



St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc.

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – ORGANIZED 1936

85TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE – FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 13, 2020

AR SON DE, NAOMH PADRAIG AGUS TIR

John M. "Jack" Doll
General Chairman
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February 20, 2020

Dear Friend,

Grand Marshal
Michael D. Byrne

Deputy Grand Marshall
Eileen McGinley Hannaford

Dedicated to
†Francis J. "Frank" Coyne

Kathleen M. Conlon
First Vice Chairwoman

The *St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc.* is pleased to announce the Tenth Annual Saint Patrick's Day Art and Essay Contests for students of the schools of the *Archdiocese of Newark*.

Hon. Thomas P. Giblin
Second Vice Chairman

John Martin
Recording Secretary

Enclosed, you will find the materials students need to participate in the 2020 Contests. Students in elementary schools are invited to compete in an art contest while high school students are invited to compete in an essay contest.

George Clayton
Corresponding Secretary

Rick Smith
Financial Secretary

Through the contests, the Parade Committee and its member-organizations encourage students of the Archdiocese to learn about the life of Saint Patrick and the unparalleled contributions of the Irish to our state and our Church.

Michael D. Byrne
Treasurer

The theme for the 2020 contests is "The Importance of Community Service" – a fitting subject, since the Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal are Irish-Americans who have given significant time to non-profit organizations in their communities:

Robert P. Lynch
Barbara A. Lyons
Sergeants-at-Arms

John F. Wojtal, Esq.
Adjutant

- Grand Marshal Michael D. Byrne has been a part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc. for decades and served as its General Chairman for nine years.

Rev. Patrick W. Donohue
Chaplain

- Deputy Grand Marshal Eileen McGinley Hannaford founded the Kevin J. Hannaford Sr. Foundation in 2004 and has served as its President and Executive Director since then.

Eugene J. Byrne, Esq.
Robert C. Rowbotham II, Esq.
Counsel

As Parade Day draws closer, your school will also receive an invitation to participate in our Parade Day activities: Mass at *St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral*, an Irish History Breakfast, and the Parade itself.

Joseph Downar
Historian

Michael J. O'Hara
Judge of Elections

We hope to see you on Friday, March 13th at the Saint Patrick's Day Parade!

Chris Dugan
Sean McGovern
Rosemarie L. Mellody
Brian Roth
Erin P. Sweeney
Trustees

Very truly yours,

John M. "Jack" Doll
General Chairman

Samantha Darnesto
Student Contests Chairwoman

New Jersey's First and Finest Saint Patrick's Day Parade: On the Streets of Newark for 85 Years!

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SAINT PATRICK'S DAY ESSAY CONTEST
Teacher / Administrator Overview

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has "Kept the Tradition Alive" in Newark for 85 years. To help ensure that students learn about the significant contributions that the Irish have made to the Church and to community life in New Jersey, the *St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc.* has established an essay contest for Grades 9 through 12 in the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Participating high schools may submit the work of three (3) finalists.

Each school's finalists will be recognized at the Ceremonial Reviewing Stand where they will be presented with certificates and each will have the opportunity to lead their school's contingent in the 2020 Newark Parade.

Then, three (3) Archdiocesan winners will be chosen by the Parade Committee and their works will be featured in the Parade Committee's Annual Souvenir Journal. Excerpts may also be published on promotional materials for the Parade. The three Archdiocesan winners will be awarded prizes in the following amounts:

- First place: \$1,000;
- Second place: \$500; and
- Third place: \$250.

Grand Marshal Michael D. Byrne and Deputy Grand Marshal Eileen McGinley Hannaford, will present the three Archdiocesan winners of the contest with their awards at the Reviewing Stand Ceremonies on Parade Day: Friday afternoon, March 13, 2020.

The Committee requests that one teacher or administrator from each school be responsible for submitting the work of each school's finalists by Friday, March 4, 2020 to NewarkParade@gmail.com. **Essays should be submitted as .doc or .docx attachments and be approximately 750 words in length, (no fewer than 650 and no more than 850).** Please include with each entry a cover sheet and submit the essay typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced. The file name of each entry should list the name of the student, the name of his school, and the school phone number, as in the example below:

McGuire, Kathleen T. – St. Patrick's Academy – (085) 313-2020

Kindly direct questions concerning the art contest to Samantha Darnesto with the Committee at (973) 746-3280 or NewarkParade@gmail.com.

The essay contest prompt follows.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY ESSAY CONTEST
Grades 9 through 12 – Prompt

The Irish people honor Saint Patrick, the Glorious Apostle of Ireland, as their patron Saint, for it was Patrick who left his homeland and came to Ireland to liberate the Irish from druid kings and from the darkness of life devoid of the light of Christ.

Saint Patrick's ministry in Ireland lasted nearly thirty years: preaching the Gospel and teaching the great body of knowledge that had developed for centuries on the mainland of Europe. And he did so by the only means available to him – the spoken word and the written word – (though in the 5th century, it was a chore to produce a written text in ink and paper). But, God had a plan for him and helped Patrick achieve his calling to win so many for Christ.

Thus, the theme for the 2020 contests is “The Importance of Community Service” – a fitting subject, since the Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal are Irish-Americans who have given significant time to non-profit organizations in their communities:

+ Grand Marshal Michael D. Byrne has been a part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc. for decades and served as its General Chairman for nine years.

+ Deputy Grand Marshal Eileen McGinley Hannaford founded the Kevin J. Hannaford Sr. Foundation in 2004 and has served as its President and Executive Director since then.

These honorees provide an opportunity to reflect on the importance of “The Importance of Community Service” – in school, work, family life, spiritual life, or – perhaps – other facets of life.

Objective—

Read St. Patrick's *Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus* - http://www.confessio.ie/etexts/epistola_english# - in which he strongly denounces the killing and enslavement of newly-baptized Irish Catholics by supposedly-Christian soldiers of the Welsh chieftain, Coroticus. Then, reflect on Saint Patrick's life as a slave taken from his home, his escape back to his community, and his voluntary return to the land of his captors. (More on the life of Patrick can be found in Butler's *Lives of the Saints*: <http://tinyurl.com/747o84u>). Consider how Saint Patrick's ministry to the Irish people can inform us in our lives and in our commitments to our family, friends, and community. To what extent should we be willing to dedicate ourselves to each other – either directly or through the medium of community based organizations? Cite a current situation in which you have observed or demonstrated yourself the importance of community service through the giving of time, talent or treasure and any challenges posed in the circumstances you cite.

Essays should be approximately 750 words in length, (no fewer than 650 and no more than 850). Please type in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-space your essay. Please include your name, school name, school mailing address, and school phone number with your entry on a cover sheet.

Essays will be judged on the bases of originality, in-depth thought, and clarity of expression.