

**THE TOLEDO HIBERNIAN
NEWSLETTER
C/O MAURY COLLINS
2847 NASH ROAD
TOLEDO, OHIO 43613**



IN GOD, WE TRUST



**December 2 ~ Hibernian Christmas Party
December 6 ~ St. Nicholas Day
December 8 ~ Feast of Immaculate Conception
December 21~ Winter Solstice
December 25 ~ Merry Christmas
January 1 ~ Happy New Year**

**Nollaig Shona Duit ~ Happy Christmas!!!!
Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Duit ~ You have a prosperous New**



HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER



Mother McAuley Division

DECEMBER, 2023

John P. Kelly Division

Annual Hibernian Christmas Party

December 2nd at 6:30 PM

Knights of Columbus Columbian Hall

4256 Secor Road

Potluck dinner ~ Bring your favorite dish to pass

Meat and refreshments will be provided

Please call or text your RSVP to Ann Dollman

419-385-6445 or E-mail; anndollman@yahoo.com

A wonderful Toledo Irish tradition.

Please honor us with your presence.



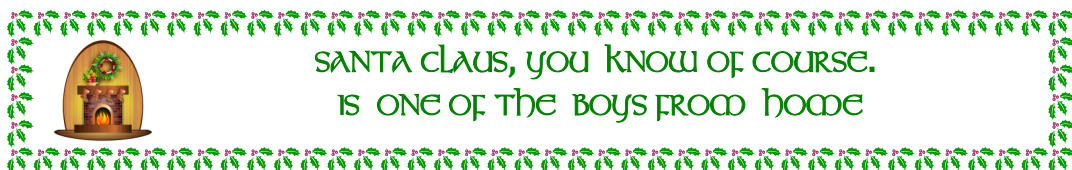
*Solemnity
of the
Immaculate
Conception
December 8*

The Immaculate Conception refers to the dogma that the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without any stain of Original Sin in preparation for becoming the Mother of God, the Son Jesus Christ. Before the creation of the world, God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced to her that she was "full of grace" (Luke 1:29)—or God's "favored one," as in some Scripture translations—indicating her unique worthiness to conceive the Son of God; she "was enriched by God with the gifts which befit such a role". From the very beginning the Church has believed not only that the

Blessed Virgin Mary was a virgin but also that she was not conceived with any stain of Original Sin into which everyone is conceived after the sin of Adam and Eve. This unique privilege enabled her to fulfill perfectly her unique mission as the Mother of God. God the Father blessed the Mother of his Son more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places [and chose her] in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love"

DECEMBER, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Christmas Party</i> 
3	4	5	6 	7	8 <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 	22	23
24 	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 	1 Happy New Year!					





A MESSAGE FROM LAOH PRESIDENT, ANN DOLLMAN

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May the Christmas season bring joy and happiness to you and your family! Prayers for Sarah Frost and her family. Get well prayers for all those who are having surgeries or who are recovering from illnesses. God bless Everyone and looking forward to a prosperous 2024.



A MESSAGE FROM AOH PRESIDENT , ROBERT MCMAHON

Just a reminder for everyone. The Hibernian Christmas party and dinner is Saturday night. December 2nd at 6:30 PM. At the Knights of Columbus Hall on Secor road. I believe we will also have a little bit of music after eating open to everyone. Everyone is invited. Please bring a friend. There is no cost to the dinner. Just please come if you are able for some holiday cheer



A MESSAGE FROM THE CRAZY EDITOR, MAURY COLLINS

Some Christmas memories from my childhood days.

(Thanks to Chip Rogers for the idea)

On Christmas Eve, my Father would visit all the relatives and close friends to wish them a Merry Christmas. I remember Aunts and Uncles saying how much they looked forward to his annual Christmas Eve visit.

My Father would wait until the last few days before Christmas to buy the Christmas tree, figuring that he would get a better deal. One Christmas he came home with such an awful tree, my Mother made him go back out to get a better tree.

On Christmas Day at old St. Ann's Church, Monsignor Sprenger and Father Don Mohr would take turns saying multiple Masses. They would finish a Mass, walk down the steps from the altar, bow and walk up the steps to start another Mass. I was the only one from the family who got the honor of attending three Masses on Christmas Day with my Father. My Father was a tall man (I know what happened to me? My Mother was 4'11") Anyway, we always walk to the Church. I remember that I had to just about run to keep up with him. He would walk along wishing everyone we encountered a Merry Christmas. I was so proud to be with him, I didn't mind the three Masses. (much)

My Father brought a Sacred Heart picture back from our trip to Ireland together in 1954. It was his first trip back since he came here in 1928. The picture took a prominent place in the living room, as was the case in most homes in Ireland. He bought a small lamp with a red light under the picture. We didn't have many red Christmas lights on our tree, because they were saved for the picture. My Father never liked getting Christmas presents. He used to say; "This is a bunch of hooey" One year the Drug store, I worked at, received a shipment of boxes of 24 replacement Christmas light bulbs. One box came in with nothing but red light bulbs. I wrapped it up real nice and gave it to my Father. I practically had to beg him to open it. When the wrapping came off and he saw what it was, he grinned from ear to ear. I'll never forget that.

My Mother, as I said was only 4'11" Friends used to marvel that she could keep our large 4 bedroom house going. Christmas dinner was always a feast fit for royalty. After dinner we would call her family in Wales. (Our family in Ireland didn't have phones until the 1960s) She would always announce when they answered the phone; "America calling" letting them know that this was an expensive call, so hurry a get everyone to the phone.

One year, I received a wagon for Christmas. I was pulling it around the living room. I accidentally ran into the Christmas tree. I caught it before there was any damage but, the clothes line came out to tie the tree to the wall right away, much to my embarrassment.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!!!!!!!

Thanks for the many prayers and sympathy regarding the death of my son in law, Mike Frost. Please keep my daughter, Sarah, and my grandchildren in your prayers. Love you Mike. Rest in peace.

2023 TOLEDO HOLLIDAY PARADE



Christmas arrives in Dublin as Grafton Street's festive lights are switched on

IrishCentral Staff@IrishCentral Nov 17, 2023



Hundreds of people gathered outside the historic Bewley's Café on Thursday night to join in the countdown as children with the Little Blue Heroes non-profit switched on the lights to illuminate Dublin's shopping street for the festive season. The Grafton Street display includes 15 large chandelier crossovers stretching the full half-kilometer of the street and is the first of 25 Christmas lights displays to be switched on in the capital.

Traders group Dublin Town, which has been decorating Dublin at Christmas for the last 15 years, has erected Christmas lights on a total of 25 streets in the capital for the holiday season in 2023, with all displays set to be switched on in the coming days. All Christmas lights are energy-efficient and will light up the streets of Dublin until January.

Richard Guiney, CEO of Dublin Town, said Thursday's event marked the beginning of Christmas for many people in Dublin. "What Dublin does well is Christmas," Guiney told the Irish Independent. "This marks the beginning of Christmas for a lot of people. It is also a really important time for traders. I think it's going to be very busy for restaurants and shops." Guiney said up to 13 million people are expected to visit Dublin over the Christmas period. He added that the Christmas lights were erected by a team of 30 people who worked through the night over the course of four weeks to put up the lights on 25 different streets.

Willow Mae Carroll, 7, and Cian Byrne, 10, of the Little Blue Heroes charity were on hand to switch on the lights on Thursday. The charity is voluntarily led by Garda members, retired Garda members, and members of the community and supports the families of children with serious illnesses.

Founded in 2017, the charity has also been empowering the lives of young people through positive community engagement. Willow Mae Carroll, who was born with cerebral palsy, enjoyed the "amazing" experience of turning on the lights, according to her mother. "Coming to Bewley's and turning the light is something every child wants to do. And for Willow to be able to do it this year is just amazing," Tracy Carroll

SMILE AND BE HAPPY

An elderly couple is sitting together watching television. During one of 'those' commercials, the husband asked his wife, "Whatever happened to our sexual relations?" After a long thoughtful silence (and during the next commercial), the wife replied, "You know, I don't know. I don't even think we got a Christmas card from them this year."

One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, "It's going to rain." His wife asked, "How do you know?" "Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."

I note a certain irony as we celebrate the birth of Christ and I take his name in vain 67 times putting up Christmas lights.

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas Eve

A boy wanted to be Joseph in the Sunday School pageant. He was cast as the landlord and objected loudly, but to no avail. When the pageant was presented, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door and asked him if he had a room for them. The boy smiled and said, "Yes, sure. Lots of room. Come on in!"

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

As grandma was getting ready to leave the house on Christmas Eve, Olivia looked at her with concern. "Make sure to be really careful on your way home. Santa is delivering presents." Her grandmother smiled at her. "I don't think I have to worry about Santa." Olivia looked at her incredulously, jaw on the floor, "Haven't you heard? He's already ran one grandmother over!"

A boy begs his father to get him a Christmas tree and the father tells him, "I don't want to pay for it." But the son kept begging. Unable to bear his son's whining, he picks up his axe one day and heads out of the house. Thirty minutes later he returns with a great big Christmas tree. "How did you cut it down so fast?" his son asks. "I didn't cut it down," the father replies. "I got it at a tree lot." "Then why did you bring an axe?" "Because I didn't want to pay."

Paddy was having engine trouble with his car and took it to the local repair shop. The mechanic had a look, tinkered about, and when he had finished he said, "All done. It's running like a dream now." Paddy clapped his hands and said, "Great stuff, will it be okay now??" The mechanic looked at him and said.. "Yes...just shit in the carburetor!!" "Oh" said Paddy, "How often will I have to do that?"

Two hunters went moose hunting every winter without success. Finally, they came up with a fool-proof plan. They got a very authentic cow moose costume and learned the mating call of a cow moose. The plan was to hide in the costume, lure the bull, then come out of the costume and shoot the bull. They set themselves up on the edge of a clearing, donned their costume, and began to give the moose love call. Before long, their call was answered as a bull came crashing out of the forest and into the clearing. When the bull was close enough, the guy in front said, "Okay, lets get out and get him." After a moment that seemed like an eternity, the guy in the back shouted, "The zipper is stuck! What are we going to do!?" The guy in the front says, "Well, I'm going to start nibbling grass, but you'd better brace yourself!"



**November 11th at National LAOH President, Marilyn Madigan's testimonial dinner.
Hampton Inn North Olmsted, Ohio**



Left to right: Kathleen Savage of Massachusetts, the first recipient of the Countess deMarkievicz Award, National LAOH Vice President, Mary Ann Lubinsky and National LAOH President Marilyn Madigan



Irish Ambassador to the US, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason,
who spoke at Marilyn Madigan's testimonial dinner.



MAY YOUR HEARTH BE WARMED
 YOUR HOLIDAYS GRAND
 AND YOUR HEART HELD GENTLY
 IN THE GOOD LORD'S HAND
 Nollaig Shona duit

A Traditional Irish Christmas



Anyone interested in folk and traditional music will also be glad to know that December is a brilliant time to be in Ireland. Fairy lights, crackling fires and creamy pints are perfect scene-setters for an evening of music in a traditional Irish pub

The Winter Warmer: According to Esquire magazine, "There are few drinks as instantly delightful as hot Irish whiskey punch". Made with whiskey, lemon, cloves and a touch of brown sugar (if you need it), it warms you up from the inside out. Traditionally, the hot whiskey is consumed through the coldest months of the year. And there's nothing like the scent of cloves to get you in the Christmas spirit.

Spiced beef: This is the ultimate Christmas dish in Ireland, and one that the people of Cork hold particularly close to their hearts. Spiced beef, cooked with sugar, spices and berries, dates back centuries to a time when it was a way of preserving the meat. Today, the tradition continues and claims its place on a dinner table at houses all over the island at Christmas time.

Hanging the holly: The Christmas tradition of hanging a ring of holly on the door is thought to have originated in Ireland, as it was a plant that was abundant on the island in December. These days, it's customary for everyone to hang a ring on their door.

The Candle in the Window The placing of a lighted candle in the window of a house on Christmas eve is still practiced today. It has a number of purposes but primarily it was an symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they traveled looking for shelter. The candle also indicated a safe place for priests to perform mass as, during Penal Times this was not allowed. A further element of the tradition is that the candle should be lit by the youngest member of the household and only be extinguished by a girl bearing the name 'Mary'.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve: If you're looking for a Church packed to the rafters, look no further than any church in Ireland at midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. This is a huge social gathering where family, friends, and neighbors who you may not have seen all year come together and celebrate Christmas. With Christmas carols being sung and, often, live music being played, midnight Mass in Ireland is a great place to catch up with old friends and get in touch with the local community at Christmas.

Reading of James Joyce's story, "The Dead": "The Dead" is a short story from James Joyce's collection "Dubliners." A group of Dubliners gather together for a post-Christmas celebration in James Joyce's transcendent tale of the banality and magic in life and death. This tale has rather become like an Irish version of "The Christmas Carol," a tale of reflection on our past, our present, and future.

Tin of biscuits: There were about ten types of biscuits in each layer of the tin but you were not allowed to break through to the second layer without finishing the first layer. This would cause at least one fight a day among the family. The tins were also filled with old fashioned biscuits like pink wafers and bourbon creams.

WINTER SOLSTICE AT NEWGRANGE



Newgrange is a prehistoric monument in County Meath, Ireland, located about 1/2 mile north of the River Boyne. It was built during the Neolithic period around 3200 BC, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. The Megalithic Passage Tomb at Newgrange The kidney shaped mound covers an area of over one acre and is surrounded by 97 kerbstones, some of which are richly decorated with megalithic art. The 60 foot long inner passage leads to a cruciform chamber with a corbelled roof. It is estimated that the construction of the Passage Tomb at Newgrange would have taken a work force of 300 at least 20 years.

Winter Solstice (December 21 this year)



The passage and chamber of Newgrange are illuminated by the winter solstice sunrise. A shaft of sunlight shines through the roof box over the entrance and penetrates the passage to light up the chamber. The dramatic event lasts for 17 minutes at dawn on the Winter Solstice and for a few mornings either side of the Winter Solstice.

Admission to the Newgrange chamber for the Winter Solstice sunrise is by lottery, application forms are available at the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre. About 30,000 applications are submitted annually. In September each year, 50 names are drawn with 2 places are awarded to each person drawn.



Irish Superstitions for the Christmas Season

In the old days, children were usually charged with the responsibility of gathering the Yule-tide decorations and finding a holly bush loaded with berries was considered very lucky. Holly is a symbol commonly associated with Christmas and has been used in Yule-tide celebrations for almost two thousand years. Holly was also once used for protection, and in ancient times, people would decorate doors and windows with it, in hopes that it would capture, or at least dissuade, any evil spirits before they could enter the house.

While Mistletoe isn't very prevalent in Ireland, it can be found, and it was held in very high regard by our ancestors. In the Celtic language, Mistletoe means "All Heal." It was believed to have all sorts of miraculous qualities including the power of healing diseases, banning evil spirits, bringing good luck and bestowing great blessings. In fact, even enemies who happened to meet beneath a Mistletoe in the forest would lay down their arms, exchange a friendly greeting, and keep a truce until the following day. From this old custom grew the practice of suspending Mistletoe over a doorway or in a room as a token of good will and peace to all.

There are many superstitions associated with Christmas Eve. It was said that the Good People would come in out of the cold to find shelter in the holly branches and that the mischief of the evil spirits was suspended for this Holy Night. In the old days, people believed that animals celebrated the arrival of Christ and that the cows in the cattle-sheds and the deer in the forests went down on their knees at midnight. Others believed that animals were able to speak like humans on Christmas Eve - but it was bad luck to try and listen in!

It was believed that the rooster would crow at unusual times, and to hear him crow at midnight was a good omen, as was a new moon. A clear star-filled sky would bring good crops in the summer, and shoes placed side by side would prevent a quarrel. For good health throughout the following year, you should eat an apple at the stroke of midnight.

There were also sinister superstitions associated with the eve of Christ's birth. If, when all were seated round the fire, one shadow on the wall behind them was headless, then the person who cast the shadow would be dead before the end of the year. Someone would also die if a hoop fell off a cask. This actually has a logical explanation - when a cask is full, the hoops are tight; when it is empty, they become loose. If the principal candle goes out for some reason during the Christmas season, it is a bad omen - possibly the death of the head of the household.

It was commonly held in Ireland that the gates of Heaven open at midnight and those who die would go straight in. It was also believed that no prayer would go unanswered on this most holy of nights. To bring luck and blessings, you should take a wisp of straw from the nativity scene at the church and bring it home.

The weather on each of the twelve days of Christmas signifies what the weather will be on the appropriate month of the coming year. And, all decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas or Twelfth Night - the feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. It is considered to be bad luck to take them down before then. Also, you shouldn't fix a leak in the roof during the twelve days - the leak will come back if you do!

The first Christmas card received with the Magi on it is hung over the front door, for the whole year to bring good luck to the house.

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Christmas Carol

Word Search



BELLE	HUMBUG	POOR
CHARITY	KNOCKER	POVERTY
COMPASSION	MARLEY	PRESENT
CRATCHIT	MISER	SCROOGE
DICKENS	NEPHEW	SPIRITS
EBENEZER	NOSTALGIA	TINY TIM
ENGLAND	NOVELLA	YET TO COME
GHOST	PAST	