

Show Me...The Valley of St. Joseph

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TWENTY-NINE ADDITIONAL DEGREES, THEIR PROFOUND LESSONS... AND MORE

The Scottish Rite is special.

After we knelt at the altar and took our Master Mason obligation, the Worshipful Master asked what it was we desired. That moment, when we were well on the way to completing the Third Degree wasn't the end of a journey. As we all learn, it was the beginning. It was the point at which we fully began to receive what we told the Worshipful Master we wanted. What's more, we discovered the journey never ends.

Masonic light — advancement in Masonry — can have a fairly broad interpretation. It can mean anything from learning the ritual to experiencing the satisfaction of being there for a Brother in need of assistance to knowing the joy of being the Junior Warden in your Lodge, responsible for feeding a group of hungry men on a night when you didn't bring enough brisket; in other words, the fellowship and camaraderie that is a part of Masonry.

It also means learning more about the Craft through the appendant bodies. If you receive this publication, you are already a member of an organization, the St. Joseph Scottish Rite, that provides the things you asked for when you became a Master Mason. Beyond 29 additional degrees and their profound lessons, here are just some of the other things our Valley provides:



- Each meeting our Director of Education, Pat Squires, presents in-depth Masonic Education. Pat is a former teacher, accomplished speaker and hails from the Mother Valley in South Carolina. His educational presentations are clear, concise, informative and always well-received.
- In addition to our group study, the Scottish Rite itself offers the Master Craftsman course. This is an individual study program that allows each Brother to review the content and meaning of the degrees at his own pace. Several brothers in the Valley have now achieved the distinction of "Master Craftsman." The course has been so popular the Supreme Council now offers an advanced course as well.
- Every meeting begins with fellowship and a catered dinner. The food is excellent; the fellowship even better. The only downside to attending one of our meetings is your waistline may suffer from partaking of that extra dessert that always seems to be available.
- One of the great advantages of Blue Lodge membership is the friendship we develop with individual Brothers. The same is true in the Scottish Rite with the added advantage that members meet Brothers from all over the Valley. Hardly a meeting goes by that each of us does not make a new friend.
- The St. Joseph Scottish Rite is known as one of the most generous organizations in town. Each year the Valley participates in the St. Joseph Chili Challenge, this past year raising over \$27,000 for United Cerebral Palsy and the Rite Care Clinics. Over the years the Valley's incredible performance has garnered a national reputation in the Scottish Rite.
- One of the most exciting things happening in our Valley is the establishment of a new elite group, the Knights of St. Andrew. Under the direction of Emmett Bryson and several dedicated advisors, the KSA is a service organization acting on behalf of all the members of the Consistory. Designed for "Black Hats" one of its stated purposes is to develop our future leadership.
- Biannually, both the national organization and the Orient of Missouri conduct symposiums designed to communicate with Scottish Rite Masons and listen to their ideas about the future of the fraternity. National symposiums have recently been held in Houston, Minneapolis and New Orleans, while the statewide meetings, for those less inclined to travel long distances, have been in Branson. Not only do these gatherings afford members the opportunity to learn about and contribute to the latest ideas, but they also are additional opportunities for fun and fellowship. St. Joseph members have been strong supporters of these opportunities and there is usually a large St. Joseph delegation in attendance.

Thing is, you don't have to do a thing to be a part of the excitement. You are already a member. **Put us to the test.** Stop by on the first Thursday of the month. Learn more about Masonry. Make new friends. Have a great time and prepare to loosen your belt a notch after the meal. You'll find out just how special the Scottish Rite is.