



St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Inc.

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – ORGANIZED 1936

84TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE – FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 15, 2019

AR SON DE, NAOMH PADRAIG AGUS TIR

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February 25, 2019

Dear Friend,

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

Enclosed, you will find the materials students need to participate in the 2019 Contests. Students in elementary schools are invited to participate in an art contest while high school students are invited to participate in an essay contest.

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.

The theme for the 2019 contests is "Commitment to Community" – a fitting subject, since the Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal are Irish-Americans who were born and raised in Newark and have exhibited a lifelong commitment to the City:

- Grand Marshal Sean O'Neill was born in the Ironbound section of Newark, raised in St. Benedict's Parish, twice elected President of the *Ironbound Irish American Association*, and is now the Chief Engineer at the Panasonic Building.
- Deputy Grand Marshal Kathleen M. Conlon was born at St. Michael's Hospital, raised in Vailsburg's Sacred Heart Parish, and began her career at then-College Hospital in Newark. She now works closely with New Jersey fire services, especially the busy Newark firefighters, to advocate for their safety.

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.

We hope to see you on Friday, March 15th at the Saint Patrick's Day Parade!

Very truly yours,

Michael D. Byrne
General Chairman

Karen M. Lonergan
Student Contests Chairwoman

Grand Marshal
Sean O'Neill, SMA, SMT
Chief Engineer, SJPPROPERTIES

Deputy Grand Marshal
Kathleen M. Conlon, BSN, RN, CEM, MSHS
*Director, Burn Community & Disaster Programs
The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas*

Dedicated to
†Thomas J. Gartland

New Jersey's First and Finest Saint Patrick's Day Parade: On the Streets of Newark for 84 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 84 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 2019 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 Sean O'Neill and Deputy Grand Marshal Kathleen M. Conlon, will present the three Archdiocesan winners of the contest with their awards at the Reviewing Stand Ceremonies on Parade Day: Friday afternoon, March 15, 2019.

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 8, 2019 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 – (084) 315-2019

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 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 2019 contests is “Commitment to Community” – a fitting subject, since the 2019 Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal are Irish-Americans who were born and raised in Newark and have exhibited a lifelong commitment to the City:

+ Grand Marshal Sean O'Neill was born in the Ironbound section of Newark, raised in St. Benedict's Parish, twice elected President of the Ironbound Irish American Association, and is now the Chief Engineer at the Panasonic Building.

+ Deputy Grand Marshal Kathleen M. Conlon was born at St. Michael's Hospital, raised in Vailsburg's Sacred Heart Parish, and began her career at then-College Hospital in Newark. She now works closely with New Jersey fire services, especially the busy Newark firefighters, to advocate for their safety.

These honorees provide an opportunity to reflect on the importance of “Commitment to Community” – 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 whether Saint Patrick's true allegiance should have been to his natural home or to the home he chose. Was he wrong to leave his family, friends, and community a second time? Should he have chosen to serve the people of Ireland rather than those who knew him, loved him, and raised him? Cite a current situation – even in your own life – in which you have observed or demonstrated yourself a commitment to a community and any challenges it posed.

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.