

For Immediate Release!  
February 13, 2022

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, James A. Curran, Division One and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden/Hampshire Counties will celebrate Irish American Heritage Month of March with an Irish flag raising ceremony at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St Holyoke Mass. on Tuesday March 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM. The public is invited to attend. Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and Holyoke City Officials plan to be in attendance. The members of the AOH and LAOH will preside over the ceremony. Besides Hibernian members in attendance, members of the Holyoke St Patrick's Parade Committee, along with members of the Irish Cultural Center of Western New England will attend the ceremony.

There are over 31.5 million residents who claim Irish ancestry in America.

The colors of the symbolic Irish flag represent: Green for Roman Catholics and Nationalism, Orange for the Protestant Minority, and the white in between the two colors as Hope for lasting Peace between the two.

The U.S. Congress designated March as Irish American Heritage Month in 1991 to recognize contributions Irish Americans have made to the country. The Ancient Order of Hibernians were founded in Ireland in 1520; established in New York City in 1836 and 1880 in Holyoke.

The beloved late Hibernian President Paul Hogan would often remind attendees at the flag raising ceremonies what the Irish meant for the City of Holyoke: "They mainly helped build it. They dug the canals in Holyoke and built the buildings.

The Holyoke St Patrick's Parade will begin at K Mart Plaza in Holyoke at 11:00AM March 20, 2022.