



# MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we move through the Holiday Season coming closer to Christmas, I am reminded of the Shepherds in the field keeping watch over their flock, who, after being visited by a host of Angels went and found the Christ Child lying in a manger. This reminds me of the three Most Excellent Masters who the Excellent High Priest seemingly without knowledge of what the rubbish piled contained sent them to clean it, only to make several valuable discoveries. One being no less than the long-lost Ancient Master's Word now the Grand Omnific Royal Arch Word. Just like the workman finding a valuable discovery lying in an unexpected place, the shepherds found the Savior of the World lying in an unexpected place. So as we celebrate this Christmas Season don't forget to look for those unexpected moments in your life that might just take you to an unexpected discovery. So from my family to yours Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Dan Gaddis Jr.  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest



# **WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER NO. 207 HOSTS A SPECIAL ST JOHN'S FEAST AND OBSERVANCE THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY COMP. RONALD NAPOLEON JR,**

The night of the feast, I had the privilege of attending a remarkable event hosted by West Suburban Chapter #207 in honor of St. John the Evangelist, one of our two revered patron saints. The evening unfolded as a profound gavel sounded promptly at 6pm for a stated convocation. Followed by a feast, learning, and celebration, leaving an indelible impression on my heart.

The event began with an inspiring presentation By PEHP Companion Tim Tripp, that delved into the life and teachings of St. John the Evangelist. Known as "the beloved disciple," St. John stands out among the apostles for his deep, abiding love and his emphasis on the spiritual truth of Christ's teachings, brother Tripp explained. His mission, as the author of the Gospel of John, three epistles, and the apocalyptic Book of Revelation, was to bear witness to the divine nature of Christ and to encourage others to walk in the light of truth and love.

St. John's Gospel diverges from the synoptic Gospels by focusing on Christ's divinity, emphasizing themes of light, life, and love. His writings underscore the idea that faith is not simply about adherence to rules but about cultivating a transformative relationship with God and with others. This theme of love as the highest commandment resonated deeply during the evening's presentation.

St. John's life and mission offer profound and timeless lessons that resonate deeply with both Masons and humanity as a whole. His unwavering commitment to truth and love is a metaphorical beacon, guiding us through the complexities of life and inspiring us to strive for higher ideals. As the "beloved disciple," St. John not only bore witness to the divine teachings of Christ but also exemplified the courage it takes to remain steadfast in the face of adversity—a kind of martyrdom of the spirit, where personal sacrifice and dedication to a higher cause prevails.

His call to "love one another" transcends time, echoing as a universal message that reminds us of our shared humanity and the importance of compassion.

Despite our differences in background, belief, or circumstance, we are all interconnected, carrying a collective responsibility to uplift one another. In this way, St. John's teachings challenge us to move beyond self-interest, to live with empathy, and to create harmony within our communities.

St. John's life encourages us to consider that true martyrdom is not always a literal sacrifice of life but a daily commitment to truth, love, and selflessness. In his dedication to spreading the message of light and love, even when faced with persecution, St. John shows us the transformative power of holding firm to what is just and virtuous. By embracing his example, we are inspired to embody these values, becoming beacons of light in our own right, illuminating the path for others to follow.

# Photos from the West Suburban Chapter Saint John's Event



## EDUCATION CORNER



Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.

Saint John The Evangelist. Patron Saint of Freemasonry



**Special Thank you to all who participated in Giving Tuesday! This was the first year the RAMCF had a campaign and we had a great response! It is always a humbling pleasure to see Companions come out in force for our meaningful cause and the children it helps.**

Charles Robertson - Pekin Chapter #25

Gabriel Carr - Macon Chapter #21

James Everett – Keystone Royal Arch Chapter #281

Juan Gutierrez – Keystone Royal Arch Chapter #281

Carl Peterson – Keystone Royal Arch Chapter #281

Arturo Venecia – Keystone Royal Arch Chapter #281

Lance Welter - Frank H. Welter, Sr Chapter # 144

Marty Kwilosz – Keystone Royal Arch Chapter #281

Tim Ward - Fox River Chapter #14

## **Waukegan Chapter Christmas Meeting**

The Waukegan Chapter held its annual Christmas meeting with festive cheer and camaraderie. The evening featured libations, a delightful Nordic-themed dinner, and a lively gift exchange. Members gathered to celebrate the spirit of the season and the bonds of York Rite Masonry. It was a joyous occasion that highlighted fellowship and tradition - submitted my Mark Victoria DDGHP



## **HAVE A NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION?**

Write an email to [IOrr@ram-il.org](mailto:IOrr@ram-il.org) and [MKwilosz@ram-il.org](mailto:MKwilosz@ram-il.org) with your suggestion and we will work it into our future newsletters!