



TRESTLE BOARD

Table Rock Masonic Lodge #680, A.F. & A.M. Kimberling City, MO, U.S.A.

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As the Sun Rises in the East...

Greetings from the East. We have had a lot of things going on this month and have an extremely full month of March ahead. Before we move forward however take time and think about the past for just a few minutes.

March marks the beginning of the last half of my term as Master, I can look at it as being half over or only half way there. There are so many things that I want to see accomplished this year I only hope we can continue to move forward as we have been doing the last six months.

We have had a great month and enjoyed a very nice "Family Night", and a very rewarding Sunday Bruch. Even with the cold, ice and snow we had fun at our February 9 Family Night and was able to share a special evening. The food was great and we also had a little time to review and remember a little more about our Holy Saints John. This time to remem-

ber is very important because of the half way point between the two dates of John the Baptist and John the Evangelist . Hopefully we can share more of this in the future.

Our Sunday Bruch went real well and the last report that I had it was reported that we cleared almost \$1600. which will really be helpful with our addition to the Lodge Hall. Thanks to eve-

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ryone that took part in each of the events and to all the members that bought or sold tickets, helped with the food, set up and clean up. It takes everyone to make these events successful and you are showing you can make it happen.





forth Tuesday nights each month, Those will be March 9th and March 23rd. This month we will be having a meal on each of these nights at 6:00pm because we will be having degree work both nights. On the 9th we will be giving a 1st Degree and on the 23rd we will be giving a 3rd. Degree. Please try an attend and support our candidates.

On the afternoon of Sunday March 14th at 4:00pm we will be honored to have the MW Grand Master from the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri present to take part in the ground breaking for

As you can see from the pictures everyone was getting involved in one way or another in getting the food out the first group to arrive. As many are aware we had a little surprise around 12:15 that had to be handled but thanks to some quick thinking on a few individuals the emergency problem was overcome and everything got back to normal with very little interruption.

As we look forward into March we have several events coming up and we need everyone to participate. First remember that our normal meeting nights are the second and



Masonic Calendar:

Making Good Men Better

Date:	Time:	Event:
March 2	1900hrs	Off week—Practice at the Lodge
March 9	1900hrs	Stated Communication with First Degree— Meal at 1800hrs
March 14	1600hrs	Ground Braking for Lodge addition followed by meal– MW Grand Master Present
March 15	900hrs	Trash pickup meeting at DD and 13 Hwy
March 16	1900hrs	Off week- Practice at the Lodge
March 23	1900hrs	Stated Communication with Third Degree- Meal at 1800hrs



our addition to the Lodge Hall. This is a real honor and **I am requesting that every brother possible to please attend.** Following the ground breaking we will have the pleasure of enjoying a delicious meal being prepared by ladies of the Eastern Star and wife's of all the Brothers.

Remember this ground breaking is open to everyone and is a great opportunity to invite your wife and family, neighbors and friends to attend and get to know others. As you can see from the listed events we are going to have the opportunity to have a lot of great food. If you miss out you have no one to blame but yourself.

Also remember we will be doing our monthly trash pick-up on Monday morning March 15 at 9:00am starting from DD Ter., weather permitting. By doing the pick-up monthly for the next several months it should be limited in the amount of trash present and should go pretty fast if we get several individuals involved.



Education: Secret Societies

Secret Societies may be divided into two classes:

First, those whose secrecy consists in nothing more than methods by which the members are enabled to recognize each other; and in certain doctrines, symbols, or instructions which can be obtained only after a process on initiations, and under the promise that they shall be made known to none who have not submitted to the same initiation, but which, with the exception of these particulars, have no reservations from the public.

Secondly, of those societies which, in addition to their secret modes of recognition and secret doctrine, add an entire secrecy as to the object of their association, the times and places of their meeting, and even the very names of their members.

To the first of these classes belong all those moral or religious secret associations which have existed from the earliest times. Such were the Ancient Mysteries, whose object was, by their initiations, to cultivate a purer worship than the popular one; such too, the school of the old phi-

losophers, like Pythagoras and Plato,

Who in their instructions taught a higher doctrine that which they communicated to their exoteric scholars. Such, too, are the modern secret societies which have adopted an exclusive form only that they may restrict the social enjoyment which it is their object to cultivate, or the system of benevolence for which they are organized, to the persons who are united with them by the tie of a common covenant, and the possession of a common knowledge; such lastly, is Freemasonry, which is a secret society only as respects its signs, a few of its legends and traditions, and its method of inculcating its mystical philosophy, but which, as to everything else— its design, its object, its moral and religious tenets, and the great doctrine which it teaches— is as open a society as if it met on the highways beneath the sun of day, and not within the well-guarded portals of a lodge.

Lodge Education Officer

Jim Greene 32degree

Re: an Encyclopedia of Freemasonry – 1920



And finely I want to remind everyone that on the off Tuesday Nights, members are getting together at the Lodge and hold practice.

All Brothers are Welcome!

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**Making Good Men Better
Educate to Motivate**



The Holy Saints John

by

Right Worshipful Lonnie Lee Godfrey

The Saints, John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, are made known to Freemasons in several places in our catechisms. Their placement and use in our rituals have been questioned for many years.

When looked at together, Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist serve to represent the balance in Masonry between zeal for the Fraternity and learned equilibrium. The Saints John, stand for perfect parallel harmony representing that balance.

From a historical approach, the Saint John's festival is a widely celebrated Masonic holiday. Traditionally June 24th (or the Summer Solstice) is taken to be John the Baptist's Day, which is celebrated in many cultures around the world. According to MaCoy's Masonic Dictionary, it is a duty of every Mason to participate in the Festival of St. John in summer, and which serves as an opportunity for renewal and strengthening of fraternal ties as well as a celebration of Masonry from "olden times." Thus, it functions as a connection between the past and the future.

For non-Masons, the festival has been called the "Setting of the Watch," where ceremonial bonfires are lit after sunset. Tradition says that men, women, and children across Europe would jump through the fires for luck. This holiday is celebrated in many ways: with oak wreath crowns, wild flowers and birch branches. Families would feast and celebrate in union. The meanings of these ancient traditions are lost today on our society, but the link was made at some point to John the Baptist. It is thought that these festivals have been linked in character and content with the birth of John the Baptist. The online Catholic Encyclopedia points to the birth of John the Baptist as six months before Christ, placing that event on the summer solstice.

To return to the Masonic perspective we are presented with the balanced dualism of John the Baptist on the one hand and John the Evangelist on the other. Represented together, these figures may symbolize the balance of passionate zeal and learned knowledge of faith forming a space to reflect in and to channel our passion as well as our education/knowledge. Individually strong, together they stand for harnessed focus of zeal and knowledge. This counterpoint is not only necessary to Freemasonry, but it can be applied to all areas of life. Taken as an abstract compilation of symbols, together they represent a well-balanced path towards enlightenment.

The two dualistic figures as one, the Holy Saints John, balance each other in the Masonic year, but also in other areas too. One unique aspect that some have found is in the application of the alchemical symbols of fire and water. Alchemy has long been thought of as an early component of Freemasonry and using the alchemical symbols here may help the representations of the Saint Johns look more familiar. Saint John the Baptist, represented as the inverted pyramid, the alchemical sign for water, representing the spiritual and emotional love. St. John the Evangelist, representing the pyramid as pointing up symbolizing fire that is the drive and will of action. When placed together, they symbolize the perfect balance of darkness and light, life and death, passion and constraint, will and emotion, winter and summer. Together both represent the interlocked star of Solomon, or the Square and Compass. This is an entirely open analysis, and made for the purposes of comparison, but it does offer a unique analysis of the juxtaposition of the Holy Saints John.

To Be Continued Next Month