

# saint patrick



The coming of Patrick to Ireland marks the greatest of Irish epochs. Of all the most momentous happenings in Irish history, this seemingly simple one had the most extraordinary, most far-reaching effect. It changed the face of the nation, and utterly changed the nation's destiny. The coming of Patrick may be said to have had sublime effect, not on Ireland alone, but upon the world. It was a world event.

Patrick first came to Ireland - as a captive - around the year 389. And be it noted, that the Irish land which he had entered as a foreigner, he left as an Irishman. For, as he was destined to give a new faith and a new soul to Ireland, Ireland had given a new faith and a new soul to him. In his seven years of slavery, the Irish tongue had become his tongue, and his spirit was the Irish Spirit.

It was 43 years later he returned to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity. He brought the written word to Ireland, and began Ireland's recorded history and the preserving of centuries of Gaelic culture.

Saint Patrick began a monastic movement that made Ireland the center of learning in Europe. One of his famous works, his Epistle to Coroticus, a British prince, is preserved in the ancient Book of Armagh. In this intense document, Patrick first gave utterance to that cry against oppression which the agonizing heart of Ireland has echoed every year for the past 800 years. The man in whose honor we march today died March 17th, around the year 465 A.D. His remains were buried in County Down.



# Céad míle fáilte!

Welcome to the 46th Mid Hudson Saint Patrick's Parade on its return to the Village of Goshen, the Hub of Orange County, NY. We are thankful to Mayor Scott Wohl and Deputy Mayor Molly O'Donnell for their seamless transition back to Goshen to host our parade.

This year we are honored to have Thomas J. McCarthy as our Grand Marshal for our parade being held on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Tom has been a resident of South Blooming Grove where he and his wife Pat domiciled since 1965. Being in the telecommunications industry, Tom was always on the cutting edge of technology; first working for NJ Bell and then for various companies, owned and/or operated until 2006. It was his innate Irishness that allowed him to climb utility poles until he was 71 years of age! Tom was a founding member of the South Blooming Grove Fire Dept, which saw its advent in 1976, thus its moniker Independence Fire Dept was born. This is just an example of Tom as an innovator and explorer.

Tom is extremely proud of the honor of Grand Marshal being bestowed upon him and the Parade Committee is gratified to have Tom to lead us through the streets of Goshen.

The Parade Committee is also to be commended for their indefatigable work, through the many hours of meetings held throughout the year, the Installation of the Grand Marshal and Aides, the Kick off to the Parade, to ultimately our parade day! The mass, the breakfast, the parade and the fellowship are beyond compare. It is because of you, The Mid Hudson St Patrick's Parade Committee that emblazon "Keep the Tradition Alive in Orange County, NY!"

Thank you to all the marchers who come out and make our parade such an awesome event. We would also like to thank all of our sponsors in the parade journal. We encourage all marchers to patronize the sponsors of the parade journal as they are our life blood. Please show your appreciation!!

Kevin M. Strommer  
President  
The Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade Committee





# Meet Our 2023 Grand Marshal Thomas J. McCarthy



Thomas Joseph McCarthy was born on Good Friday, April 19, 1935 to Helen V McCarthy (nee McCaffrey) and John J McCarthy at Poly Clinic on West 49th Street in Manhattan. His mother was orphaned at 5 years of age and was adopted along with her two sisters by another John J McCarthy – no relation - (John Justin) a native of County Kerry. John Justin was a saloon keeper who turned to the hospitality industry during prohibition. They lived in various apartments in Washington Heights and Inwood before moving to Fall River, MA in 1945 and then to Dumont, NJ in 1949.

Tom's paternal grandfather, John Joseph McCarthy, was born in Cork and served in the British Royal Navy from when he was 16 years old until he deserted His Royal Majesty's service in South Africa at the turn of the 20th century. He made his way to the US on a merchant vessel and became a merchant seaman, rising to the rank of captain and was also the president of the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots. When the US entered World War II, his grandfather, at the age of 59, enlisted in the US Navy as a Lieutenant Commander and Captain of the Liberty Class Ship, the SS James Kerney. He valiantly served his adopted country delivering war supplies to the Allies. He died at sea in 1944.

Tom attended grammar school at Good Shepherd in Inwood and then St. Joseph's school in Falls River. He graduated from Dumont High School, joining the NJ National Guard (50th Armored Division) during his Junior year and served for eight years until 1960. After graduation, Tom began working for NJ Bell, where he worked for 15 years, leaving during the deregulation of the phone industry.

After leaving NJ Bell, Tom had a varied career in the telecommunications industry, with management roles at companies such as Philips, American Satellite and MCI. He also founded his own communications company, Atlantic Communications, which he operated until he retired at 71 years of age in 2006.

In 1956, Tom married the love of his life, Patricia Haug, granddaughter of James McAvoy of County Kerry. After living 9 years in New Milford and Bergenfield, they moved to Monroe where they raised four daughters; Claire, Kathy, Karyn, and Kristin,

all of whom are graduates of the Washingtonville School District. Tom and Pat have five grandchildren (Dana, Erin, Helen, Thomas and Shaye) and four great grandchildren (Lawson, Graham, Desmond and Riley).

Tom has had a lifelong passion for public service and has been involved in various civic projects throughout the years. Following a devastating house fire in our community, Tom, along with a group of other concerned citizens, founded the South Blooming Grove Fire Association to address the lack of fire protection services in the community. This resulted in the creation of the Independence Fire Company in Blooming Grove, inaugurated on July 4th, 1976, of which he was a charter member. His daughter, Kathy, later served for many years as the treasurer of the fire district.

Tom was also an early member of the Sacred Heart Outreach Program of Monroe serving as the transportation and logistics coordinator for Our Father's Kitchen and the Sonshine Boutique. One of his proudest accomplishments was coordinating and providing transportation for a critically ill parishioner to receive his life saving dialysis treatments three times a week over a period of 18 months. When Sacred Heart's various transportation programs ended, Tom joined his wife, Pat, at the Sonshine Boutique where she had been a stalwart for many years.

Since he had long admired the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the positivework the AOH does in the community, Tom was honored to join and become an active member of the organization upon his work retirement. Shortly after joining ,he became the Marshall of Joseph Duellk, Division 1 and quickly then assumed responsibility for running the bus from Monroe to NYC for the St Patrick's Day parade. He has served as Marshall for several years until running for Treasurer, a position he has held for over 10 years. Tom is also a trustee of the JDJ Corporation, the Marshall for the AOH County Board and Chairman of Catholic Action.

One of Tom's deepest held convictions is that no child in the US should go to bed hungry. For this reason, when Marty Hogan needed to step down from running the food bank, he immediately volunteered to take this on. In the four years that he has been running the food bank, Tom has ensured that Sacred Heart Outreach, First Presbyterian Food Bank of Monroe and Country Kids Food Bank of Washingtonville have received monthly donations from Division 1, enabling them to continue providing much needed resources to those suffering from food insecurity.

Tom's pride in his Irish heritage led him to accept an appointment to the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade Committee, which he has served on for the past nine years. He loves marching with his friends and peers in the Mid-Hudson Parade, the New York City Parade and anywhere else the AOH is asked to participate. It is a true highlight of the year for him as it enables him to continuously reconnect with his family's Irish roots.

Tom is also a prodigious blood donor, donating over 100 pints of blood to the New York Blood Bank. With his doctor's permission, Tom is still donating today; twelve years past the recommended upper age limit.

It has been his privilege to be a member of the AOH Division 1 and Tom is humbled and grateful to Division 1 for considering nominating him for this great honor.



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL  
1011 FIRST AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10022

March 1, 2023  
Season of Lent  
Month of Saint Joseph

Dear Friends in the Lord,

It is a joy to greet you today as you gather for the *46<sup>th</sup> Mid-Hudson Saint Patrick's Parade!*

The Saint Patrick's Day Parade offers us the blessed opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate the best of Irish heritage and values: love of family, good humor, strong values, and, above all, faith. Since coming to the shores of our beloved nation, Irish and Irish-Americans have made significant accomplishments that have greatly added to all areas of life, reminding all of us of the great role that immigrants play in our country. How grateful we are to the Lord for the talents, energy, and fortitude He has given to the Irish. Let us celebrate Irish culture today!

Permit me to offer a special word of congratulations to the Grand Marshal of this year's Parade, Thomas J. McCarthy.

Please know that all of you will have a special remembrance in my prayers today.

Faithfully in Christ,

†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York

TMD:mb



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Nua-Eabhrac  
Consulate General of Ireland | New York

A Chairde Gael,

It gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings and best wishes to everyone involved in the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade, as you gather to celebrate your 46<sup>th</sup> annual parade.

This is a time of year when all of us of Irish heritage, wherever we may be, unite in celebration of our shared heritage and culture. We also remember, in particular, the people who left Ireland over the years but who have made, and continue to make, a special contribution to both their native and their adopted countries. Remembering the efforts of the earlier generations of Irish people is particularly relevant in the United States of America.

It is my privilege to recognize and congratulate this year's Grand Marshal, Thomas J. McCarthy. Thomas has gone above and beyond in his service to others, especially during his time with the New Jersey National Guard and founding the South Blooming Grove Fire Association and subsequent Independence Fire Company in Blooming Grove. In addition, Thomas has made important contributions to the Irish-American community in New York through his efforts as a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and through the Sacred Heart Outreach Program of Monroe. Thomas' selflessness and dedication to assisting others throughout the community is admirable, and is a wonderful reflection on the Mid-Hudson Irish-American community.

Finally, I would like to thank each of the Irish community organizations involved in the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade for their work to ensure that the very special connections with Ireland are maintained and celebrated each year. It is wonderful that so many groups promoting Irish heritage, culture and sport are working closely together to honour Ireland and the Irish people. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Guím gach rath agus beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig ar gach duine agaibh an bhliain seo agus gach bliain amach romhainn.

Sincerely,

Helena Nolan  
Consul General

# “THE PRIDE OF OUR PEOPLE”

## A HISTORY OF THE MID-HUDSON ST. PATRICK'S PARADE COMMITTEE, INC.

### *Some Background on the Parade*

Starting in 1976, the first Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade was held in Middletown, under the sponsorship of the Middletown Irish - American Society. In 1979, other area Irish clubs including the Middletown Irish - American Society gathered and began the Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's Parade Committee. The purpose of this committee is to honor the patron saint of Ireland, as well as the Archdiocese of New York, in which Orange County is located. Patrick's mission to the Emerald Isle forever influenced its history. The parade provides a focus for the celebration of a heritage of a dynamic people and its contributions to humankind.

The Parade Committee also presents Mid-Hudson Irish day every year. Irish Day brings together many things Irish, including music, dance, song, Irish history and traditions.

Starting in 1976, the parade took place in Middletown. Then it moved to Monroe for two years before going to Greenwood Lake, then Goshen for two years, then back to Monroe again for two years. From 1987 through 1993, the parade took place in Chester. The parade then returned to Monroe for two years, followed by two years in Montgomery, two years in Cornwall, two years in Middletown, and one in Highland Falls, and 18 years in Goshen. An objective of the founders was to share the parade with communities around the Mid-Hudson by moving its location, and that objective has been realized.



*In Loving Memory  
of the deceased members  
of the  
Mid-Hudson St. Patrick's  
Parade Committee  
1976-2023*

