, on the Saint Patrick’s Day eve, at the historic Saint James the Greater church, located at 6401 Wade Ave. Fr. Thomas Pastorius, pastor of Saint James, will celebrate the mass to honor the venerable Irish saint.

Following mass, there will be a special ceremony, sponsored by Guinness, in the St. James Parish Center to officially “kick off” St. Patrick’s Day in Dogtown with the tapping of the “first keg” and pouring of a Guinness Stout as the “first beer” of the holiday celebration. There will be live Irish music by Irish Aires, and the “first serving” of the St. James’ famous Corned Beef and Cabbage dinners 4:00-8:00 PM

The next day, March 17, the Parish Center opens at 8:00 AM where you can start your day with an “Irish” coffee and later indulge yourself with one of the parish’s famous Corned Beef and Cabbage dinners, served from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There also will be live Irish entertainment from 11:00 – 6:00 PM, featuring the Irish Aires. St. James will have multiple beverage and food stands open outside before, and during the parade. The St. James Bud Light Tent will open at 9:00 AM with a DJ until 6:00 PM. All proceeds from the event will go to St. James.

Dogtown Pizza Family Zone

Dogtown Pizza Family Zone will be located on Oakland Avenue, just east of Tamm, nearby Turtle Park and the Oakland Playground. The venue will have a variety of family friendly activities. Traditional Irish music will also be featured on the Andrew Broombaugh-State Farm Insurance Agent Stage and there will be many food and drink options be available.

Bud Light Party Zone, Heavy Riff Main Stage and POWERS Insurance and Risk Management Vendor Village

The Bud Light Party Zone, located at heart of the Irish Festival area at Clayton and Tamm, will feature many bars, food, and merchandise vendors.

Live Irish music also will be featured on the Heavy Riff Main Stage, located Clayton and Art Hill, before and after the parade. Rusty Nail performs live on the main stage from 1-5 PM. More details on other music performances will be announced soon.

The POWERS Insurance and Risk Management Vendor Village in the Clayton and Tamm area, will feature merchandise and food vendors. For a complete list of vendors, please visit www.dogtownunited.org.

All outdoor vending in the entire festival area begins at 9:00 AM, and closes promptly by 6:00 PM.

No Coolers, and Glass

For safety of Dogtown residents and festival attendees, no coolers, backpacks and glass containers will be allowed in the festival area. Outside alcohol is also prohibited. None of these items will be allowed past any checkpoints to enter the festival area. Containers necessary for child care purposes can be admitted after a brief search by security staff.

About Dogtown United

Dogtown United, a non-profit organization that seeks to bring together the broader Dogtown community to create a strong, safe and vibrant neighborhood. Dogtown United seeks to represent local residents and business owners to better coordinate efforts with the Hibernians and improve the operations and efficiency of all events taking place in that historic neighborhood on March 17.

For more information on the Dogtown United, visit their website: <https://dogtownunited.org> or contact Festival Organizer Colin O'Brien at 636-486-6431 (cell) or via email Colin@blankslatelive.com

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 2025 AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade, visit the Hibernian website at <http://www.stlhibernians.com/> or contact Parade Chairman Dennis Pogue via e-mail cptdpogue@gmail.com

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