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## **Notes**

CONTINUES FROM PAGE C2

### **HOLYOKE**

#### **Irish flag raising**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians James A. Curran Division One and the Ladies Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden/Hampshire Counties will celebrate Irish American Heritage Month in March with an Irish Flag Raising Ceremony at Holyoke City Hall on Monday, March 2, at 10 a.m.

Mayor Joshua Garcia will give brief remarks, followed by greetings from the city of Holyoke, a proclamation and talk of Irish hospitality. Hibernian President Joseph O'Connor will preside as master of ceremonies. The Rev. Francis Reilly, pastor of St. Jerome Church in Holyoke, will extend a prayer for the life of St. Patrick and a blessing for Holyoke and beyond during the Irish Cultural Month of March. St Patrick's Parade President 2026 Jim Wildman, Parade Grand Marshall 2026 Michael Moriarty, Mary Kate O'Connor, L.A.O.H president, President Sean Cahillane of the Irish Cultural Center of Western New England will give greetings. Piper Matt O'Connor will play the pipes at the event and Sheila Moreau will sing the American and Irish anthems.

All are welcome to attend.

#### **Communion breakfast**

The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties will host their annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 15.

Mass will be held at 8 a.m. at St. Jerome's Church followed by breakfast after at Wyckoff Country Club.

The morning's guest speaker will be Ian Delahanty, associate professor of history at Springfield College. The 2026 Hibernian Christian Charity Award will be given to Sister Betsy Sullivan of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Tickets are \$30 per person before March 10. To purchase tickets, contact Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessy at 413-785-5687.