



TAU TIMES
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Murphysboro Chapter No. 164 Hosts A Wonderful Chapter/Council Day!



On January 31st/February 1st, Murphysboro Chapter No. 164 held a joint Chapter/Council day, of which 9 new companions were exalted as a Royal Arch Masons and later greeted as Select Masters. All Companions and guests had a delicious BBQ lunch, and the RAMCF was able to sell their wares, as well as received 2 new sign ups for the Society of Zerubbabel! Companions from all over the state came to assist and enjoy great fellowship. Thank you to all Companions that assisted, and, as always, a hearty welcome to the newly exalted Companions!





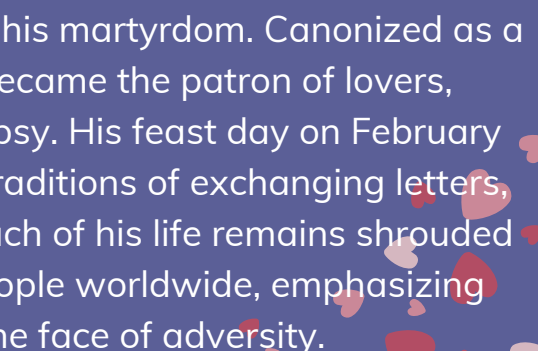
EDUCATION CORNER VALENTINES DAY EDITION!

Saint Valentine was a Christian priest and physician who lived during the 3rd century AD under the rule of Roman Emperor Claudius II. His acts of defiance against the emperor's decree forbidding soldiers from marrying led to his arrest, as he secretly performed Christian marriages. Claudius believed that unmarried soldiers fought better than those with families, making Valentine's actions a direct challenge to the empire. While imprisoned, he remained steadfast in his faith and continued to minister to Christians, which ultimately led to his execution on February 14, around the year 269 AD. His martyrdom solidified his legacy as a symbol of love, faith, and sacrifice.

One of the most famous stories associated with Saint Valentine is his interaction with the jailer, Asterius, and his blind daughter. While in captivity, Valentine befriended Asterius and was said to have miraculously restored the sight of his daughter through prayer. Before his execution, he wrote her a final note, signed "from your Valentine," which became a symbol of enduring love and devotion. This simple yet powerful message is believed to be the origin of modern Valentine's Day traditions, where love notes and expressions of affection are exchanged.

In addition to his secret marriages, Valentine also sought to uplift and encourage young Christian couples and soldiers. To remind them of their vows and of God's love, he is said to have cut hearts from parchment and distributed them. These heart-shaped tokens became a lasting representation of faith and commitment, reinforcing his role as a protector of love and marriage. Over time, the heart symbol became deeply associated with love, an association that continues to define Valentine's Day.

Saint Valentine's legacy extends far beyond his martyrdom. Canonized as a saint by the early Christian Church, he became the patron of lovers, beekeepers, and those suffering from epilepsy. His feast day on February 14 evolved into a celebration of love, with traditions of exchanging letters, flowers, and tokens of affection. Though much of his life remains shrouded in legend, his story continues to inspire people worldwide, emphasizing love's power to endure even in the face of adversity.



Royal Arch True Love Spotlight!



Saint Valentine The Bee Keeper

The beehive, as an emblem, holds deep esoteric significance, particularly in Freemasonry. It represents industry, cooperation, and the idea that every individual contributes to a greater whole. Masons regard the beehive as a symbol of diligence, wisdom, and the pursuit of knowledge, much like the work of a thriving colony. It is no coincidence, then, that St. Valentine, a figure associated with selflessness and sacrifice, would be linked to such an image. His acts of defying authority in the name of love echo the virtues of the beehive—where each worker plays their role in sustaining life and fostering harmony.

The connection between the Masonic beehive and St. Valentine offers a striking contrast to the modern, commercialized interpretations of his feast day. While contemporary celebrations focus on fleeting passion and material tokens of affection, the beehive teaches a more enduring lesson—love is labor. It requires dedication, sacrifice, and an understanding that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Love, like a beehive, thrives on mutual effort and selfless contribution, ensuring that it endures far beyond a single day in February.

Perhaps it is time to reclaim St. Valentine's legacy not just as a patron of lovers, but as a guiding figure for all who labor in love—whether in marriage, family, community, or the broader pursuit of unity. The beehive, in both the spiritual and Masonic sense, reminds us that true love is not a fleeting passion but an ongoing, communal act of creation and sustenance. As we exchange tokens of affection this Valentine's Day, let us also honor the silent, steady work that builds the foundation for lasting love, just as the bees labor to sustain the hive.



The Grand Chapter Youth Committee would love to invite everyone to join in on this delicious and important fundraising & Fellowship event!

BRIAN A. SCHRADER CHAPTER OF DEMOLAY

MARCH 2ND
4PM-7PM

TACO DINNER

\$15 PER
TICKET



Chicken Taco

Beef Taco

ALL YOU CAN EAT TACO DINNER TO
BENEFIT A DEMOLAY MEMBER
WHO WAS INJURED IN A CAR ACCIDENT

...
DEMOLAY
ILLINOIS

40 FOREST AVE, RIVERSIDE, IL



Terre Haute Chapter No. 11
Terre Haute Masonic Temple
224 N 8th St
Terre Haute, IN. 47807



Indiana ~ Illinois
All Chapter Day
Saturday, March 1, 2025

Registration 8am

Illinois Grand Chapter:

Mark Master degree 9am

Past Master degree 10:30am

Indiana Grand Chapter:

Most Excellent Master degree 11:15am

Lunch \$20 RSVP by 2/23 to
Billpayton78@gmail.com

Royal Arch degree 1pm

Closing remarks 3pm
(times are approximate)



Upcoming Events

- 3/1 – Joint IL/IN Chapter Day
 - Coffee/Donuts @8am, Gavel @9am (EASTERN STANDARD TIME)
 - 900 S 14th St, Terre Haute, IN 47807
- 4/26 – RAMCF Wild Game Feed
 - 12pm – 6pm
 - Mama's Place, Oquawka, IL 61469
- 5/18 – Grand Chapter Re-Dedication/Steak Dinner
 - Ceremony @2pm, Dinner @3pm
 - 1020 Rickard Rd, Springfield, IL 62704

HAVE A NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION?

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