

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



**IN GOD, WE TRUST**



**SEPT 4 ~ LABOR DAY**

**SEPT, 10 ~ FIREFIGHTER MASS**

**SEPT. 10 ~ HIBERNIAN PICNIC**

**SEPT. 10 ~ AN GORTA MOR MEMORIAL MASS**

**SEPT. 19 ~ FATHER RAY KELLY REDFORD AOH**

**SEPT, 23 ~ AUTUMNAL EQUINOX**

**SEPT. 23 ~ HIBERNIAN GOLF OUTING**

**SEPT. 24 ~ ROXANN'S PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**



# HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER



Mother McAuley Division

**SEPTEMBER, 2023**

John P. Kelly Division

## HIBERNIAN PICNIC AT MATT & TRICIA'S HOME



**September 10th at 2:00 PM**

495 S. River Road Waterville, Ohio

BYOB and a dish to pass

## HIBERNIAN GOLF OUTING AT CHERRY WOOD



September 23rd 9:00 AM Scrambles

9 Holes with a cart \$30 18 Holes for an additional \$10

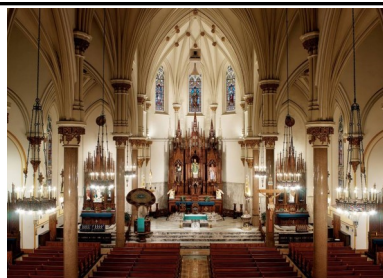
Food and refreshments included!!!!

Open event, bring family and friends It's scrambles, so any level of skill and/or experience will enjoy themselves!!! **Men and Ladies!!!**

Call Robert McMahon 419-902-6559 or [aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com](mailto:aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com)



**An Gorta Mor  
MEMORIAL MASS  
Sept. 10th 2:00 PM  
St. Joseph Shrine  
8743 US-12,**



## Annual Firefighter Mass

September 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Historic Church of St. Patrick  
130 Avondale Ave.  
Toledo, Ohio 43604

# SEPTEMBER, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 	20	21	22	23 
24 <i>Roxann's Photo exhibit</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Sat, Sep 23, 2023, 2:49 AM



According to the astronomical definition of the seasons, the autumnal equinox also marks the beginning of autumn, which lasts until the winter solstice (December 21 or 22 in the Northern Hemisphere). There are only two times of the year when the Earth's axis is tilted neither toward nor away from the sun, resulting in a "nearly" equal amount of daylight and darkness at all latitudes.



## **A MESSAGE FROM LAOH PRESIDENT, ANN DOLLMAN**

### **September Greetings!**

**It is already the 9th month of the year! While I was taking care of a patient at work, I scrolled my phone and the reminder of days until certain holidays came up. 60 days until Halloween, 115 day until Christmas, and 199 days until St. Patrick's Day! I am mentally thinking, "Slow down time!" I love the weather where we can comfortably go outside. I am not ready for snow! That said, I am looking forward to gathering at the Cassidy homestead on September 10th for a picnic with everyone! We will hold a joint meeting also.**

**On the State and National level of the Hibernians, November 4 is the next State board meeting. We all send best wishes to the newly installed state officers. We are here to support all of you! Sherri seems to have settled into her new role as State treasurer. Nationally, November 11 is the testimonial dinner for Marilyn Madigan. It will be held in Cleveland, Ohio. She is the National LAOH president. We have been very blessed to have women from Ohio say yes to holding national offices and represent the Midwest and the state of Ohio. All are invited to attend.**

**Enjoy the beautiful weather and I hope to see as many of you all as possible September 10th!**

**Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,**

**Ann Dollman**

**LAOH Lucas County President**

**(P.S. thank you all for coming out to Historic St. Patrick's church for the check presentation and the 160th anniversary celebration!)**

**CONTINUED ON PAGES 13 & 14**



## A MESSAGE FROM AOH DIVISION PRESIDENT , ROBERT MCMAHON

God Bless you all in this month of Our Lady's Birth.

August was a very busy month. Thank you to everyone who made the Sandpiper boat cruise a success. We had nice weather and a good turnout. Thank you for your support for the St. Patrick's Historic 1st Annual Belmont Classic. Through your sponsorship of a hole and our member participation in the golf outing they were able to raise over \$3,000 for the preservation of Historic St. Patrick Church. Well Done!! Congratulations to brother Dr. Tom McCabe for keeping Irish dancing in Toledo. His Great Lakes Feis and Glass City Feis are a very important part of the yearly schedule for all the traditional Irish Dancers. If you or anyone you are interested in beginning Irish dancing for both boys and girls, give Dr. Tom a call. They are offering great starting incentives. Thank you to all brothers and sisters who came out to march and present our annual donation to the Deacon Tom Food pantry at St. Patrick. It was a very nice showing. We were all blessed to also hear Fr. Jim from Ireland celebrate Holy Mass and play his flutes for us. Thank you to all who went out for Irish night at the Mudhens.

We have a nearly as busy September coming up!

Annual Picnic at the Cassidy's on Sunday September 10th. Please come after 2pm. We will have great craic and I think there will be music as well. If you are unable to attend the picnic, there is also the annual An Gorta Mor Mass up in the Irish Hills. At the Shrine. It is a beautiful place to remember all those who came here before for freedom and a better life.

Thursday September 14th 6pm HOLY SMOKES. Brother Marty Lahey does an amazing job putting on these small gatherings at St. Patrick rectory. The food and drink is top drawer. Even if you do not smoke it is a great intimate fund raiser for St. Patrick's. Last time we had 9 brothers there. It was a fantastic turnout for the first time. Please let me know ASAP because there is a limit to the party. Lets get to double digits. This is a great brother only event for us.

Saturday September 23rd Cherrywood 8:30 Hibernian Golf outing. \$30 for 9 holes cart and lunch. An extra \$10 for anyone who wants to do another 9 holes. This is a great time to come out if you are not a par golfer. The course is pretty straight forward and not too long. Please give me a call to let me know how many in your team.

In Charity

Robert McMahon



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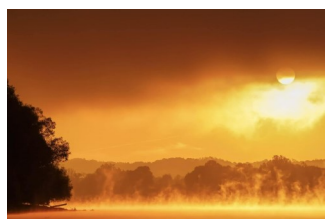


## A MESSAGE FROM THE CRAZY EDITOR, MAURY COLLINS

One of the publications I receive from Ireland is “A Letter from Ireland” by Mike Collins (Not a relative) from County Cork. I included a letter on page 11. It breaks down the top 50 family names for County Cork from the 1901 census. I am blest that two names, Collins and Buckley appear on the list. My Grandmother was Margaret Buckley Collins. My father sponsored his cousin, Maurice Buckley, when he came here from Ireland. The article mentioned that some of the families were displaced before 1200 AD. I have heard stories about my ancestors being one of those families. I remember a large field across from the homestead during my first visit in 1954. I played in that field with my cousins during that visit. There were large rocks and boulders everywhere. When I returned in 2003, that field had been cleared into a pasture, with cows grazing on it. Needless to say; I am proud of my heritage and my many cousins still in Ireland. God bless them all, as my Father used to say.



**FATHER RAY KELLY’S CONCERT TOUR WILL BE AT THE  
REDFORD AOH HALL 25300 5 MILE RD, REDFORD MI  
ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 7:00 PM  
TICKETS ARE \$25  
CALL SUE FOR RESERVATIONS 248-3345-7761  
PENNY AND I ARE GOING, JOIN US!!!**



## Enchanting Photography Exhibition!

September 24, 2023 (Sunday) 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

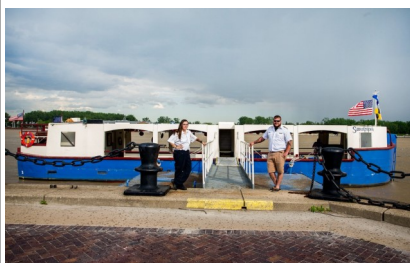
Skylight Financial, 7150 Central Avenue, Toledo, OH

Roxanne Collins is absolutely thrilled to extend an invitation to all of you for a very special event. Join her in celebrating the beauty of nature and wildlife through the lens of her camera at an open house exhibition.

Roxanne’s photographs will immerse you in the heart of the wild, giving you a glimpse of the incredible world that surrounds us.

As you explore her work, indulge in light hors d’oeuvres and beverages,

#RoxanneCollinsPhotography

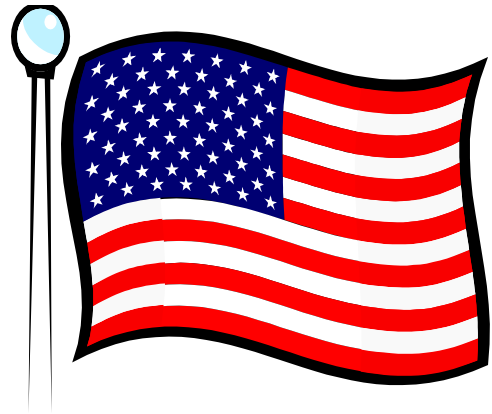


The lovely, Tonda Koszycki, of the Toledo Irish American club invites the Hibernians to The Sandpiper Cigar Cruise on Tuesday, Sept 12, 7-9 PM. The cost is \$23 per person, and folks should bring their own beverages and food. Alcohol and coolers are allowed! This is a Toledo Irish American Club tag along event. The cruise is open to the public.

Book your spot at: <https://www.jmcruiselines.com/the-sandpiper>

Tonda hopes to see some of us there!

**LABOR  
DAY**



## September 4, 2023 Happy Labor Day

Labor Day is dedicated to the American worker who puts in long hours dedicated to preserving a way of life by selflessly endeavoring to promote the prosperity and growth of a nation proudly, through their efforts. In recognition of this dedicated way of life, a Labor Day Parade is a fitting tribute to workers from all walks of life.

There is no clear answer to who began the Labor Day tradition America celebrates so proudly, but it is normally attributed to either Peter J. McGuire or Matthew McGuire, who were both instrumental in improving working conditions for Americans throughout the United States, and preserving a way of life so dear to one and all. God bless the American workers.

Labor was the first price, the original purchase money that was paid for all things. It was not gold or silver, but by labor, that all wealth of the world was originally purchased.

Adam Smith

Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold, but other times, it's essential to take time off and to make sure that your most important decision in the day simply consists of choosing which color to slide down on the rainbow.

Douglas Pagels, "These are the gifts I'd like to give to you"

"No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"My Father taught me to work, He did not teach me to love it."

Abraham Lincoln

# THE HIBERIANANS OF TOLEDO HELPED CELEBRATE THE 160 ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC ST. PATRICK CHURCH WITH A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE PROFITS OF THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY.





## SMILE AND BE HAPPY

A man ran home from work, pulled his wife into the bedroom, threw her on the bed and pulled the covers over them. She was shocked. He hadn't been like that for 20 years. Then her husband said: "Look! My new watch glows in the dark."

Three ladies, one is engaged, one is a mistress, and the third one, has been married for 20+ years. They were chatting about their relationships and decided to amaze our men by greeting them at the door wearing a black bra, stiletto heels and a mask over our eyes. They agreed to meet in a few days to exchange notes.

Here's how it all went.

The engaged lady: "The other night when my boyfriend came over, he found me with a black leather bodice, tall stilettos, and a mask. He saw me and said, 'You are the woman of my dreams...I love you.' Then we made passionate love all night long."

The mistress: "Me too! The other night I met my lover at his office, and I was wearing a raincoat, under it only the black bra, heels and mask over my eyes. When I opened the raincoat, he didn't say a word, but he started to tremble, and we made wild love all night."

The Married lady: "When my husband came home, I was wearing the black bra, black stockings, stilettos and a mask over my eyes. When he came in the door and saw me, he said, "What's for dinner, Zorro?"

Two women were playing golf. One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole. The ball hit one of the men. He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony. The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologize. 'Please allow me to help. I'm a Physical Therapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you'd allow me,' she told him. 'Oh, no, I'll be all right. I'll be fine in a few minutes,' the man replied. He was in obvious agony, lying in the fetal position, still clasping his hands there at his groin. At her persistence, however, he finally allowed her to help. She gently took his hands away and laid them to the side, loosened his pants and put her hands inside. She administered tender and artful massage for several long moments and asked, 'How does that feel?' 'Feels great,' he replied; 'but I still think my thumb's broken'

Mary Murphy's husband died and she was speaking with Father Sullivan about the eulogy for the Mass. Mary said; "He was a very good man. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus and the AOH. He volunteered at the hospital and at the soup kitchen." Father Sullivan said; "I heard the he was also a member of the KKK." 'Father what is this KKK?' questioned Mary. Father replied; "you know, Mary. It's those devils beneath the sheets." "Oh Father" said Mary, "He was a charter member of that."

A man received the following text from his neighbor: I am so sorry Bob. I've been riddled with guilt and I have to confess. I have been helping myself to your wife, day and night when you're not around. In fact, more than you. I do not get it at home, but that's no excuse. I can no longer live with the guilt and I hope you will accept my sincerest apology with my promise that it won't ever happen again. Bob is in complete shock, didn't know what to do... A few moments later, a second text came in: Damn spell check! I meant "Wi-fi"

Mick goes on a three month business trip leaving his precious cat with his brother, Pat. Three days before his return, he calls his brother. Mick; "So how is my cat doing?" Pat: "He's dead." Mick: "He's dead! What do you mean He's dead! I loved that cat. Couldn't you think of a nicer way to tell me? I'm leaving in three days. You could of broke me to the news easier. You could have told me today that she got out of the house or something. Then when I called before I left you could have told me, Well we found her but she is up on the roof and we're having trouble getting her down. Then when I called from the airport you could have told me that the fire department was there and scared her off the roof and the cat died when she hit the ground."

Pat: "I'm sorry. You're right, that was insensitive. I won't let it happen again." Mick: "Alright, alright forget about it. Anyway, how is Mom doing?" Pat: "She's up in the roof and we're having trouble getting her" down."

# THE ANCIENT FIVE PROVINCES OF IRELAND



Ireland was once home to five provinces named Ulster, Munster, Connacht, Leinster and Meath.

The Irish word for province is 'cúige' which comes from the Irish word 'cúig' which of course means 'five.'

In ancient times, each province had its own laws and character.

Trefuilgnid, a mysterious spirit-man of Irish mythology, described the provinces thus:

**Ulster:** To the North dwells battle, the only important battle being the one that is fought within, it is where we go to test ourselves and to grow.

**Leinster:** Prosperity lies to the east where we learn of and share the bounty of life.

**Munster:** Music lies to the south, where we heal and remember

the great song that winds through all.

**Meath:** Sovereignty lies at the center, where we are in good stewardship of the land and in right standing with our soul's path, and the people around us.

And **Connacht:** Knowledge, counsels, stories, histories, teaching and education dwell to the west, the otherworld, where we soak in wisdom.

## What happened to Meath?



In ancient times, Ireland was divided into five provinces of which Meath, or Mide (the middle kingdom) was the fifth province. Meath is also sometimes called the 'Royal County', as it was the seat of the ancient Celtic High Kings of Ireland.

Meath ceased to be considered a separate province in 1610 under the rule of James I. At this time the current provincial borders separating the four territories were permanently set.

After the Normans took control of Ireland in the twelfth century they replaced the divided system with counties and over time Mide became Counties Meath and Westmeath, which were absorbed into the province of Leinster. County Meath is still referred to as the 'Royal Country'.



# A Letter from Ireland

GREETINGS FROM THE LARGEST COUNTY IN IRELAND.

Cork is, by far, the largest county in Ireland. Within its boundaries it has mountain ranges, dramatic shorelines, expansive bogs, fertile land, long rivers, a wide range of market towns and ports as well as the city of Cork itself sitting inside the second largest natural harbor in the world. Many of these features make County Cork a lovely place to live today and very attractive to tourists.

THE SURNAMES OF COUNTY CORK.

If we look at the 1901 census for County Cork (which included the city of Cork) we see that it had the second-largest population of any county in Ireland. Dig a little deeper into the census figures and we find that the following surnames were the 50 most numerous in County Cork for 1901 (number of persons included in brackets):

Sullivan/O'Sullivan (16,905), McCarthy (11,373), Donovan/O'Donovan (7,789), Brien/O'Brien (7,227), Mahony/O'Mahony/Mahoney (7,182), Leary/O'Leary (6,095), Walsh (5,366), Connell/O'Connell (5,052), Driscoll/O'Driscoll (4,981), Callaghan/O'Callaghan (4,898), Connor/O'Connor/Connors (4,800), Barry (4,607), Collins (4,526), Crowley (4,213), Cronin (3,888), Buckley (3,842), Keffe/O'Keffe (3,818), Sheehan/Sheahan (3,735), Daly/Daley (3,660), Regan/O'Regan (3,476), Neill/O'Neill (3,160), Kelleher (3,149), Ahern/Aherne (3,145), Hurley (3,109), Riordan/O'Riordan (3,102), Lynch (3,099), Shea/O'Shea (3,045), Fitzgerald (2,835), Healy (2,679), Twomey/Toomey (2,634), Hayes (2,614), Harrington (2,612), Flynn/O'Flynn (2,189), Cotter (2,039), McSweeney/Sweeny/Swiney (2,003), Foley (1,993), Roche (1,962), Coughlan/Coghlan (1,922), Ryan (1,903), Burke/Bourke (1,821), Kelly (1,820), Hegarty (1,734), Horgan (1,672), Casey (1,607), Barrett (1,564), Desmond (1,460), Carroll/O'Carroll (1,448), Murray (1,448), Leahy (1,359), Coleman (1,293).

Here are some of my thoughts as I look through this list:

Of the 50 surnames: 42 were of Gaelic origin: 1 was of Viking/Hiberno-norse origin (Cotter). 6 were of Norman origin (Walsh, Barry, Fitzgerald, Roche, Burke, Barrett). 1 was of Galloglass origin (McSweeney).

There were not any names in this group of English or Scottish settler origin - the first of that category to appear was Kingston, much further down the list. The Sullivan and McCarthy surnames dominate the list. Almost 4% of all the people in County Cork had the surname Sullivan/O'Sullivan. What the list does not tell you is that names like Sullivan were concentrated in particular areas of Cork (on the Beara Peninsula) but can be quite rare in other parts of County Cork.

There is also a story of displacement and mass movement of families behind the surnames listed above. Many of the families listed (e.g. O'Sullivan, McCarthy, O'Donovan etc.) actually originated in what is now the counties of Tipperary and Limerick but were forced to move south-west into Cork and Kerry before 1200AD under pressure from other emerging Gaelic families and the arrival of the Normans in that area. They inevitably ended up in poorer lands in County Cork to join existing Gaelic families in the area such as O'Leary, O'Driscoll, O'Regan and so on.

The first post-reformation English settlers arrived in County Cork from the mid 1500s and established many of the market towns around the county. These towns (Bandon, Bantry, Mallow etc.) and their hinterlands, were home to protestant family settlers and the Gaelic population mostly lived outside these towns until the 1700s. Another thing to bear in mind is that many of the Gaelic and Norman families above existed on small tenant farms by 1901 - often on poorer land to the west of the county. This list tells the story of the majority of the county's population

These are just some of my own thoughts as I look through the 50 most numerous surnames in County Cork in 1901 How about you? What do you notice? What questions arise in your mind? Did any of your Irish ancestors come from County Cork? Are any of your own family names listed above?

Slán for now,

Mike Collins

mike@youririshheritage.com

Your Irish Heritage, Old Abbey, Waterfall, County Cork, Ireland

## The secret and tragic love story that led to the magnificent Kylemore Abbey.



Only a few people know about the secret love story that led to the construction of a castle starting September 4th, 1867.



Not many men honor their wives with such splendor but Mitchell Henry gifted this splendid 13 000-acre estate to his beloved Margaret. Mitchell, a British aristocrat, and his wife Margeret first visited the estate on their honeymoon in the 1840's. The Henrys loved the surroundings so much that they became determined to make a family home at [Kylemore](#), far away from a then polluted London.

When Mitchell inherited a fortune from his father, he commissioned an Irish architect, James Franklin Fuller and started construction of the grand Kylemore house in 1867 as a gift to his beloved wife. Construction started in 1867, and took the total of one hundred men and four years to complete. The castle covered approximately 40,000 square feet (3,700 m2) with more than seventy rooms with a principal wall that was two to three feet thick.

### Tragedy strikes

Margaret was reportedly well-loved by the tenants of her Kylemore estate and embraced countryside life. Tragedy struck in 1874, however, when she fell ill during a family holiday in Cairo, Egypt. She passed away after 2 weeks at the young age of 45, leaving behind 9 children and a heartbroken husband.

In honor of his wife, Mitchell Henry commissioned the magnificent church near the bank of the Kylemore lake as a final tribute to his wife. After his death in 1910, Mitchell was laid to rest next to his next to his beloved Margaret in a mausoleum at Kylemore woods.



In 1920 a group of Irish Benedictine nuns arrived at Kylemore Castle, Connemara, seeking a new home for their monastic life and mission after the destruction of their home in Ypres, Belgium. For almost one hundred years now, Kylemore has been the place where the community of the "Irish Dames of Ypres" lives its life of "seeking God", following the call of Jesus in the way laid out by St. Benedict of Nursia in his Rule for Monks written around 500 a.d.

Kylemore Abbey is a Benedictine monastery and iconic visitor attraction set in 1,000 acres of mountainside in Connemara, Co Galway, Ireland. Owned by The Kylemore Trust, a non-profit organization led by the Benedictine Nuns, Kylemore is a place of welcome and spirituality to thousands of visitors and pilgrims.

## Interim Board Meeting and Testimonial Celebration

**Weekend Of  
November 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Hampton Inn  
24601 Country Club Boulevard  
North Olmsted, Ohio**

**A Block of Rooms are Reserved at the Rate of \$119.00 + Tax  
Includes Complimentary Breakfast  
Reservations call 1-440-617-6306 Or the Booking Link**

**<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/cleomhx-hampton-north-olmsted-cleveland-airport/>**

**Hosted by:  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Cleveland Divisions  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
Deirfiur of Charity**

**The Interim Board Meeting on Saturday November 11 at 10:00AM at the West Side Irish American Club is Open to All Members of the LAOH; Note Only Members of the National Board and State Presidents will have a Voice and a Vote**

**Our Weekend will Conclude**

**Saturday Evening November 11, 2023**

**Beginning with the Celebration of the Eucharist at 4:30PM**

**Followed with Dinner, Entertainment and Merriment**

**Meeting and Social Event Will be Held at:  
The West Side Irish American Club  
8559 Jennings Rd  
Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138**

**Join Us in Recognizing  
The Constance Markievicz Award Honoree  
and  
The LAOH National President**

**Those Interested in Visiting the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, please contact Rita O'Hara at [oharara@gmail.com](mailto:oharara@gmail.com). She is looking into a Group Rate for Friday November 10th**

**Looking Forward to Seeing All Of You!**



*LAOH National President  
Marilyn Madigan*

A Woman Admired for Her Cour-  
age, Outstanding Achievements,  
and  
Noble Qualities

**November 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Hampton Inn  
24601 Country Club Boulevard  
North Olmsted, OH 44070**

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=CLEOMHX&groupCode=CHHAOH&arrivaldate=2023-11-10&departuredate=2023-11-12&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

**Booking Deadline for LAOH Rate  
10/25/2023**

**Hosted by:  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Cleveland Divisions  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
Deirfiur of Charity**

## Testimonial Celebration

### Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

AOH  LAOH  Guest  Military Veteran

Current Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Meeting Yes  No

**Dinner Dance—Saturday, November 11, 2023**

West Side Irish American Club  
8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

*Dinner: \$65.00 with a Cash Bar*

**Shake Rattle n Roll to the Music of Kennedy and Riley**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: November 1, 2023**

Please Make Checks Payable to **LAOH**.

Completed Reservation Form and Payment Should Be Mailed to:  
Sharon Kelty, 4606 West 158<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44135

## September in Old Catholic Ireland

The Feast of Michael and All Angels, also known as St. Michael's Day or Michaelmas, occurs annually on September 29th. Long ago the quarter days were chief markers in this sequence of the year and were respected and observed. On these days, debts were paid, leases started, and servants were hired. They were also 'gale days' when rent payments were due. In addition, Michaelmas was an important day in the Irish calendar, a time to arrange or settle contracts, a day to conduct legal transactions and even for the elections of mayors in some localities. It also marked the beginning of legal and university terms, and in some areas, the beginning of the hunting season and the end of the fishing season.

"On Michaelmas night by right divine/ The goose is chosen to be the swine".

According to custom, the harvest had to be finished by Michaelmas. Geese, having been hatched in the spring, were let out to feed on the stubble in the fields after the harvest. They were well fattened by the time of Michaelmas and hence were deemed to be at their finest. Thus, Michaelmas became also known as Goose Harvest, and traditionally the "Michaelmas goose" is roasted and eaten on that day. Some people offered killed and plucked geese as gifts to friends, while others distributed them to the poor. In some parts of the country sheep were slaughtered and the meat divided amongst poor and known as St. Michael's portion.

If Michaelmas Day be bright and clear there will be two 'Winters' in the year

Although the association of geese with Michaelmas is found in other parts, in Ireland it is said to arise from a legend about the son of an Irish king that choked on a goose bone he had eaten. He was restored to life by St. Patrick and the grateful king ordered that every Michaelmas a goose be sacrificed in that saint's honour. Other foods from the harvest were enjoyed at this time, an occasion for apple picking and final gathering of blackberries - Michaelmas indicated the time when the latter were past their best. A legend goes that the devil, defeated by St. Michael in battle and having fallen from the sky onto a blackberry bush, defecated on the fruit as revenge. In Ireland, it is the malicious púca who soiled the blackberries. Either way, children were warned not to pick and eat them after Michaelmas!

In some places fairs and poultry markets were held, and at some, for the occasion of Michaelmas, mutton pies were sold at them. Pilgrimages were undertaken to holy wells associated with St. Michael and pilgrims would finish their rounds by sipping the well water. It was a custom that people greet each other on that day with "May Michaelmas féinín on you."

Due to the profusion of late flowering asters, known as Michaelmas daisies to this day, children made chains of these daisies, along with starwort and sea asters. Some baby boys born around the time of Michaelmas were called Michael or Micheál in the saint's honour. In Co. Waterford, after a parade through the town of Tramore, people went into the sea carrying an effigy of St. Michael - Micilín - the effigy represented the end of their income for the end of the fishing and tourism season.