

Ancient Order of Hibernians



**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

The Dooley Dispatch

March 2025

Celebrating 46 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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All phone numbers are area

Next Meeting – Tuesday March 11, 2025 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message: President's Message:

Dear Brothers,

Note: We will have a guest speaker, Ann Campbell, Executive Director of the East End Pregnancy Center will give a short presentation at our March 11th meeting starting at 6:45 PM. Please arrive around 6:30 so we can show our continued strong support for the work done by her group.

It is Irish American Heritage Month and we should be loud and proud of our heritage, culture, and the great things we do in our community. We have a busy month so plan on being visible. LAOH Irish Gala on the 8th – the support us and we support them. The Church Hill Irish Festival on the 15th and 16th followed by a St. Patrick's Day mass at 9:00 AM on Monday, March 17, 2025 at St. Patrick's Church. After Mass there will be breakfast in the church hall followed by side trips by AOH Brothers to spread the good news of St. Patrick.

Friendship and Unity – Reach out to our brothers. There are many brothers who would like more interaction and may not be able to get out and about as they once could. If you think or a brother drop them and email, text, or call them to check in on them and enjoy their company.

Christian Charity – Give of yourself to others. The Church Hill Irish Festival will include the selection of the winning raffle ticket on the 16th at 5:00 PM. Try to sell your remaining tickets and create more funds for us to spread charity to organizations that share our Catholic beliefs.

If you have unsold tickets, please bring them to the March 11, 2025 meeting so we can have all available tickets to sell at the Church Hill Irish Festival.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Mike Valacer

Upcoming Events:

March 8, 2025, Saturday; Doors open at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm. LAOH Irish Gala at St. Michael's Catholic Church (Food, Drink, Donnybrooks). [Mary Ryan Division \(laohmaryryandivision.com\)](http://Mary_Ryan_Division_(laohmaryryandivision.com)) Contact is Terry Duke - teresa.duke@verizon.net

March 14, 15 and 16, 2025 – 39th Church Hill Irish Festival - Street Festival in front of St. Patrick's Church on North 25th Street and on Broad Street and will run from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers needed for Festival set-up, Festival Gate (8-7; 8-6), selling Raffle tickets & recruiting new members at Booth.

March 14th, Friday – happy hour, local get together

March 15th, Saturday - St. Patrick's Day Parade at 10 am – <http://www.churchhillirishfestival.com/>

March 16th, Sunday - recruit & sell Dooley Raffle tickets– Annual Raffle Drawing at the end of day. (5:00 pm)

March 17, 2025, Monday - St. Patrick's Day Mass at 9 am – Mass at St. Patrick's Church, 213 North 25th Street, Richmond, VA 23223; JP Carroll Memorial Breakfast to follow; Rosie Connolly's, Rare Olde Times.

March 22, 2025, Saturday – Irish Night at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 6:30 pm – Irish Food, Beverage and Entertainment; Big Dan Caffrey.

April 25-28, 2025 (Fri-Mon) – Golf Trip to Myrtle Beach – Big Dan Caffrey

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For March 11, 2025 Meeting

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or jarsenault@stelizcc.org

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Vince Eikmeier** – surgery on April 30 to remove a small tumor from his right kidney. Stage 1.
- **PJ George Jr** – Passed on December 1. Services were held Friday, December 13 at St Anthony's
- **Karen Nugent** – mother of Scott, passed away over the weekend.
- **Joanne Antenino** – myeloma. Dave Woychik.
- **Courtney McGowan - Pat McGowan's sister-in-law** – breast cancer surgery, had double mastectomy. Had another surgery in December of 2024. Surgery went well. Appreciate the prayers.

- **Carolyn Meranda (Aunt of Pat McGowan)** – died before Christmas.
- **Marty Schofield** – Mike Smith's uncle in MA. Growth on pituitary gland.
- **Qin Costello** – Matt's daughter-in-law, blood disease, doing ok now.
- **Bowen Burton** – surgery on 1/16 – by Brian Baker.
- **Brian Kiernan** - in rehab after foot surgery.

From Prior Meetings:

- **Oscar Nauman** – recovering from car accident; facial reconstruction surgery.
- **Marty McAuliff** – cancer; brother-in-law of Brian Kiernan.
- **Taylor Ribar** – daughter of Marty; brain cancer surgery; Brian Kiernan.
- **Alesia** – Jim Whelen's wife – back surgery.
- **Stokes McCune** – update - went to the hospital recently, TIA – mini-stroke, should have been released on Monday. Had Brain surgery, heart issues, lung issues. Stage 4 cancer.
- **Scott Nugent** – Finished initial treatment for his brain tumor. Ongoing treatment now
- **Pat Naughton** – Diagnosed with glioblastoma
- **Ruth McMurtray** – Grandmother of *Colin McMurtray* - has back pain
- **Mark Ambrozy** – Friend of *Tom Nolan* – has cancer
- **Karen Lucas** – sister of **Chad Costello** – breast cancer, Stage 1.
- **Debbie Brokaw** – Wife of *Matt Brokaw* – diagnosed with colon cancer and starting chemo
- **Sean O'Grady** – AOH brother, bone marrow cancer and wife who was in a recent car accident.
- **Theresa** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Diagnosed with cancerous lesion on her face. In recovery from surgery
- **Barbara O'Connor** – Wife of *Charley O'Connor* – has Multiple System Atrophy. In VCU at home hospice program
- **John Hegarty** – cousin of *Brian Hegarty* – Diagnosed with cancer. In chemo.
- **Debra Fitzgerald** – Wife of Past President *Jim Fitzgerald* – Had a bad fall and recovering.
- **Tom Murphy** – low oxygen levels
- **Jim Donohue** – Meniere's disease
- **Molly Nugent** – Daughter of Scott Nugent – Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Ongoing treatment.
- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September
- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jim Calpin** – Recovering from stroke

- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings'* mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

St. Patrick ~ A Quick Refresher for the novice Irishman

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the good news to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north—where the faith had never been preached—obtained the protection of local kings, and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission. In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe.

Patrick was a man of action, with little inclination toward learning. He had a rock-like belief in his vocation, in the cause he had espoused. One of the few certainly authentic writings is his *Confessio*, above all an act of homage to God for having called Patrick, unworthy sinner, to the apostolate.

There is hope rather than irony in the fact that his burial place is said to be in County Down in Northern Ireland, long the scene of strife and violence.

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