



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



MICHAEL P. KEELEY
DIVISION 1
ST. CLAIR COUNTY ILLINOIS

The Ancient Order of Hibernians the oldest Catholic lay organization in America dedicated to Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1000064731215067&mibextid=ZbWKwl> Webpage: <https://www.aohill1.org>

Ancient Order of Hibernians 24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

To all St. Pat's Day Parade participants

We are incredibly grateful of your decision last year to continue as a participant in the St. Pat's Day parade. This year 2026 the parade is on schedule; as such if you are interested in participating in the St. Pat's Day Parade on Saturday 14 March 2026, please complete and submit the application with appropriate funds and return it to Parade Chairman, P.O. Box 247, O'Fallon, IL. 62269 **NO LATER THAN 27 February 2026.** No applications with a postmark later than 27 February 2026 will be accepted. Do not mail **CASH**. Applications sent with cash will be returned to sender without action.

* The required entry fee is \$50.00. Mail your check, Made Payable to the: Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) indicated in the For area on your check (Parade), MAIL TO: Ancient Order of Hibernians, Parade Chairman, P.O. Box 247, O'Fallon, IL. 62269

*If Your intentions are to participate in the drawing to be in the first position in the Parade after the (AOH and LAOH membership groups), Send an additional required drawing fee of \$10 (this is **STRICKLY VOLUNTARY**, it is **not required** to participate in the Parade). If you are the winner of the drawing, you will be notified the morning of the Parade when you show up to be assigned a location on the parade/lot staging area.

Once we have received your completed application, **UNLESS** you hear from us otherwise, consider your application accepted. On the morning of March, the 14th, upon arrival at the parade staging area, **"3rd" & West "A" Street** you will be assigned a position on the staging lot. Please follow instructions by parade marshals.

Return your completed application with proper funds to Parade Chairman. No later than. 27 February 2026

*Please note: **NO Applications** will be accepted with a post mark dated AFTER cutoff date of 27 February 2026. Do not send CASH make checks payable to **Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)** mail to: **Parade Chairman AOH P.O. Box 247, O'Fallon, IL. 62269** Applications sent with Cash will be returned to sender without action.



For a copy of Parade rules Please visit our: (Webpage: <https://www.aohil1.org>) or click the QR Code

Ancient Order of Hibernians
Attn: Parade Chairman
P.O. Box 247
O'Fallon, IL.
62269

- 1.) Parade application
- 2.) Parade route map
- 3.) Hibernian Hunger food drive request
- 4.) Attached Parade Rules



*Participant Name:		*Contact Person:	
*Address:		*Phone:	
*City:	Zip Code:	*Email:	
*Please Indicate the Number of Years You Have Participated in the Parade? [] ** Required information **			
** <u>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF UNITS PER ENTRY: 2</u> ** **Type of Entry (Circle Entry Type) below**			
** Units per Entry 2 defined as: (<u>1 Car or Truck towing a Trailer/Float</u>) or (<u>2 cars or 2 trucks No Trailer in tow</u>)			
Circle one of the following: Family or Individual Entry / Organization Unit / Band Unit / Commercial Unit / Marching Unit / Float / Automobile / Truck / Motorcycle / Antique Car / Horse'(s) / Bicycle / Battery Driven Mode - <u>Other Please Describe type:</u>			
We require a designated safety representative for each unit who will be an active participant in the parade. This person will be the point of contact for any (Emergency Group Call via cell phone). Announcements that will be utilized to notify participants of any major safety concerns. Name & Cell Phone Number of Safety Representative: _____			
NOTE: No political signage showing election for, or reelections to a political office will be allowed on any floats, vehicles, or carried in the parade NO political campaigning allowed, in the parade or staging area. *ELECTED OFFICIALS may show the Office they Hold. *			
Parade Marshals/Officials can restrict all signage that does not conform to the purpose of the parade. Parade Marshals/Officials can ask that you remove such signage. Failure to follow their request results in you and your unit being removal from the parade. *All decorations shall be made of fire-retardant material.			
Parade Participation Require Entry Fee: <u>\$50.00</u> Make checks payable to: Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) <u>Do not mail CASH</u> <u>Applications sent with Cash; Both will be returned without action</u>		Mail Application with checks (No Later than: <u>27 February 2026</u> . TO: Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) ATTN: Parade Chairman, P.O. Box 247 O'Fallon, IL. 62269	
SPECIAL DRAWING FRONT OF PARADE POSITION DIRECTLY BEHIND ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS MEMBERS			
An additional fee of <u>\$10.00</u> will get you entered in <u>drawing</u> for that position on the day of the Parade.			
<u>*Strictly VOLUNTARY*</u> I have enclosed along with entry fee the required additional Drawing <u>fee \$10.00</u> to be entered into the front position drawing. <u>Directly after the AOH & LAOH membership groups.</u>			
<u>Your Name:</u> _____ <u>PARADE ENTRY FEE: \$50.00 - DRAWING FEE: \$10.00</u> <u>DRAWING IS STRICKLY VOLUNTARY IT IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE IN PARADE TOTAL ENCLOSED:</u> _____			
To: Ancient Order of Hibernians		From: Parade Participant: _____	
Dear Chairperson,		(Your Name)	
Please accept the <u>undersigned</u> entry as a participant in the St. Patrick's Day Parade 14 March 2026, in Belleville, Illinois. I understand participation in the parade is by <u>Invitation Only</u> , subject to <u>COMMITTEES' APPROVAL</u> .			
The <u>undersigned</u> as a participant in the St. Patrick's Day Parade <u>is solely the responsible party for all its participants, workers, riders, and walkers of the undersigned</u> , and in no way reflects the responsibility of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), Michael P. Keeley Division 1 St. Clair County Illinois, for the Participant vehicles / float, their workers, riders, and or walkers. It is further understood that the <u>undersigned</u> shall hold harmless the Ancient Order of Hibernians Michael P. Keeley Division 1 St. Clair County Illinois, its Officer, and its Members, the State Office of Illinois Ancient Order of Hibernians, its Officer, and its Members the National Office Ancient Order of Hibernians its Officer, and its Members and the City of Belleville, Illinois from any liability whatsoever which may occur to the <u>undersigned</u> or <u>their participants, works, riders, and or walkers</u> , during the parade or while in or about the staging area and or lot and authorizes the (AOH) to supply the <u>undersigned participant's contact information</u> to City of Belleville Illinois emergency services. (Fire and Police Departments).			
Furthermore, <u>The undersigned agrees that the consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind is prohibited during the parade, and while on the parade staging area and or lot</u> , and in consideration of allowing the <u>undersigned</u> to participate in the parade, the <u>undersigned</u> agrees to waive, release and discharge the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), Michael P. Keeley Division 1 St. Clair County Illinois, its Officer, and its Members, the State Office of Illinois Ancient Order of Hibernians, its Officer, and its Members, the National Office Ancient Order of Hibernians its Officer, and its Members and the City of Belleville, Illinois, from any and all liabilities for damages, death, personal injury or property damage which the <u>undersigned participant, their workers, riders, and walkers</u> may have, or which may hereafter occur to the <u>undersigned</u> or <u>their participant, workers, riders, and or walkers</u> , resulting in whole or in part from any <u>consumption of alcoholic beverages during the St. Patrick's Day Parade, or while on the parade staging area or lot.</u>			
Parade Participant Signature: _____		Date: _____	



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Ancient Order of Hibernians 24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

SATURDAY – 14 March 2026

PARADE STARTS AT 11:00 A.M.

PARADE LOT / STAGGING AREA 3rd & West A St.

BEGIN LOADING 09:00 A.M.

Upon arrival you will be assigned a lineup spot on the Parade Lot



**PARADE STARTS AT “3RD” AND WEST “A” STREET
PROCEEDS SOUTH TO WEST MAIN STREET
TURNS EAST ON WEST MAIN STREET
TO AND AROUND VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
CONTINUING EAST ON EAST MAIN STREET
TO OAK STREET WHERE PARADE DISBANDS**



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Ancient Order of Hibernians 24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

HIBERNIANS HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

14 March 2026



WHO: The Ancient Order of Hibernians Michael P. Keeley Division 1 St. Clair County

WHAT: Annual Food Drive – All donations given to St. Vicent DePaul food
Pantry for distribution to local food pantries

WHEN: 14 March 2026 – Prior to start of the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

WHERE: 3rd and West "A" Streets As you enter the staging area

WHY: We are asking for your help in feeding the poor in our area. It changes lives. One donation at a time. Through the transformative powers of giving. Thanks to your generosity in the past, we have collected hundreds of pounds of food, as well as hundreds of dollars in cash donations. Your donations reach families in crisis. Thank You!

Boxed or Canned goods*Please No Glass Items*

\$ Cash donations will be accepted \$

We thank you for your participation and your generosity.



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Parade Rules Adopted April 2017 (Revised December 2025)

St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will consist of the President, Standing Committee Chairman, Parade Chairman, and two other members appointed by the President after consultation with both the Standing Committee Chairman and the Parade Chairman.

Mission Statement

What is the purpose of the parade? The parade, sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians

Michael P. Keeley Division 1, St. Clair County Illinois is held 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.

1.) The parade is a non-political parade. It has been so designated, as such by the parade committee and members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Michael P. Keeley Division 1, St. Clair County, Illinois. No Political signage is allowed. No Political campaigning is allowed. No signage showing election for, or re-election to a political office will be allowed on any floats, vehicles, or carried in the parade, or allowed in or on the parade/staging area or lot. ELECTED OFFICIALS may show the Office they hold, nothing else is allowed. Parade Marshals/Officials can restrict all signage that does not conform to the purpose of the parade they can ask that you remove nonconforming signage. Failure to follow their request results in you and your unit removal from the parade.

2.) Remember decorations or music on your parade float must be consistent with the St. Patrick's Day celebration. You can be asked to alter or remove any material/signage that is found inconsistent - that does not follow the St. Patrick Day scenario or that does not conform to the purpose of the parade. Failure to follow their request results in your removal from the parade.

3.) The police and security officials and parade marshals are there for YOUR protection. Your cooperation is expected if they ask you to do something. Failure to follow their request results in you and your unit's removal from the parade.

4.) Please follow instructions from the Parade Marshals. They are present for your protection and are empowered to remove any non-compliant individuals, groups, or floats from our Parade. Entrants must observe all applicable rules and regulations and follow instructions from police security and parade officials/Marshalls or be barred from the parade. You, and your Float are on display before thousands of you fellow citizens, parents, and children. Please behave accordingly. The Ancient Order of Hibernians Parade Committee reserves the right to remove any entrant from the parade either prior to assembly, while assembling or any time during the parade. Upon arrival at the parade staging area, provide information request by Parade Marshals, that information is necessary to ensure that you are placed on the Parade lot in your assigned position. Please follow all instructions issued by the Parade Marshals, they are there to help you. The Parade Committee's decisions about all entries are final.

5.) All entries/applications received, and approval will be assigned a line-up number. You will be instructed the morning of the parade where to position yourself on the parade staging area/lot, from the Parade Chairman or in his stead a Parade Marshall.



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Parade Rules Adopted April 2017 (Revised December 2025)

6.) All entries must be decorated in a St. Patrick's Day theme. All banners/signage must be neatly lettered and legible. Banners/signage that do not meet the Parades rules must be removed before your entry will be allowed to take part in the Parade. Parade Marshals/Officials can restrict all signage that does not conform to the purpose of the parade. The Parade Marshals/Officials can ask that you remove such signage. Failure to follow their request results in you and your unit being removal from the parade.

7.) The Ancient Order of Hibernians Michael P. Keeley Division 1, Parade Committee will secure St. Patrick for the parade. **** NO OTHER ST. PATRICK'S CAN TAKE PART. **** If found in such regalia. Will be asked to remove such. Refusal. Will automatically. Bar you from continuing with the parade. And you will not be allowed to Participate. In the future.

8.) Each vehicle must provide "Wheel Guards." ((2 individuals per van, and or auto, (4) individuals per truck and trailer.)) (Wheel guards are to be supplied for each side of the motorized vehicle; wheel guards are to be positioned at each wheel.).

A.) Designated Safety Representative for each unit who will be an active participant in the parade. This person will be the point of contact for any (Emergency Group Call via cell phone). Announcements that will be utilized to notify participants of any major safety concerns. Name & Cell Phone Number of Safety Representative Must be provided on submitted application.

B.) Maximum vehicle width is 8 feet 6 inches.

C.) Maximum length of entered vehicle cannot exceed 60 feet to include length of trailer. - Measured from Front bumper of pulling vehicle to Rear bumper of trailer.

D.) Maximum vehicle height cannot exceed 13 feet 6 inches. Measured from Ground to top of Display.

9.) Please be aware of any overhead obstructions along the parade route when constructing floats. Nothing on Vehicle to include Floats should be Higher than 13 feet 6 inches. Consider passenger safety when constructing your floats.

10.) All units are to keep the pace set by the lead unit and keep no more than 30 feet between units. If a Parade Marshal or the Police or Security or Fire Department personnel instructs you to speed up or slow down, please do so! All units must keep their designated location within the parade, do not swap out or overtake units. (Unless directed to do so by the Parade Marshals, Police, Security or Fire Department personnel.)

11.) Throwing candy, beads, and such items all must be tossed underhanded or handed out by those individuals walking along the curb. (No overhand throwing is allowed) if such occurs and is reported to Parade Official, Marshalls, and or Police, and they contact you, you will have to stop throwing what every it is and that action may result in you and your unit being barred from future parade participation.

12.) **No** Super Bounce Ball, Silly String, Fireworks, Water-Guns, or anything that might be considered mischievous (Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots) or hazardous will not be allowed so to avoid personal injury.



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Parade Rules Adopted April 2017 (Revised December 2025)

13.) Each float operator manages the safety of their participants, their workers, passengers & riders on their float, and or walking in support thereof and must have a complete list of those individuals and contact information for each in case of an emergency. The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Michael P. Keeley Division 1 St. Clair County its Officers or Members are Not responsible or Liable for the Participant vehicles / float, their workers, riders, and or walkers. It is further understood that the undersigned shall hold harmless the Ancient Order of Hibernians Michael P. Keeley Division 1 St. Clair County Illinois, its Officer, and its Members, the State Office of Illinois Ancient Order of Hibernians, its Officer, and its Members the National Office Ancient Order of Hibernians its Officer, and its Members and the City of Belleville, Illinois from any liability whatsoever which may occur to the undersigned or their participants, workers, riders, and or walkers, during the parade or while in or about the staging area and or lot and authorizes the (AOH) to supply the undersigned participant's contact information to City of Belleville Illinois emergency services. (Fire and Police Departments).

14.) Oak Street Where the Parade Ends, all music must be TURNED OFF.

15.) Respecting the neighborhood means not littering or doing any other action or activities that you would not want to happen to your home or in your neighborhood. Remember you are on display before thousands of your fellow citizens, parents, and children. Please behave accordingly.

16.) Clean up your parade staging/lot area if you leave trash behind you may face a fee of \$100.00 for cleanup and or barred from future parade participation. *** Please clean your designated area. ***

17.) A copy of the rules, signed by the person in charge of the Parade / Float entry, must be in their possession at the start of the parade.

18.) Entries that must be given special consideration –

Bicycles, Battery driven modes of transportation and Horses & or Horse drawn Carriages

Consult with a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Parade Committee.

A.) Horses must wear bags on lot and street before and during the parade.

B.) The rider/driver must always be in control of the horse(s).

C.) Someone must be appointed to follow all horses or horse drawn carriage to perform cleanup of any spillage that might occur.

D.) A copy of the rules, signed by the person in charge of the horse or horse drawn carriage entry, must be in their possession at the start of the parade.

19.) Vehicles: Maximum number of vehicles allowed per entry is (2). Units per Entry **2** are defined as:

(**1** Car or Truck towing a Trailer / Float) or (**2** cars or **2** trucks - No Trailers in tow)