



Seanachai

Central Ohio's
Largest Irish Organization
February 2024
Volume 87 Issue 10

Shamrock Club of Columbus - 60 W. Castle Road - Columbus, OH 43207 Office: 614.491.4449

Email: shamrockclub1936@theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com Web Site: www.theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com

President's Message



At the January 8th meeting I presented the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade Badge. As soon as I saw the image of the Trinity, heart and shamrock woven together I knew I wanted it for my badge. It represents what the Shamrock Club stands for.

The Trinity for our faith, the heart for the love of our families and the shamrock for the friendships we have made in the Irish community. Also, the sunflowers were included because it is my favorite flower, always bright and cheerful. The Parade badges are available for purchase in the Pub or from Executive Board Member Jim McDonald. The cost is 1 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00.

I also, announced this year's awardees. I presented President's Awards to Mark Syx and Kyle Collins. They re-wired the electricity in the Shelter House and the lighting on the outdoor stage. They help with the maintenance at the club and are always willing to lend a hand inside and outside the building. I was honored to present Member of the Year to Christina McConahay. She is a whirlwind. Whatever event or project she works on for the Club she always gives 100%. She looks at the situation to see what needs done to make it a success. She is always positive and determined, she represents the Club positively and enthusiastically. I awarded Irishman of the Year to Past President Mike Murphy. He was president in 2014 and continues to volunteer, chair events, and support the club in many ways. This year our Parade Grand Marshall is Past President Timothy Feeney. Tim and his wife Chris were one the first couples who welcomed Mike and I to the club when we joined. Tim has supported me this year with his advice and continued friendship.

Continued on Page 2

Chaplain's Comments



February is going to be a very busy month for all of us. Preparations for our celebration of St. Patrick Day are proceeding (ask President Nancy where help is needed!) and please offer your services to help make this year's celebration of our Heritage a roaring success!

In early February, we celebrate the feast of St. Brigid of Kildare. A very holy and "gutsy" woman whose holiness exceeded her great talent as a religious, a leader, and upholder of the faith.

February 14 is, of course, Valentine's Day. It is also ASH WEDNESDAY and the beginning of Lent. Our beloved Bishop will not give a general dispensation from the obligations that day for Fast and abstinence. Those Catholics 14 years and older are bound to observe days of abstinence from flesh meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays of Lent. Fish, non-meat pasta, vegetables and dairy products are good substitutes. Fasting obliges Catholics 18 years and older to have only 1 full meal a day and two lesser meals not to equal one's full meal. The age range for this is from 18 to 59. Those of us who are senior citizens, (I'm 77) have been free of obligations to fast. However, we might freely choose to do so as a penance – after all, we're all sinners! Also, positive forms of penance are encouraged: see Matthew 25. Happy Lent!

As the doldrums of February continue, let us pray for an early Spring! After all, Lent means "springtime!"

Most of all, let us continue to pray for one another.

Blessings,

Msgr. John Kelly Cody, Chaplain

President's Message, cont.

We will continue having two General Meetings a month thru April. The two meetings in March (3rd & 10th) will be preceded by Mass at 2:00 pm and the meeting will follow.



Lastly, but importantly, thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. If you have not renewed yet, please renew your membership soon.

You can renew online, in the Pub or by mail. I hope to see you soon.

Nancy

St. Patrick's Day Procession to Mass

- The Procession will form at 9:45am at the corner of Gay Street and North 5th Street
- We will step off at 10am and process south on 5th Street to Saint Joseph's Cathedral
- Mass will be at 10:30am

St. Patrick's Day Parade Information

- Check in point for the commercial parade entries will be on Broad Street and Cleveland Avenue starting at 10:30am
- We will form the parade during Mass on East Broad Street in front of the Cathedral
- Mass starts at 10:30am and expected to end at 11:45am
- Once Mass concludes, please exit the church and get lined up on Broad Street
- The parade will step off at 12pm so there is a tight timeline from the end of mass until our parade starts
- The route is west on Broad Street to High Street, then north on High Street to the Convention Center and the Irish Family Reunion

Officers

- President:** Nancy Murphy
- Vice-President:** Megan Dempsey
- Secretary:** Patrick Conley
- Treasurer:** Doug Dempsey
- Chaplain:** Msgr. John K. Cody
- Director:** Jim McDonald
- Director:** Megan Kelly
- Director:** Molly McCandless
- Director:** Jamie Porter
- Sg-At-Arms:** Rich Finn

Office Administrator

Tina O’Grady

Pub Supervisor

James Moriarty

Seanachai News

Just a reminder. If you have information for our monthly newsletter, please send it as an attachment to an e-mail to Editor, Jim Casey at jjcasey973@gmail.com

The **deadline** for articles is the **21st of the month.**

Seanachai Information

1. The electronic version will be delivered to the members every month by the meeting date.
2. The printed version will be delivered whenever the USPS gets around to it.
3. The **deadline for articles is the 21st** of the month preceding the month of publication.
4. The articles should be submitted as an Email, a Word attachment to email or as a jpeg.
5. The preferred font is Times New Roman, 11pt or 12pt.
6. No handwritten articles will be accepted.
7. **Seanachai ad prices are:** \$300 per year, \$175 per six months and \$50 per one month .

MarkYour Calendars

Shamrock Club Meetings

- February 4th**
- February 18th**
- March 3rd**
- March 10th**
- Clan Na ngael Dinner** **February 3rd**
- Quiz Night** **February 9th**
- Proclamation Day** **March 8th**
- Irishman of the Year Party** **March 11th**
- St. Patrick’s Day** **March 17th**

E. Board Meetings

- 3rd Mondays**
- Coed Darts** **2nd & 4th Mondays**
- Men’s Darts** **Wednesdays**
- Women’s Darts** **1st & 3rd Thursdays**
- Co-Ed Corn Hole** **1st & 3rd Thursdays**
- Quiz Nights** **2nd Fridays**



**St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th
2024 Parade Entry Form**

Unit Name : _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Unit Type: _____

Unit Size: _____

There will be a fee of \$250.00 for all parade entrants, unless the entrant ia an active member of the Shamrock Club. If the entrant is a paid member, the fee will be \$150.00. **There is no fee for Military units, bands, school units or charitable organizations.**

If you have questions, please contact Dennis Moriarty at 614-657-2640. **Your check must accompany this Entry Form.** Please mail to the Shamrock Club of Columbus, 60 West Castle Rd., Columbus OH 43207 Attn. Parade Committee.

Note: No parade participant is allowed to sell or give away any type of badge or other paraphernalia, pass out flyers or literature, or throw anything, either from their cars or while walking, including balloons, candy or matches, or to stop to perform along the parade route. Thank you for your cooperation.

This Entry Form Must Be Received by March 3, 2024

Ron O'Brien and Dennis Moriarty, Co-Chairmen

The Shamrock Club, 60 West Castle Rd, Columbus Ohio 43207, 614-491-4449

Email: shamrockclub1936@theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com Web Site: www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com



**St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th
2024 Parade Sponsor Entry Form**

Unit Name : _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Unit Type: _____

Unit Size: _____

There will be a charge of \$500.00 for all PARADE SPONSORSHIP entrants to the Parade. This fee will entitle the entrant to have a unit in the Parade, a reserved table of ten (10) adults at the Annual Irish Family Reunion and recognition in the Reunion Program. The Reunion will be held at the Columbus Convention Center in the Battelle Hall immediately following the Parade. All Entrants, including any advertising signage or slogans that will be displayed must be approved by the Parade Committee.

If you have questions, please contact Dennis Moriarty at 614-657-2640. **Your check must accompany this Entry Form.** Please mail to the Shamrock Club of Columbus, 60 West Castle Rd., Columbus OH 43207 Attn. Parade Committee.

Note: No parade participant is allowed to sell or give away any type of badge or other paraphernalia, pass out flyers or literature, or throw anything, either from their cars or while walking, including balloons, candy or matches, or to stop to perform along the parade route. Thank you for your cooperation.

This Entry Form Must Be Received by March 3, 2024

Ron O'Brien and Dennis Moriarty, Co-Chairmen

The Shamrock Club, 60 West Castle Rd, Columbus Ohio 43207, 614-491-4449

Email: shamrockclub1936@theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com Web Site: www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

**2024 Shamrock Club Irish Family Reunion
MOVE QUICK TABLES ARE SELLING FAST!**

The 2024 Shamrock Club Irish Family Reunion will be held again in the Battelle Grand Ballroom at the Columbus Convention Center 400 N. High Street Columbus.

We will have tables on both levels of the Ballroom. Tables are \$140 per table of 10. Individual tickets prices are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children ages 5 to 17. Children 4 and under are still free. Past Presidents / Officers / President Club Members and Parade Sponsors receive first choice, then it's on an availability basis. You are not guaranteed the same table as last year.

Tables this year will be available at the December meeting (so move fast) Table prices have been increased from last year to cover the Convention Centers new price. Tables can be reserved by calling 2023 Past President Karen Komatsu (614) 565-2776. Messages will be returned. Karen can take credit cards, checks and cash. Please do not call the Shamrock Club as hours there are very limited.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted to be brought in and coolers will be checked. There will be food available for purchase (more to come on this) As in the past years you may still bring your own food.

This year we will again have a special 50/50 drawing (Chaired by 2018 Past President Mary Strickland) hoping to reach a goal of \$10,000 to the winning number. Only 2,000 tickets will be sold at \$10 for 25 tickets, and you buy them when you pay for your table. This is the only 50/50 raffle of the day.

LET'S MOVE FAST AND SELL THESE TABLES OUT

Clemons "02" (614) 679-0675

Shamrock Club Paddy's Half n Half Raffle 03-17-2024

Get your tickets early before we sell out!! **25 chances per sheet for only \$10.00**

Winner need not be present

Drawing at The Family Reunion 3/17/24

Our goal is a \$10,000 prize to the winner based on selling all **2,000 sheets.**

We will pay out half of what we take in if less than our goal.

You can purchase tickets at meetings, darts

or anytime you are at the club until Sunday, March 10, 2024.

If you want to purchase you can call/text Mary @ 614-316-8278

Mary Grady Strickland 2018, Rich Clemons 02

Irish Family Reunion Program

Again this year we will have a Program at the Irish Family Reunion. The ad prices are follows: Full Page \$100, Half Page Ad: \$50, Quarter Page Ad: \$25.

Contact the Club for more information.

Proclamation Day

The 2024 Proclamation Day will be held on Friday March 8, 2024. Mass will be at 8:30 am at St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave. Grandview, OH. This will be followed by a buffet breakfast at Byrne's Pub 1248 W. Third Ave. Grandview. Cost for the breakfast will be \$10.00 per person with proceeds benefitting Get Behind the Badge Charity.

The Proclamation Ceremony will be held at Columbus City Council Chambers. The ceremony will start promptly at 10:45am. Please try to be there by 10:30 am. The ceremony should conclude by 11:45 am, we will then line up in front of City Hall and march to Broad and High Streets for the painting of the Shamrocks.

The Shamrock Club Pub will open at 4:00 pm. The Emerald Society Fish Fry will start at 5:30 pm, \$17.00 for adults & \$12.00 for children. Music in the pub starts at 8:00 pm with Mossy Moran.

Sunshine Committee Report

Patty Bryant, Karen Finn's mom, passed away December 17th. Kathy Norris' Mom Eva Havens passed away December 30th. Mike Cosegroves' wife Kathleen passed away unexpectedly in December. Pat Phillips passed away January 1st. John O'Brien, a long time member, passed away on January 24th.

Karen Graham having some health issues please keep her in your prayers .Kim Conley having some health issues, please keep her in your prayers. Catie Bryne Marstrell having some health issues and can use your prayers. Please keep Tim Jones in your prayers having some health issues.

Happy birthday to Lois O'Reilly on January 3rd. A very happy birthday to Francis Doyle. Macy McNeely was named to the Provost's list at Capital University for fall 2023. To be named to this list one must be a full time, degree seeking student with a GPA of 3.70 to 3.849 congratulations Macy! Congratulations to Quinn Dean, Reynoldsburg High School bowling and Sean Moore, St. Charles ice hockey on being named athlete of the week in their sport.

Congratulations to all award winners:

- Karen & Rich Finn Clan na NGael 2024
- Scott Robinson AOH Hibernian of the year
- John Homan AOH Commodore Barry Award
- Kurt Wolf AOH Commodore Barry Award
- Kris Konik LAOH Hibernian of the year
- Cheryl Costello DOE Irish woman of the year
- Karen Fahy DOE Member of the year
- Mike Murphy SC Irishman of the year
- Tim Feeney SC Grande Marshall
- Christina McConahay SC Member of the year
- Mark Syx and Kyle Collins SC President's Award

Remember if you have any news for our Sunshine Committee just send it to: themightymary@gmail.com or Kafinn1@aol.com

Mary and Karen

Shamrock Club Green Season

Meetings

February 4,18, March 3,10

Emerald Society Fish Fry

February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22

Proclamation Day, March 8th

Mass, St. Christopher's, 8:30 AM

City Hall, 10:30 AM

Broad & High, Noon

Music in the Pub, 8:00 PM with Mossy Moran

Irishman of the Year Party

Date March 11

Time 7:00 PM

Byrne's Pub

\$5 for Shamrock Club Members, \$10 Non-Members

St. Patrick's Day

Procession to St. Joseph's Cathedral 9:45 AM (Forms at corner of Gay Street and North 5th Street), steps off at 10am

Mass 10:30 AM, St. Joseph's Cathedral

Parade Forms, East Broad Street in front of the Cathedral

Parade, Steps off at 12:00 noon and ends at the Columbus Convention Center

Family Reunion, Columbus Convention Center

Club Opens 4:00 PM

Entertainment in the Pub Ladies of Longford

Parade Badges

\$2 Each or 3 for \$5

\$40 for a bag of 25



FOURTH ANNUAL PATRICK PEARSE DIV. 1 FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND ROAD BOWLING FUNDRAISER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! SATURDAY, 27 APRIL 2024. REGISTRATION 10:00AM, EVENT STARTS 11:00AM

DEER CREEK STATE PARK BEACH ROAD . \$60.00 PER TEAM,

4 PLAYERS PER TEAM, LIMIT OF 36 TEAMS .

\$10.00 DEPOSIT ON CANNONBALLS

ALL PROCEEDS TO FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND AND OTHER CHARITIES

CONTACT STUART @ (614) 207-2457 OR PEARSEFFAI@GMAIL.COM FOR DIRECTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION

New Pub Rules

We recently reached out and received clarification from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control regarding our day membership policy at the pub. Their response was, *"The D-4 statute requires "yearly dues." Due to this, the DOLC does not believe that the D-4 can have daily memberships. Also, if a "daily" dues payment is allowed this would make you equivalent to any other retail permit holder, who doesn't have to limit their sales to members. If you would like to apply, nothing would prohibit you from holding a D-1-2-3 or a D-5 permit. Also, you must maintain their roster of members to submit to the Division upon request."*

Therefore, while non-member guests cannot start a tab, pay with cash, or in any way purchase alcohol, they are more than welcome to purchase a yearly membership. The easiest way is through the purchase of a pub membership because that membership level does not require board approval. Obviously we would prefer that folks join as Senior, General, or Family members but they would have to wait for Board approval before enjoying pub patron benefits.

How will this look at the Pub?

- Non-member guests can purchase a Pub Membership directly from staff or through the website.
- We will have a New Pub Member roster behind the bar for those who want to join in person. They simply have to enter their name, address, email and phone number and that's it, they're a member of the Club!
- We will maintain a current list of members behind the bar for staff reference.

What about facility rentals?

- Only club members can rent the club.
- If they opt for a host tab guests do not have to have a yearly membership because they are not directly purchasing alcohol.
- If the event is a cash bar, a flat Pub Membership fee (undetermined to date) will be added to their contract and rental fee structure and guests will have to sign the Membership roster.

We will be working through the sure-to-be million variations of the above scenarios and are asking for your patience, help, and great ideas to make sure we're in compliance.

Easter Egg Hunt

We will be filling over 4,000 plastic eggs on Friday, February 16th at 6:30. If you can help please come- it is true, many hands make light work. If you would like to donate candy it must be wrapped and able to fit in a plastic egg. Also the Emerald Society will be having their delicious Fish Fry that evening so you can grab dinner then come upstairs for all the fun!

The Hunt will be on Saturday, March 30 with gates opening at 11:00. Bring a basket or bag, money for the great raffles (pay for party). We provide lunch to all, goody bags and the Shamrock Club's beautiful grounds to hide all those eggs.

If you would like to donate anything for the raffle you can bring it that morning or drop off at the club 614-491-4449 anytime.

If you have any questions call/text Mary, 614-316-8278 or themightymary@gmail.com

Mary Grady Strickland

2023 - 2024 President's Club Members

2023 - 2024 C-Note Members

Joining the President's Club or becoming a C-Note Member is one way you can help ensure your Clubs financial future for the upcoming year. Currently the President's Club and C-Note Club run on the Presidential Year which is May 1st to April 30th. The President's Club is \$1500.00 a year and the C-Note Club is \$100 a year.

President's Club Benefits:

- Sponsorship recognition at the following Shamrock Club events – Installation Banquet, Irish Music Festival, Corn Roast, Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party, Harvest Festival, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Irish Family Reunion and in the monthly Seanachai.
- Red Tee Sponsorship at the Irish Golf Classic held in July; a complimentary twosome with a paid twosome and 4 meals at the post outing luncheon.
- Sponsorship of the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade - including a transferrable entry into the parade (walking, car or float), a reserved table for ten (10) at the 2023 Irish Family Reunion.
- Event admission to all Shamrock Club events including: two (2) tickets to the Installation Banquet, ten (10) tickets to the Irish Music Festival, ten (10) tickets to the annual Corn Roast, ten (10) tickets to the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party.
- Newsletter recognition on the back of our monthly newsletter which is currently mailed or emailed to over 1,100 households throughout Central Ohio. The newsletter is also posted on our website, providing a hyperlink for advertisers to their websites. Please submit ad as a .jpg.

C-Note Club Benefits:

- Five (5) Tickets to the Shamrock Club Music Festival and five (5) Tickets to the Shamrock Club Half Way to St. Patrick's Day Party in September. Recognition in the Monthly Seanachai.

2023 - 2024 President Club Members

Byrne's Pub, Judge Kim Brown, Riverside Bank of Dublin

Quiz Night

January's Quiz night was a night of fun! We had 2 guest Quiz Masters, **Terry Hickey** and **Nick Hammond!** They did an awesome job! They will be returning next month for another appearance. We had a brand new winning team, **Team Heather!** They signed their name to the Quiz Night Shamrock which hangs behind the bar. **Team Malarkey** won the spinner's pick (drink tickets) The 50/50 donation went to the Ronald McDonald House with a \$146 donation. (Suzy Lehman donated ½ of her winnings)

Our next Quiz night will be **Friday, February 9th** at 7:00pm. Feel free to bring snacks or even your dinner.

Nancy, Christina, Debbi, and Beth

Nick and Terry Too!

2023 - 2024 C-Note Club Members

John Archibald	Rodney & Kathy Flanagan	Julia Montei
George & Vanessa Arnold	Michael Patrick Flynn	The Motika's
Robert Basbagill	Ed & Alice Gaughan	Robin Nakkula & Alan Dormire
Gregory and Janell Brown	Brent & Reba Jones	Parker Lee Foundation
Jim Brown	Tim & Karen Jones	Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti
Thomas P. Byrne	Jerry D. Keffer	Tina O'Grady
Jim & Judy Casey	Brian Kelleher	Mollie O'Reilly & Scott Paynter
Msgr. John K. Cody	Ed & Terri Kelly	Lois K. O'Reilly
Tracee & John Collins	Bruce A. Kotlinski	Michael & Margaret O'Sullivan
Pat & Kim Conley	Jeanine & Mike Malloy	Richard & Kathy Pulse
St. Patrick & Annie Curran	Donald M. Manley	Sandra Puskarcik & Dave McKee
Daughters of Erin	Glenn & Jill Maurer	In Memory of Michael H. Quinn
Joe & Charlotte Davis	Christina McConahay	Mike & Kathy Redmond
The Dempsey Family	Jim & Debbi McDonald	Andrew Shuman 2021-2022
Francis & Hilda Doyle	Julie O'Keefe McGhee	Mark & Suzie Taggart
Doug Eakins	In Memory of Jeff McGowan	Timothy Timlin
Tim & Chris Feeney	Tom & Janet McGue	Paul Tisdale
Daniel Fitzpatrick	McSweeney Family	Dave Veeley

Clan Na nGael Annual Dinner

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio

6:00 p.m. Registration and Cocktail Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner & Honorees Program

2024 Honorees are Rich and Karen Finn, Followed by Irish Dancing.

\$60.00 per person

Checks payable to Clan Na nGael

Mail to: The Shamrock Club 60 W. Castle Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207

For more information, email Teresa Conley at tshamrockconley@gmail.com.

2024 Awardees

L to R: Member of the Year - Christina McConahay, Irishman of the Year - Mike Murphy, President Nancy Murphy, Parade Grand Marshall - Timothy Feeney, President's Awards- Kyle Collins and Mark Six



Shamrock Club Pipes and Drums

The Pipes and Drums welcome new members at any time. Practices are on Monday evenings at the Shamrock Club of Columbus at 60 West Castle Rd. Columbus, OH 43207

If you don't play but would like to come and meet with us. Lessons are free. Call Tim Becker at 614-832-8816.

Clann Na nGael Darts

It was a great night for darts full of good old Irish craic! We had 6 teams representing the 6 Irish organizations- Ancient Order of Hibernians, Daughters of Erin, Emerald Society, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Shamrock Club, Past Presidents of Shamrock Club.

Tons were thrown by **Emily McGue (2)**, **Brendan O'Reilly (1)**, **Andy Shuman (2)**, **Mike Murphy (1)**! They were awarded with a special token for each of their tons.

Past Presidents won the tournament with **Ancient Order of Hibernians** in a close second place!

Irishman of the Year Party

Byrne's Pub. Monday March 11, 7:00 pm, Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones. \$5 for Shamrock Club Members, \$10 Non-Members

Membership Report

I start with some appreciation this month.

Thanks to everyone who's renewed and joined for 2024. We're off to a very nice start. Thanks to everyone who participated in our membership drive on Jan. 21. We had 33 adults join that day - and several kids on family memberships. And a special thanks to Kathy Redmond for all her help and knowledge. I couldn't have done it without her.

There will be another membership drive (or maybe two) so watch your Thursday emails for dates. And remember, membership dues are club revenue and very membership counts. Join now!

Membership activity through Jan. 19, 2024 (provided at the Jan. 21 meeting)

- 413 total members
- 328 renewed members (over 100 member increase from last presented count)
- 85 new members

321 full-rights voting members

Membership by category

- 136 family (including children)
- 81 general
- 75 pub
- 121 senior

Renew your membership for 2024 membership. Remember that Shamrock Club memberships run through a calendar year. If you joined for the first time in 2023, you will renew for 2024.

Submitting your membership application online is the most efficient way for the club to process your application (new or renewal). You are at your peril asking me to decipher your hasty handwriting

Membership trends

	Members	Family	General	Senior	Pub	Pub*
2024***	413	136	81	121	75	N/A
2023	977	292	192	171	162	151
2022	1079	457	191	281	141	N/A
2021	285**					
2020	1116	479	174	288	164	N/A
2019	441**					

* - single visit events at the end of the year

** - data incomplete

*** - data through Jan. 19, 2024

Andy's Corner ¹

Almost two centuries before Patrick, a bishop in Terni, Italy was living the stories which would become the basis of his own holiday. In the mid-third century, the emperor, Claudius II, had forbid his soldiers to marry. Valentinus defied this order and continued to marry couples in secret. One legend says the Valentinus cut hearts from parchment and gave them to the men to remind them of their vows and the love of God. Another legend tells that while jailed and awaiting execution for evangelizing his faith, Valentinus was asked to cure his jailer's daughter of her blindness. When he did, the jailer converted to Christianity, and Valentinus continued to write to the daughter until his execution. His last note was signed, "Your Valentine." These legends may combine the deeds of several pious men named Valentine, yet we are all familiar with his feast day. Along with St. Patrick's Day, it has become one of the most celebrated secular holidays. The history dates to the obvious connect to Roman and Celtic fertility rites, but Valentine's Day also coincides with the time of year when birds begin to pair. But how is St. Valentine connected to Ireland?

As many of my stories often originate, last year, I read a story in the Irish Post about the relics of St. Valentine. Much to my surprise his relics had been gifted to an Irish priest by Pope Gregory XVI in the 1800's. Father John Spratt was a well-known orator of the time and had been invited to speak at a church in Rome. In attendance was His Holiness who was so impressed by the Father Spratt's gift of gab that he honored him with a reliquary containing Valentine's partial remains and a small vessel tinged with the saint's blood. Over time the sacred object was almost forgotten about, until a new shrine was constructed in 1950. Since then, many pilgrims have come seeking love or a blessing upon their marriages.

Like Valentine's relics in years past, I had forgotten about this article when I arrived in Dublin last summer. I was so taken by the many historic sites and stories waiting around every corner, like the Door of Reconciliation at St. Patrick's



Cathedral (see January 2023 Seanachai), that I did not even consider looking for these relics. However, my friend Alex had us on a direct path to the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Whitefriar Street, home of Valentine's relics. The Carmelite Order first came to Ireland in 1279, but their monastery was dissolved in 1539 by one of the many anti-Catholic acts of Parliament over the centuries. By the early 1800's, they had reestablished the Order at Whitefriar Street where the original monastery had once been located. As Alex, his son Joseph, and I were admiring the various shrines throughout the church, including St. Valentine's, the sound of tiny bells rang out. Knowing that mass was about to begin, we tried to make a subtle exit. First, we waited until the opening prayers had ending before causally walking towards the back of the church. Then, we paused at the back as the readings began. We quickly surrendered and took a place in one of the



long pews. At the end of the aisle was an older lady who must have sensed we were visitors. At

the conclusion of mass, she spoke to Joseph and told him she had been coming to the Whitefriar Street church since she was a little girl, and the seats were once full at every mass. Much to Joseph's surprise, she said she had been looking for a church with confession available, and this was the second church she had been to. Joseph later asked me why such a nice older lady would need confession. I suggested to Joseph that even as you get older you sometimes are not as charitable in your thoughts or words, and maybe she just wanted to apologize for that. When our conversation had finished, the lady offered to say a prayer for Joseph, and we went down the street in search of the ruins of a Norman house buried under a grocery store.

The story of Valentinus, the random news article, the visit to his relics, and the nice lady all serve to remind me that there is love and kindness in even the smallest of interactions. If you keep your eyes and your heart open, you never know what treasures you will find around each corner (literally). Yours, ANDY.

1. Andy's Corner is provided by Past President Andy Shuman (2021, 2022) whenever an article comes together.

Police & Fire Emerald Society of Columbus 2024 Fish Fry

“ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH”

Fried Fire House Fish fresh from the Irish Sea! Potatoes O’Rourke - Cop’s Cole Slaw - Irish Green Beans

O’Mac & Cheese for the Kids - Dessert

All Fridays during Lent except for St. Patrick’s Day and Good Friday

Starts Friday, February 16, 2024

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Shamrock Club of Columbus 60 W. Castle Rd Columbus, OH 43207

Carryout Available

\$17 Adults \$12 Children



THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN

TRADITIONAL IRISH BREAKFAST



Join us for a traditional Irish breakfast, a silent auction, music, and more! The Daughters of Erin's fundraising table will be setup to purchase Irish themed items. Suggested donation is \$15 per adult, and \$10 per kid. We hope to see you there!

MARCH 3
9AM-1PM

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
1559 Roxbury Rd
Columbus, OH 43123
CASH OR CHARGE

@daughtersoferin
www.daughtersoferin.org

Shamrock Club of Columbus
60 W. Castle Road
Columbus, Ohio 43207



<p>OFFICE HOURS Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM 614-491-4449 Email shamrockclub1936@the shamrockclubofcolumbus.com</p>	<p>MEETINGS All at 2 pm Sunday Feb 4h Sunday Feb 18th Sunday Mar 3rd Sunday Mar 10th</p>	<p>PUB HOURS Mondays Coed Darts Tuesday Closed Wednesday - Men's Darts Thursday - Women's Darts Friday 5pm Happy Hour Saturday Closed Sunday – Meeting Days only All Subject to Change</p>	<p>Seanachai The Official Newsletter of The Shamrock Club of Columbus James B. Casey-Editor Email Articles to: jjcasey973@gmail.com</p>
--	---	---	--

2024 President's Club Member

Judge
Kim Brown
2024 President's Club Member

Clann na nGael Web Sites
www.patrickpearse.com
www.daughtersoferin.org
www.emeraldsofcolombus.org
www.columbusirishculture.com
www.laohcolumbus.com
www.clannnangael.org

Seanachai ad prices are:
\$300 per year
\$175 per six months
and \$50 per one month

SUPPORTING MEMBER FOR 15+ YEARS
 YOUR IRISH REAL ESTATE CONNECTION IN FLORIDA
 FOR RELOCATION & PURCHASING PROPERTY

Cell: 941.702.3098
 Office: 941.349.4411
 Fax: 941.349.8090

Julia.Monte@cbrealty.com
JuliaMontei.com

07/2024

Your Ad Here

07/2024

Riverside Bank of Dublin
 6300 Frantz Rd.
 Dublin, OH 43017

2024 President's Club Member

The Reinhart Printing
Company
Email:
ReinhartPrtgCo@aol.com