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ST. CLOUD MASONIC LODGE No. 221

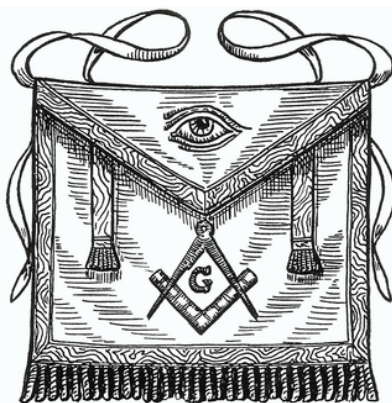
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# TRESTLEBOARD

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W.:M.: ERNIE PATON | JUNE 2026

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*Chartered January 21, 1914*

*District 16, Zone 5*

*Meetings at 7:30 p.m. and Supper at 6:30 p.m.*

*Second and Fourth Thursdays*

901 Oregon Ave.

P.O. Box 700542

Saint Cloud, FL 34769.

Saint Cloud, FL 34770

407-892-3437

[saintcloudlodge221@outlook.com](mailto:saintcloudlodge221@outlook.com)

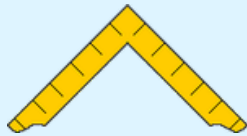
[saintcloudmasoniclodge221@gmail.com](mailto:saintcloudmasoniclodge221@gmail.com)

[stcloudlodge221.com](http://stcloudlodge221.com)

## Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master:	Ernie Paton (PM)	(407) 427-4896
Senior Warden:	Angel Cardona	(321) 310-4243
Junior Warden:	Wesley Harley	(407) 908-9159
Treasurer:	Jeff Hall (PM)	(508) 259-6505
Secretary:	Kenny Stichter (PM)	(813) 424-6637
Marshall:	Tim Hessler (PM)	
Chaplain:	David Smith	(410) 432-4490
Senior Deacon:	Ron Lacson	
Junior Deacon:	David Bautista	
Senior Steward:	Wilson Ng	
Junior Steward:	William Kelly	
Tyler:	Richard Realmuto	
Historian:	Jason Walters (PM)	
Musician:		

# Monthly Messages



## From the East



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

On May 25, 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> we attended the Grand Lodge Communication at Rosen Plaza Hotel. We had an average of 10 Brothers each day, I haven't heard yet, but we plan on keeping the "Traveling Sword" again this year.

Congratulations to the newly installed Grand Line Officers:

Most Worshipful Grand Master Haskell R. Vest Jr.  
R.:W.: Deputy Grand Master Rick Wendling  
R.:W.: Grand Senior Warden Robert W. Estell Jr.  
R.:W.: Grand Junior Warden John Dragneff  
M.:W.: Secretary Jeffrey S. Foster  
M.:W.: Treasurer Richard E. Lynn

Congratulations to our New District Deputy Grand Master R.:W.: Chester "Chet" Tokar and our District Instructor R.:H.: William A. Triplett. I hope we have a great year in the Proud 16<sup>th</sup> District.

We had our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual First Responder Breakfast on the 12<sup>th</sup> and there were at least 70 Officers, Deputies and Firefighters in attendance. Every year it gets bigger and bigger. It is an honor to serve breakfast to those who serve us.

A heads up to all the veterans and their families in our Lodge. I am planning a lunch on Veterans Day. Please plan on attending..... there may be a surprise involved.

We are moving along with our Fellow Craft Brother Busby, he will be returning his catechism soon and we will do a Master Mason Degree in our Lodge. If you want to be involved please let me know. Also, we have three Entered Apprentices moving along. Let's keep the Lodge growing.

Come on out to the Lodge and be apart of us getting better!!!

God Bless you all.

Fraternally,  
Ernie Paton  
407-427-4896

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
TO THE ELECTED GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA  
**LODGE OFFICERS**  
**2026-2027**

M.:W.: GRAND MASTER	HASKELL VEST
R.:W.: DEPUTY GRAND MASTER	RICK WENDLING
R.:W.: SENIOR GRAND WARDEN	ROB ESTELL
R.:W.: JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN	JOHN DRAGNEFF
R.:W.: GRAND TREASURER	RICHARD E. LYNN, PGM
R.:W.: GRAND SECRETARY	JEFFREY FOSTER, PGM

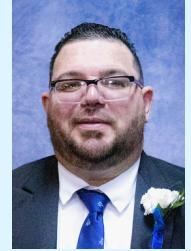
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PROUD 16<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT LEADERS

R.:W.: DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER CHET TOKAR	R.:H.: DISTRICT INSTRUCTOR BILLY TRIPLETT
---	--

WISHING YOU ALL A SUCCESSFUL AND IMPACTFUL YEAR AHEAD!



## From the West



My Beloved Brothers,

As we enter the month of June, let us reflect on how quickly time passes. We are already reaching the halfway point of the year, and soon the warmth of summer will be upon us. This season reminds us to slow down, enjoy fellowship, and appreciate the blessing of Brotherhood that unites us all.

Life will always bring challenges, responsibilities, and moments that test our strength. But one of the beautiful lessons Masonry teaches us is that no Brother must carry those burdens alone. A kind word, a handshake, or simply knowing your Brothers stand beside you can bring light even during difficult times. Let us continue encouraging one another, lifting each other up, and being the example of kindness, patience, and unity that this world greatly needs today.

As we move toward the final meeting of the month, let us also bring some joy and fellowship to our Lodge with our "Big John Hawaiian Shirt Memory Night." Let us gather not only in harmony and laughter, but in remembrance of the good times, strong friendships, and memories that continue to shape our Masonic journey together. Sometimes the most meaningful moments in Masonry are not found only in ritual, but in the smiles, conversations, and bonds we share around one another.

May this summer season renew our spirits, strengthen our Brotherhood, and remind us never to take for granted the gift of sitting together in peace and unity.

God bless you and your families, my dear Brothers. I look forward to seeing all of you at our stated communication.

Fraternally and with deep affection,  
Bro. Angel A. Cardona



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols

# Monthly Messages



## From the South



Brothers,

We are doing good on new members but we still need to continue to speak with our community and invite as many persons as possible to come join us.

Any suggestions and or requests for comfort meals/childhood favorites are gladly accepted.

Fraternally,

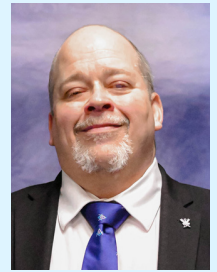
Wes  
Senior Warden



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols



## From the Secretary



I trust this message finds each of you in good health and in excellent spirits. It is my privilege to provide this update on behalf of St. Cloud Lodge No. 221.

The 197th Annual Grand Lodge Communication was held on May 25th, 26th, and 27th, 2026, and it proved to be a productive and inspiring gathering of the Craft. St. Cloud Lodge was well represented, with the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Chaplain, and Junior Steward all in attendance and prepared to serve with dedication.

During the Communication, the elected Grand Lodge Officers were advanced by acclamation, apart from the offices of Junior Grand Warden and Grand Secretary, which required a ballot. Upon completion of balloting, the Craft elected R.·W.· John Dragneff as Junior Grand Warden and M.·W.· Richard Lynn as Grand Treasurer. I extend my sincere congratulations to all elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers and wish them a productive, harmonious, and successful year in service to our Fraternity.

As we now reach the midpoint of the year, it becomes my duty to remind the Brethren that 2026 dues should already be paid. In accordance with the Masonic Digest, I will be issuing the first round of delinquent dues notices on or before June 30th, 2026, to all Members whose dues remain outstanding.

Dues may be paid by mail using a check or money order. If you prefer to pay in cash, please feel free to stop by the Lodge—we would be delighted to see you and assist you in person. Additionally, dues may be paid electronically by downloading the Amity App, which provides a convenient and secure method for submitting your payment.

(Android): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.copiri.amity>

(Apple): <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/amity/id1145664582>

Your timely attention to this matter ensures the continued financial health of your Lodge and supports the important work we do within the Craft and our community.

Should you require assistance or have any questions regarding your dues, please do not hesitate to reach out.

May God watch over you and your families, bringing peace to a world that desperately needs it.

Fraternally,  
Kenneth Stichter, PM, Secretary  
St. Cloud Lodge No. 221 F. & A. M.  
P.O. Box 700542  
St Cloud, FL 34770-0542  
Lodge: (407)892-3437



# Monthly Messages



## From the Treasurer



### Answering the Call!

As a member of St. Cloud Lodge No. 221, we are blessed to have generous Brothers and the ability to support Masonic and local charities. Over the past few months, we have supported so many worthy causes that our charity account got dangerously low. But a call went out, and our charity cup has been filled. Our on-going generosity will require continued giving to the charity cup, and we thank you in advance for that support. Below is an excerpt from a piece written by Brother Suratos which captures the essence of Masonic charity.

#### A Mason's Charity

By Brother Stephen Suratos, Junior Deacon, Naomi Lodge No. 87

"...But, what is charity? The dictionary defines charity as:

1. Benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity;
2. Generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering, for example: • Aid given to those in need; • An institution engaged in relief of the poor; • Public provision for the relief of the needy;
3. A gift for public benevolent purposes; for example: • An institution (such as a hospital) founded by such a gift;
4. Lenient judgment of others; A very common concept of charity is giving time, money, or property. However, a deeper and more significant meaning of charity is defined as being: To have a benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity, and to have a lenient judgment of others.

Thus, CHARITY doesn't only mean or focus on donating money or services but having a pure and charitable HEART. By this is meant, we should wish for, and be willing to encourage, the best in our Brethren and disregard our irregular passions. We should always be sincere in exercising the tenets of our profession – that of BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF and TRUTH. The two doctrines of Brotherly Love and Relief can be construed as outward expressions of Charity, for "we are taught to regard the whole human species as one common family....to aid, support, and protect each other," and, "to relieve the distressed, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and restore peace to their troubled minds" which is "the grand aim we have in view." It should inspire our lives and our actions. It should encourage us to do a little more than we would otherwise do and to be a little better than we otherwise would be. Of course, we cannot meet every need or help everyone all of the time. We also know that our charity should not cause material injury to ourselves or our families, but there is so much more we can do that we don't.

Sometimes all that is needed by someone who is sad, or lonely, or in distress is a kind word or gesture, a smile or handshake; a pat on the back or a hug. We know these little things can mean so much, so what stops us from sending that card, or making that call that we were thinking about? What stops us from making that visit or doing that favor that we could so easily do? Are we too tired, too distracted, or too engaged in our own enjoyments? We are human and none of us is perfect, but our Masonic philosophy, the teachings of our ritual, and our Masonic obligations are there to help us when we find ourselves being morally lazy or selfish. That is why we say: "FORGET NOT THE DUTIES."

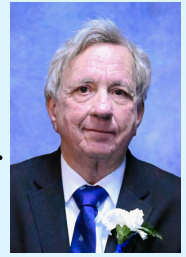
Fraternally,  
Wor, Jeff Hall, Treasurer



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols



## Chaplains Corner



Brothers of St. Cloud lodge and any Master Mason that may be visiting the Orlando area. We would like to meet you, share a dinner and fellowship. Our lodge meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month year round. Dinner is at 6:30 pm followed by our lodge meeting.

To our Past Masters, the St. Cloud officers are moving into the second half of our year already. We are working very hard on Tuesday evenings to make our regular meetings sound and look professional. Please come any Tuesday at 6 pm to help us.

At the time of this writing, we have 3 brothers working on their Entered Apprentice Return. All are doing well. We also have one brother that received his Fellowcraft and is working on his Fellowcraft Return.

Our membership is beginning to grow. We would appreciate Past Masters and Brothers to come and work as mentors for these new brothers moving through the degrees.

As a lodge we have a few "Attaboys" to be shared. First, as a group we traveled to Orange Blossom #80. We took the traveling mug from them. Secondly, we hosted our 4th annual 1st responders breakfast. It was very well attended by both the fire and police departments of the St. Cloud area. There were over 70 attendees. This was certainly the most important and will continue to be held. This is a great way to show our lodge's love and support for the people who serve and protect our community.

On a personal note, I thank our members for their concern and prayers for me during my heart issues and quick hospital stay. This is why I joined this amazing fraternity.

The fellowship among our brothers is so strong.

Fraternally,  
David Smith



# Looking Back

John "Big John" Cuttitta (PM)  
Lawrence Montesi (PM)  
David O'Quinn  
Donald Hughes  
Danny Cripe (PM)  
Jim Wilder (PM)  
Bob Shonyo (PM)  
Bob Busson  
Alvin Sharp  
Michael Hemphill (PM)  
William Dunkle  
Edward Cowley (PM)  
Frank Freeman  
Ira "Dean" McKittrick  
Bill MacIntosh



Old Saint Cloud Masonic Lodge

What is a Masonic Lodge?

A Masonic lodge is more than a building; it is a living, breathing organization made up of and sustained by the members themselves. It is a tight-knit group of men who make solemn vows to one another and become comrades in Masonry and life.

Above all, a Masonic lodge represents open arms, a helping hand, and brotherly love to every Mason, anywhere, at any time.



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols



## Past Masters

Davis H. Gill 1912/13**	John B. Phelps 1973**
W.N. Garner 1914/15 **	Harris Rumsey 1974**
E.E. Livermore 1916**	Russell V. Zimmerman 1975**
Sam Brammer 1917/18/53 **	James L. Swogger 1976**
W.M. Hall 1919**	Robert J. Breese 1977**
Lovie C. Riddle 1920**	Robert Carlyon 1978**
Ives E. Diefendorf 1921**	Raymond R. Lackey 1979
Otto R. Bleach 1922**	Danny K. Cripe 1980/93**
A. Earle Cowger 1923**	Frank T. Hopkins 1981
Sidney W. Porter 1924**	Robert O. Bell 1982**
Calvin P. Parker 1925**	James E. Jones 1983**
Dan E. Armstrong 1926**	Marshall H. Brown 1984++
Holmes E. Crawford 1927**	Robert K. Bumgardner 1985**
Lloyd C. Herringer 1928**	Gerald L. Durbin, PDDGM 1986**
Ralph G. Reynolds 1929**	Jay R. Young, Jr. 1987**
L.U. Zimmerman 1930**	Eddie C. Williford 1988**
Robert H. Johns 1931**	Frank S. Mazzei 1989**
William H. Dodds 1932**	Jack D. Lethenstrom, PRRGC **
M. Percy Tindall 1933**	1990/2001/2007 **
Frank Garside 1934**	Barry L. Taylor 1991 **
James W. Sage 1935**	Ernest N. Elliott 1992**
William J. Thurber 1936**	Ted R. Smith 1994
Henry L. Godwin 1937**	Michael E. Rigsby 1995
Groves M. Mosses Jr. 1938++	Allen R. Van Horn 1996/2000
John B. Mills 1939**	Jerry W. Little 1997
Harvey L. Hersey 1940/43**	David W. Stanyon 1998**
Floyd E. Davidson 1941**	Larry A. Montesi 1999 **
John E. Hale 1942**	Joe Parham 2002 **
John R. Rotundo 1944++	Alvin R. Sharp, Jr. 2003**
Ross E. Jeffries 1945**	Jack V. Miller 2004 **
Albert Depew 1946**	Michael Hemphill 2005**
O. Frank Kirby 1947**	Allen Antoniac 2006**
Fred M. Loring 1948**	Bob Shonyo 2008**
Horace Y. Smith 1949**	Joe Moore 2009/10 /13
William E. Spencer 1950**	John Cuttitta 2011 **
Jay B. Johnson 1951**	John Reger 2012/24
Curtis J. Bock 1952++	Donald Goolsby 2014
Norman Mallet 1954**	Wendel Tomimbang 2015
James H. Young 1955**	William Waggoner 2016
S. Robert Lackey 1956**	Sidney Mills 2017
Robert H. Chamberlin 1957**	John Whitehead 2018
William R. Godwin II 1958**	Gerald W. Newland, Jr. 2019
Russell J. Depew 1959**	Kenneth A. Stichter 2020
Lloyd Stalvey 1960**	Jason Walters 2021
William S. Byrd 1961**	Nigel Mills 2022
Laurence Wheeler 1962**	Harry Mapes 2023
Edward Cowley 1963**	Ernie Paton 2025
R.J. Bramhan 1964**	
George S. Pankey 1965**	
Harold R. James 1966**	
Willis E. Leech 1967**	
James E. Long 1968**	
Arthur W. Campbell 1969**	
Allan S. Goodman 1970**	
Hubert Z. Fryman, Sr. 1971**	
Hugh E. Wright III 1972	

Legend:

(\*\*) DECEASED

(++) UNAFFILIATED



## Lodge Committee Chairmen

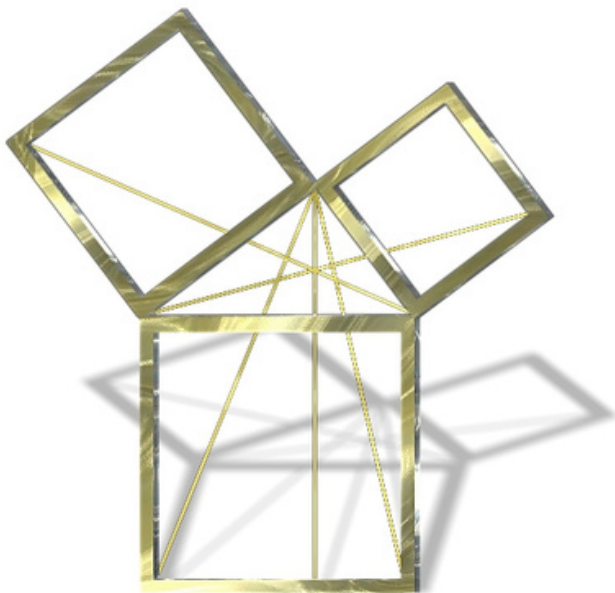
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Finance: Angel Cardona, S.W.  
Vigilance: Wesley Harley, J.W.  
Petitions: W.: Kenny Stichter  
Education: W.: Jason Walters, Historian  
Board of Relief: W.M. and Wardens  
Investigations: As Needed  
Charity: All Masons  
Lodge Property: Wesley Harley, J.W.  
Mentor's: W.:M.: Ernie Paton  
Events: Angel Cardona, S.W.



## RAISED IN JUNE

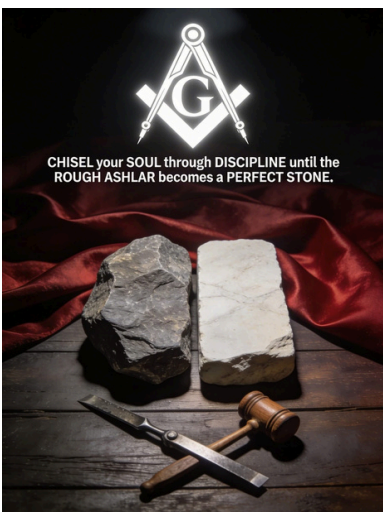
1ST  
CARY BARBAREE  
JEFFORDS MILLER JR.  
2ND  
ALAN LACKEY DAVID MINOR  
15TH  
TERRANCE LANDRY  
20TH  
CLARK EGERTON  
23RD  
THOMAS BARTELS  
WILLIAM DUNKLE  
26TH  
MILTON BELL JR.  
HARRY WALLING JR.  
30TH  
DONALD GASKINS III





# JUNE

- 2 ND RICHARD REALMUTO
- 7 TH DONALD JOHNSON
- 9 TH JOSEPH MOORE
- 2 0 TH STEVEN WATKINS
- 2 6 TH JAMES DANFORTH
- 2 9 TH WALLACE MCCLENDON



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Jason Walters  
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*Saint Cloud Lodge donates to the following:*

- *Shriners Hospital for Children*
- *Scottish Rite Foundation*
- *Grand Master's Charity*
- *First Lady's Charity*
- *Masonic Youth*
- *Rainbow for Girl*
- *A Place for Grace*
- *Hopkins Heros*



## **Masonic Links**

[St. Cloud Masonic Lodge No.221](#)

[Central Florida Masons](#)

[The Grand Lodge of Florida](#)

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[@SaintCloudMasonicLodge 221](#)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Future Ballots / Votes

None to Mention at this time

### Upcoming Meetings

- June 4, 2026: Masters and Wardens @ Winter Park Lodge No. Breakfast at 0800, Meeting at 0900-1000 Memorial Lodge to Follow
- June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026: **PRACTICE @ 1800 (6 pm)**
- June 11th, 2026: Stated Communication Supper at 1830 (6:30) / Meeting 1930 (7:30)
- June 20th, 2026: Open Books @ Winter Park (0800-1200)
- June 20th, 2026: District School of Instruction @ Winter Park (1230-1330ish)
- June 25th, 2026: Stated Communication Supper at 1830 (6:30) / Meeting 1930 (7:30)
- June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Saint John's Celebration @ Winter Park Lodge 0900-11:30
- June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026: GMOV District 16 @ Bahia Shrine from 1700-2000.
- PLEASE check **centralfloridamasons.com/calendar** for more events. You may need to delete and reload the webpage due to a recent calendar change.



### 2027 Dues

Dues notices have been mailed out.

Dues are being collected via the old fashioned way of "pay by cash or check" or via PayPal.

If you wish to **pay by check** they will be \$190.00.

If you wish to use **PayPal**, dues will be \$195.00 because of the fees we get charged by PayPal.

Please use the QR code below.....



### Dues Notice:

You can now pay your dues on AMITY. There is an additional fee. If you do not have AMITY follow this link:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/1032344564?h=5f7f61ef14>



### Calendars

Keep up to date by clicking the links below, check frequently

[saintcloudlodge221@google](mailto:saintcloudlodge221@google)

[centralfloridamasons calendar](#)

[Grand Lodge of Florida Calendar](#)



# May Pix

## Grand Communication



# 2026 Officers

# First Responder Breakfast







## Famous Mason of the Month

### Warren G. Harding

Warren Gamaliel Harding (November 2, 1865 – August 2, 1923) was the 29th president of the United States, serving from 1921 until his death in 1923. A member of the Republican Party, he was one of the most popular presidents at the time of his death.

Harding's journey through Freemasonry was unusually prolonged:

- **Initiation:** He received his Entered Apprentice degree on June 28, 1901, at Marion Lodge No. 70 in Marion, Ohio.
- **The Obstacle:** His advancement was halted for nearly two decades due to personal and political rivalries within the lodge. Rumors circulated by opponents regarding his heritage played a significant role in this delay.
- **Master Mason:** In 1920, while campaigning for the presidency, the objections were finally withdrawn. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on August 27, 1920.

#### Masonic Milestones during his Presidency

Once he achieved the status of Master Mason, Harding quickly advanced through multiple Masonic bodies:

- **Inauguration:** On March 4, 1921, President Harding took his oath of office using the historic Washington Bible from St. John's Lodge No. 1 in New York City.
- **Further Degrees:** In 1921, he completed his Royal Arch Chapter degrees and became a Knight Templar.
- **Scottish Rite & Shrine:** He also joined the Scottish Rite (achieving the 32nd degree) and became the **first sitting U.S. President to join the Shriners.**





## WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU?

SOME MEMBERS KEEP THEIR LODGES STRONG,  
WHILE OTHERS JOIN AND JUST BELONG;

SOME DIG RIGHT IN, SOME SERVE WITH PRIDE,  
SOME GO ALONG, JUST FOR THE RIDE.

SOME VOLUNTEER TO DO THEIR SHARE,  
WHILE SOME LAY BACK AND JUST DON'T CARE;

ON MEETING DAYS SOME ALWAYS SHOW  
WHILE THERE ARE THOSE WHO SELDOM GO.

SOME ALWAYS PAY THEIR DUES AHEAD,  
SOME GET BEHIND FOR MONTHS, INSTEAD.

SOME DO THEIR BEST, SOME BUILD, SOME MAKE,  
SOME NEVER GIVE, BUT ALWAYS TAKE,

SOME DRAG, SOME PULL, SOME DON'T, SOME DO.  
CONSIDER, WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU?

Art By:  
GLP R4-C



**William J Thomas, PGM,**  
**wjthomasnyc@gmail.com**  
**407-927-8400**



## **The Measure of the Man: The Hidden Geometry of “Forty”**



In the silent, shadowed corridors of the Masonic Lodge, our eyes are naturally drawn to the numbers that define our structure. We speak often—and with great reverence—of the Three, the Five, and the Seven. These are the steps upon the Winding Stairs; they are the pillars that support our Craft, the senses that connect us to the world, and the liberal arts that liberate our minds. Three rules a Lodge, five holds a Lodge, and seven makes it perfect.

Yet, as we climb those stairs, we often bypass a number that sits quietly in the background, etched into the very dimensions of King Solomon’s Temple and woven into the fabric of the Great Architect’s plan for human transformation. That number is Forty.

While the odd numbers of our ritual provide the tools and the structure, the number forty provides the tenure. If three, five, and seven represent the "how" of Masonry, forty represents the "how long." It is the number of completion, the duration of trial, and the gestation period of the soul.

### **The Architecture of Time and Space**

To the speculative Mason, numbers are more than mere quantities; they are symbols of moral truth. In the First Book of Kings, we learn that the "Holy Place"—the main hall of the Temple where the priests labored—was forty cubits in length. This is a profound architectural hint. While the Sanctum Sanctorum (the Holy of Holies) was a perfect square of twenty cubits by twenty cubits by twenty cubits, the place of active service and preparation was exactly double that in length

This suggests that the "labor" of a Mason—the polishing of the stone, the trimming of the lamp—takes place within the "Forty." It is the space of transition. We live our lives in the Forty cubits of the Holy Place, preparing ourselves for the eventual entrance into the Twenty of the Holy of Holies.

We also find “forty” used as a measurement of time. But why forty days or years? Why not a decade, or a century? To understand this, we must look to the volume of Sacred Law, which serves as the primary trestleboard for our symbolic interpretations.

## **The Trial of the Old Testament**

In the Hebrew tradition, forty is the "Unit of Transformation." It is the time required for a person or an entire people to move from one state of existence to another.

Consider the Great Flood. For forty days and forty nights, the rains descended. This was not merely a celestial plumbing mishap; it was a ritual immersion of the Earth. In the Noachide tradition—which many Masonic historians, including Dr. James Anderson, viewed as a precursor to our own—the forty days represented the "washing away" of the Rough Ashlar of humanity. It took forty days to dissolve the old world so that the new could emerge on the heights of Ararat.

We see this pattern repeated with Moses. He spent forty days on Mount Sinai, not once, but thrice. He fasted from the bread of the world to receive the Bread of Life. In those forty days, he ceased to be merely a leader of men and became a prophet of the Most High.

Perhaps the most resonant example for the Mason is the forty years of wandering in the wilderness. This was the ultimate "Chamber of Reflection." A generation of men who had been born into the mental chains of Egyptian bondage had to pass away. It took forty years for the "slave mind" to be replaced by the "free mind." For the Mason, this is a reminder that the journey from the "North" of darkness to the "East" of light is rarely a straight or short path. It is a wandering that tests our fortitude and tempers our character.

## **The Fortification of the New Testament**

The "Forty" continues its work in the New Testament, shifting from the national to the personal. Before Jesus of Nazareth began his public ministry, he was led into the wilderness for forty days.

This period was a "fortification." It was a time of temptation and internal combat. For the Mason, this mirrors the silence we are expected to maintain as Entered Apprentices. It is the realization that one cannot speak truth to the world until one has faced the "adversary" within one's own heart during a period of solitary reflection. Even after the Resurrection, the Great Architect saw fit to keep the number forty at the center of the narrative. Jesus remained with his disciples for forty days before his Ascension. This was the final instruction—the "Master's Degree," if you will—where the fragments of his teachings were gathered into a completed whole. It was the transition from a physical presence to a spiritual influence.

## **The Masonic "Forty": A Period of Completion**

In the Rabbinical schools, it is often taught that forty is the age of Binah, or "Understanding." A man may have the strength of youth at twenty and the zeal of his prime at thirty, but it is not until he reaches his "forty" that he is said to truly grasp the "why" behind the "what."

In our Craft, we often rush through the degrees. We focus on the "3, 5, and 7" because they are the requirements for advancement. But the "40" is the requirement for attainment.

Forty represents the point where the ritual is no longer something you do, but something you are. It is the "gestation" of the embryo (as noted in the Talmud) and the "filling of the Mikvah" (the forty se'ahs of water). It is the minimum volume of experience required for a man to be "fully immersed" in the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

When a Mason has completed his "forty"—whether that be forty years of service, forty months of deep study, or forty days of intense self-correction—he has reached a state of Completion. The Rough Ashlar has been perfected. The tools have been mastered. The "Holy Place" has been traversed.

### **The Admonition: From 40 to 41**

#### **My Brother, I leave you with this charge:**

Do not be discouraged by the length of the journey or the perceived silence of the wilderness. Your "forty" is necessary. The Great Architect does not waste a single day of your trial, nor a single cubit of your labor. If you feel you are currently wandering, know that you are simply in the process of "washing away" the slave and "birthing" the free man.

Complete your forty. Do not take shortcuts. Stay on the mountain until the Law is written on your heart.

Stay

in the wilderness until your passions are circumscribed. Stay in the Holy Place until your service is pure.

But remember this: Forty is the end of a cycle, not the end of the journey. The number forty-one is the most exciting in our celestial geometry. Forty-one is the first step into the Promised Land. Forty-one is the moment

you descend the mountain with a face that shines. Forty-one is the first day of the New Creation.

Complete your forty with patience, and then, with the tools of a Master, begin your Forty-One.

## Past Master Photo Project

I have been trying to update the Past Master photos for some time now. Below is a list of Past Masters that I DO NOT have any photos of. Please take a minute to check the list over and if you know of, or have a photo of someone, please forward it to me.

If you now of a family member of one of our Past Masters that may have a photo or history of them, that would help out tremendously.

### Past Master Years

William N. Garner 1914  
E. Edward Livermore 1916  
Sam Brammer 1917/18  
W.M. Hall 1919  
Love C. Riddle 1921  
Ives E. Diefendorf 1921  
Otto R. Bleach (Bleech) 1922  
Sidney W. Porter 1924  
Lloyd C. Herringer 1928  
Ralph Garfield Reynolds 1929  
William H. Dodds 1932  
Marion Percy Tindall 1933  
Frank Harold Garside 1934  
Groves M. Mosses Jr. 1938  
John B. Mills 1939  
John R. Rotundo 1944  
Ross E. Jefferies 1945  
O. Frank Kirby 1947  
Fred M. Loring 1948  
Curtis John Bock 1952  
Edward W. Cowley 1963  
Hugh Edward Wright III 1972

## Food For Thought

**The numbers 3, 5, and 7 are progressive stages of moral and intellectual instruction encountered during the Fellow Craft degree ceremony:**

**3 (Three steps) Symbolizes the three principal officers of a lodge and the three stages of human life (youth, manhood, and old age). It represents a moral foundation, discipline, and devotion to learning.**

**5 (Five steps) Refers to the five human senses (by which man apprehends the world), the five points of fellowship, and the five orders of architecture. It signifies the disciplined growth of the mind and the training of human faculties.**

**7 (Seven steps) Represents completeness and the seven liberal arts and sciences (grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy). This final set of steps leads to the culmination of knowledge and wisdom in the "Middle Chamber".**

# — SAINT CLOUD — MASONIC LODGE — NO. 221 —

BROTHERHOOD • CHARITY • TRUTH



## GOOD MEN. BETTER TOGETHER.

Freemasonry is open to men of good character who are seeking a way to make themselves better, their families stronger, and their communities brighter.

**WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.  
ASK. SEEK. KNOCK.  
— THE DOOR IS OPEN. —**

### BECOME PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF.



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Build lifelong friendships with good men who support and inspire one another.



**PERSONAL GROWTH**  
Freemasonry teaches valuable lessons in leadership, integrity, and self-improvement.



**CHARITY**  
Make a positive impact in our community and the world through meaningful service.



**TRUTH**  
Seek truth, live with honor, and strive to be the best version of yourself.



**TRADITION**  
Be part of a time-honored fraternity with values that have stood the test of time.

### INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Contact us today or visit our lodge.



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