

# THE ANCIENT CRAFT MASON.

May 2025

Oklahoma Edition

## A few questions for new Master Masons.

Congratulations, by becoming a Master Mason, you've joined the oldest and most respected Fraternity in the world! But what's next?

Do you seek further Light in Masonry?

Do you desire to complete the Master Mason degree and fulfill the Second Landmark by receiving the Holy Royal Arch?

Do you wish to join a Christian Brotherhood by becoming a Knight Templar?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should take a closer look at the York Rite of Freemasonry.

## What is the York Rite?

The York Rite is a collection of several Masonic degrees and orders which are conferred upon those Master Masons who seek further Light in Masonry beyond that of the Master Mason degree.

According to the Second Landmark from the Constitution and Code of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, "Ancient Craft Masonry consists of three degrees: the Entered Apprentice, the Fellowcraft, and the Master Mason including the Holy Royal Arch."

The Royal Arch degree is thus central to both the Symbolic Lodge and the York Rite. In the Royal Arch degree, that which was lost in the Master Mason degree is found! It has been said that the Holy Royal Arch is "the root, heart, and marrow of Masonry."

The Cryptic degrees further illuminate and explain the lessons of the three degrees of the Symbolic Lodge and the Holy Royal Arch.

In addition, the York Rite confers three orders of Christian Knighthood, culminating in the Order of the Temple. It has been said that "no degree or order in Freemasonry is more solemn, more impressive or more soul-searching than the Order of the Temple."

It is the York Rite that offers the opportunity for a Master Mason to become a Companion of the Holy Royal Arch and a Knight of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple, and much more.



## York Rite Festival to Honor Grand Master James R. Roderick

On Saturday, July 26, 2025, the York Rite of Oklahoma will be holding a one-day degree festival in honor of M.:W.: James R. Roderick, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of the State of Oklahoma. Grand Master Roderick, along with many other dignitaries, will be in attendance.

All of the degrees and orders of the York Rite from the Mark Master through the Order of the Temple will be conferred by degree teams from throughout Oklahoma. This will be a great opportunity to join the York Rite along with candidates from all parts of the state.

It's not very often that a man can walk in the door as a Master Mason in the morning and leave as a Royal Arch Mason, a Cryptic Mason, and a Knight Templar in the afternoon.

The festival will be held at Norman Lodge No. 38, A.F.&A.M., which is located at 1700 N. Porter Ave. in Norman. Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. and the degree conferral will follow at 8:00 a.m.

Please spread the Word and join us on this very special occasion!

## The York Rite spans the state.

The York Rite holds regular monthly meetings, in a Lodge style setting, in seventeen different cities throughout Oklahoma:

Ardmore	Lawton	Oklahoma City
McAlester	Owasso	Bartlesville
Tulsa	Ponca City	Colbert
Muskogee	Stillwater	Elk City
Norman	Woodward	Guthrie

Each Oklahoma York Rite Mason is a member of a local York Rite body in one of these fifteen cities. Most are members of a York Rite body near their homes or Masonic Lodges. However, an Oklahoma Master Mason is free to join any York Rite body he wishes.

## Want more information?

- Visit our website [www.okyorkrite.org](http://www.okyorkrite.org). In the section "What is the York Rite?," you will find a brief description and video. In the section "Introduction to the York Rite," you will find a historical sketch and the essential theme of the York Rite. In the section "Degrees & Orders," you will find a more detailed description of our Rite.
- Or contact the state membership chairman or your regional membership chairman. He will be glad to speak to you individually or to arrange an informative presentation at your Lodge or District meeting.

### State Membership Chairman:

John Werts ..... [info@okyorkrite.org](mailto:info@okyorkrite.org)

### Regional Membership Chairmen:

#### Central – (Guthrie, Norman, Oklahoma City)

David A. Tennison..... [tennison73044@yahoo.com](mailto:tennison73044@yahoo.com)

#### North Central – (Ponca City, Stillwater)

Justin M. McGee..... [imchopentree@gmail.com](mailto:imchopentree@gmail.com)

#### Northeast – (Bartlesville, Owasso, Tulsa)

Jim Parham..... [platinumcenter@aol.com](mailto:platinumcenter@aol.com)

#### Northwest – (Elk City, Woodward)

David D. Shore ..... [dnkshore@gmail.com](mailto:dnkshore@gmail.com)

#### South Central – (Ardmore, Colbert)

Russell N. Davis..... [davis.russell24@yahoo.com](mailto:davis.russell24@yahoo.com)

#### Southeast – (McAlester, Muskogee)

John E. King, Jr. .... [aces642000@yahoo.com](mailto:aces642000@yahoo.com)

#### Southwest – (Lawton)

Roland Morales..... [rolandjennmorales@gmail.com](mailto:rolandjennmorales@gmail.com)

- Or contact our Grand Secretary-Recorder:

Jon B. Greene ..... [grandsecrec@okyorkrite.org](mailto:grandsecrec@okyorkrite.org)  
 P.O. Box 471302 ..... (918) 928-2356  
 Tulsa, OK 74147-1302

## This is your invitation to join us!

The Royal Arch degree has been called "the crowning feature and glorious completion of Ancient Craft Masonry" and the Cryptic degrees are said to complete the "Circle of Perfection." Every Master Mason should consider completing his journey through Ancient Craft Masonry by becoming a Royal Arch Mason and a Cryptic Mason.

The Order of the Temple has been called "the most beautiful and inspiring of all the degrees and orders of Freemasonry." Every Christian Mason should consider becoming a Knight Templar.

If you believe, as we do, that your next step toward seeking further Light in Masonry is to join us in the York Rite, then we urge you to do so. We look forward to greeting you as a Companion and Sir Knight of the York Rite of Freemasonry on July 22<sup>nd</sup>!

### **Frank J. Belluardo, Jr.**

M.:E.: Grand High Priest of  
 Royal Arch Masons in Oklahoma

### **Brian M. Ragain**

M.:I.: Grand Master of  
 Cryptic Masons in Oklahoma

### **Mark K. McFadden**

R.E. Grand Commander of  
 Knights Templar in Oklahoma

## How to join the York Rite.

There are basically two ways to join the York Rite:

- All of the degrees and orders conferred at a one-day festival, like the one on July 26<sup>th</sup> in Norman, or
- A few degrees and orders at a time over several weeks or months conferred at a local York Rite body.

In either case, begin by choosing a local York Rite body to join — your regional membership chairman can help you with that — and complete the enclosed petition. Don't worry about the Recommendations and Investigating Committee, we'll take care of that.

Submit your completed petition, along with the required fees, either (i) to your chosen local York Rite body, (ii) to your regional membership chairman, or (iii) to the Grand Secretary-Recorder. You may also submit your petition and fees during registration on the day of the Festival; but it is *extremely* important that you let your local York Rite or regional membership chairman know in advance that you will be attending, so that we can prepare for you.