

Evansville York Rite

ARE You A Traveling Man?

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As a master Mason have you been asked if you are a traveling man? Have you traveled long? Have you traveled far? Master Masons are expected to travel, symbolically, in search of knowledge, referred to as Masonic Light. If you have you only traveled to the various gates and to the brow of the hill, then your travels have been very limited. You have not obtained that for which you should be searching, further Masonic light.

Traveling implies movement, not standing still, not being satisfied, and always seeking knowledge and understanding. "Traveling" means that the destination has not been reached, that the search for knowledge must continue.

So, **ARE YOU A TRAVELING MAN?** As a Master Mason, you have stepped onto the road toward increased knowledge. Are you traveling without studying the road map? The York Rite of Freemasonry is an organized road map to further Masonic Light. The symbolic degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason as conferred in the United States are degrees of the York Rite.

The York Rite consists of four distinct and separate Masonic bodies; The Symbolic Lodge, The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and The Council of Cryptic Masons and The Commandery of Knights Templar. As a Master Mason in a Symbolic Lodge you have started traveling on the road toward the consummation of Masonic Light as exemplified in the York Rite.

Evansville York Rite

The Evansville York Rite consists of **Evansville Chapter #12, Simpson Council #23 and LaValette Commandery #15**. Stated meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month on the fourth floor of the Evansville Masonic Temple on 301 Chestnut Street at 7:00 PM.

Evansville Chapter #12

Dispensation was granted August 25, 1848, to Evansville Chapter No. 12. A Charter was granted by the Grand Chapter May 26, 1849.

Simpson Council #23

Several Companions assembled April 20, 1867, and appointed a Committee to take the necessary steps to procure a Dispensation, which was granted May 6, 1867. A Charter was granted on May 21, 1867.

LaValette Commandery #15

John Parasot De La Valette, after whom this Commandery was named, was the 48th Grand Master of the Knights of St. John. He was born of a noble family in 1494, and died August 21, 1568, in the defense of Knight Templarism. LaValette Commandery received a dispensation on March 14th, 1868, to open a Commandery in the City of Evansville, and on April 8, 1868, a charter was issued by the Grand Commandery of the State of Indiana.

Opportunity for Service

Even though there are no proficiency or memory work requirements to become a York Rite Mason, there are many opportunities to serve as an officer or in the degrees and orders. Of course the York Rite would not be a true Masonic entity without practicing continuous philanthropy to benefit mankind. There are tremendous opportunities for service.

The Royal Arch Research Assistance program sponsors research to help children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders (CAPD). This is the philanthropy of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International.

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation is the philanthropy of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. They sponsor research in prevention of Atherosclerosis.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar has among its philanthropies the Knight Templar Eye Foundation to provide free eye surgery for those that qualify.

The York Rite in Indiana proudly supports these and other philanthropies such as a Holy Land Pilgrimage for Ministers and Pastors. There are many opportunities to serve through the York Rite.

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Evansville York Rite

www.EvansvilleYorkRite.org





Royal Arch Masons

The Chapters of Royal Arch Masons operate under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of each State and they in turn may affiliate with the General Grand Chapter--thus constituting the largest Masonic body in the world. The Chapter confers four degrees (Capitular Degrees), giving a complete story of Masonic symbolism.

The **Mark Master Degree** is the opening degree in the Royal Arch Chapter. The scene of the degree is in the quarries and a workshop near King Solomon's Temple. Historical facts and a practical lesson in the value of Honesty and Charity are taught. Also taught is the lesson that no amount of money is insignificant in the face of urgent need.

The **Past Master Degree** (also known as the Virtual Past Master Degree) is an honorary degree set sometime after the death of Hiram Abif. It teaches the aspirant the important duties and responsibilities of the Worshipful Master's chair so that he may be qualified for advancement. The gavel is the emblem of this degree which teaches the value of Harmony and Justice.

The Degree of **Most Excellent Master** is maybe the most spectacular degree in Masonry. Set shortly after the death of Hiram Abif, this degree is another honorary degree, which helps to bridge the chronological gap between the Master Mason degree and the Royal Arch degree. It is based on the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The symbolism of this degree teaches that as the completion and dedication of the Temple created a spiritual edifice, so too does the completion, beautification, and dedication of one's physical Temple become a spiritual Temple, worthy of God's spirit to dwell within the heart. The Keystone is the emblem and aids in teaching the great lesson of our need for things Spiritual.

The Degree of **Royal Arch** as the final

degree in the Chapter is the climax of Ancient Craft Masonry and completes the Master Mason legend with the restoration of the lost Master's Word. The "Word" is the central point of speculative Masonic symbolism. When lost, its recovery is the objective of symbolic Masonic labor. The search for further light in Masonry is the search for Devine Truth, as represented by the "Word." No true seeker of Masonic knowledge can ever reach the goal of preparing himself as a living stone for the Supreme Temple without receiving the Royal Arch degree. Set at the building of the Second Temple, after having labored long and faithfully, the neophyte is rewarded with the discovery of the "Master's Word," and the search is successfully concluded in the Royal Arch degree.

The degree uses history to illustrate lessons of service and fortitude, the ultimate triumph of truth over superstition and error as well as proper respect for the Deity and His works. The apron has a red border symbolizing the fervency and zeal which should actuate Man in his service to God and Humanity.

In becoming a Royal Arch Mason, the traveling man has reached another milestone in his Masonic career and may apply to travel farther in York Rite Masonry.



Cryptic Masons

The Councils of Cryptic Masons operate under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of their respective State and in turn may affiliate with the General Grand Council. The Council is the newer body in the York Rite system and serves to make a smooth transition from the Royal Arch Degrees to the Commandery Orders. The Council confers three degrees (Cryptic Degrees).

The Degree of **Royal Master** explains many of the symbols of Freemasonry using an incident which occurred during the building of the Temple. The 1st Section is set immediately prior to the death of Hiram Abif. This degree is held in the Council Chamber and represents the private apartment of King

Solomon. This section teaches that whatever may be the uncertainties of life, the reward is sure to the faithful Craftsman. The 2nd Section takes place just after the death of Hiram Abif and just prior to the completion of the Temple. In this section, the lesson is taught that although the physical Temple may be nearing completion, yet with the death of our Grand Master, Hiram Abif, the truth still cannot be found, the search must be continued, and for the time being, we must be content with the substitute Word.

It teaches the great lesson of living right and the building here on earth of that superstructure necessary for erection of our spiritual temple.

The Degree of **Select Master** imparts knowledge which assists in the proper understanding of the story of Freemasonry. It teaches the lesson of overlooking the failings of those who through ignorance or curiosity may often exceed the bounds of propriety.

The Degree of **Super Excellent Master** is most impressive. It refers to incidents during the siege of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. It teaches that although one may continue to build, the only real temple is the spiritual one that man erects within himself. While the events occur many centuries ago, the lessons portrayed are essential in the present age.



Knights Templar

A Commandery of Knights Templar operates under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of its respective State and in turn under the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. The Commandery confers the Chivalric Orders of Christian Knighthood.

The **Illustrious Order of the Red Cross** emphasizes that truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. It continues the story of the Jewish people and teaches that truth will always rise again after



Knights Templar continued

being crushed to earth and will prevail over all forms of error and superstition.

The **Order of Malta** is Christian in origin and traces its existence to at least 1099 A.D. The conferral of the order is laid among scenes and characters referred to in the New Testament. The teaching of the Christian application of Masonic precepts begins with this order which had from the beginning the avowed purpose of succor and care of the injured on a field of battle.

The **Order of the Temple of York Rite Masonry** is the climax of the Christian Orders of Knighthood. Without a doubt, every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar. It is founded upon principles enunciated in the New Testament, teaching that Love is the great characteristic of those who would aspire to immortality. Love which suffers long and is kind, Love which overcomes all hate and all difficulties. The Order receives its name from those Crusaders who were sworn to protect pilgrims and uphold the Cross. The Passion Cross emblem of a Knight Templar is a symbol of sacrifice and Freemasons are taught that worthwhile things are usually not obtained without some pain and sacrifice.

How Do You Become A Member?

How do you become a York Rite Mason? By the most tried and true method. Ask a York Rite Mason for a petition! Consult with your lodge secretary or any member of the Chapter, Council or Commandery. You can also go to <http://evansvilleYorkrite.com> where you will find petitions for membership as well as more information about the Evansville York Rite. If you have other questions, darkness may never become light unless you ask.

Why take additional degrees?

Freemasonry is a progressive science. Freemasons should never be satisfied to remain in a static condition, but should take every opportunity for self-improvement. Master Masons must be willing to travel the road to further light. York Rite is the road map.

The York Rite may be compared to a school. In becoming a Master Mason, you received in your blue lodge the "Three R's" which are absolutely necessary for the Masonic life or journey. By advancing to the York Rite you take up the high school and college courses which may not be necessary but certainly add knowledge and understanding to the journey of life.

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