



St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc.

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – ORGANIZED 1936

82ND ANNIVERSARY PARADE – FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 17, 2017

AR SON DE, NAOMH PADRAIG AGUS TIR

Michael D. Byrne
General Chairman
142 Gordonhurst Avenue
Upper Montclair, NJ 07043
Phone: (973) 746-3280
Facsimile: (973) 746-3285
NewarkParade@gmail.com

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February 22, 2017

Dear Friend,

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc. is pleased to announce the 7th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Art and Essay Contests for students of the schools of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Enclosed, you'll find the materials your students need to participate in the 2017 Contests. Students in elementary schools are invited to participate in the art contest while high school students may participate in the essay contest – both on the life of Saint Patrick.

Through the contests, the Parade Committee and it's 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.

The theme for the 2017 contests is "Camaraderie" – a fitting subject, since the 2017 Grand Marshal and 2017 Deputy Grand Marshal are Irish-Americans who represent Catholic high schools known for the fraternity and sisterhood they promote:

- Grand Marshal Rev. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B., is Headmaster of *St. Benedict's Prep* where the motto is, "Whatever hurts my brother, hurts me & Whatever helps my brother, helps me."
- Deputy Grand Marshal Elizabeth "Betty" Sheehan Teevan is an alumna and supporter of *Saint Vincent Academy* where the motto is, "Classmate by Chance, Sister by Choice."

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 at the *Newark Public Library*, and the Parade itself.

We hope to see you on Friday, March 17th at the Saint Patrick's Day Parade!

Very truly yours,

Michael D. Byrne
General Chairman

Karen Lonergan
Student Contests Chairwoman

Grand Marshal
Rev. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B.
Headmaster, St. Benedict's Prep

Deputy Grand Marshal
Elizabeth "Betty" Sheehan Teevan
Alumna, Saint Vincent Academy

Dedicated to
Robert H. and †Marguerite Quinn Largey

New Jersey's First and Finest Saint Patrick's Day Parade: On the Streets of Newark for 82 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 82 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 have the opportunity to lead their school's contingent in the 2017 Newark Parade. They will also be recognized at the Ceremonial Reviewing Stand where they will be presented with certificates and their works will be featured on the Parade website.

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 and excerpts may 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 Rev. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. and Deputy Grand Marshal Elizabeth "Betty" Sheehan Teevan, will present the three Archdiocesan winners of the contest with their awards at the Reviewing Stand Ceremonies on Parade Day: Friday afternoon, March 17, 2017.

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 10, 2017 to NewarkParade@gmail.com. **Essays should be submitted as .doc or .docx attachments.** Please include with each entry a cover sheet and submit the essay typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, single-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 – (082) 317-2017

Kindly direct questions concerning the essay contest to Karen Lonergan at (973) 517-2323 or NewarkParade@gmail.com.

The essay contest prompt follows.

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

The Irish people honor St. 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 the darkness of life devoid of the light of Christ.

St. 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. Yet, before all of this, Patrick was first brought to Ireland in his youth as a slave. He later wrote of his loneliness and dependence on God for strength during his imprisonment. But, God had a plan for him, allowed Patrick the gift of God's comforting presence, and helped him conquer his despair and achieve his calling to win so many for Christ.

Thus, the theme for the 2017 contests is "Camaraderie" – a fitting subject, since the 2017 Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal are Irish-Americans who represent Catholic high schools known for the fraternity and sisterhood they promote:

+ Grand Marshal Rev. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B., is Headmaster of St. Benedict's Prep where the motto is, "Whatever hurts my brother, hurts me & Whatever helps my brother, helps me."

+ Deputy Grand Marshal Elizabeth "Betty" Sheehan Teevan is an alumna and supporter of Saint Vincent Academy where the motto is, "Classmate by Chance, Sister by Choice."

These honorees provide an opportunity to reflect on the importance of Camaraderie – in school, in work, in family life, in the spiritual life, and – perhaps – in other facets of life, too.

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 St. Patrick's life as a slave and later a liberator and write an essay addressing the importance of camaraderie in the life of a Christian. (More on the life of St. Patrick can be found in Butler's *Lives of the Saints*: <http://tinyurl.com/747o84u>). Consider the way in which St. Patrick suffered loneliness, was comforted by God's presence, and returned to shepherd the Irish people. Finally, cite and compare a parallel struggle in modern times – or in your own life – for which camaraderie, fraternity or sisterhood was essential. Was the outcome successful? Or, if the challenge is on-going, what lessons can be gleaned from the life of St. Patrick?

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 single-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.