

THE YORK RITE CORDIALLY  
INVITES YOU TO CONTINUE  
THE MASONIC JOURNEY BY  
ANSWERING THESE  
QUESTIONS

How did the craft receive wages?

How important is the Ark of the Covenant?

What is the lost Master Masons word?

Who was Hiram Abif?

How did the original secrets get preserved?

In the York Rite, you will find the answers to these questions and many more you may already have from your first three Degrees and learn more about Freemasonry

With the construction of the Temple of Solomon our ancient Grand Masters ensured that every man received wages. Finding this answer will start your journey in the Mark Master.

The Ark of the Covenant is an integral symbol of the York Rite Degrees. The Temple of Solomon was built to house this treasure. The ceremonies attending its completion and dedication is one of the most beautiful in Masonry.

In the Third Degree the Worshipful Master exclaimed that the Master's word has been lost. A substitute word was communicated to you. You will find out what the true Master's Word is. And how about a walk with Hiram Abif?

Inside this brochure you will find details of each of the Royal Arch and Cryptic Council Degrees. With a belief in the Christian religion you can participate in the Knights Templar Orders. Details of the Chivalric Orders of Knights Templar are also included.

WHAT DOES YORK RITE  
MASONRY OFFER?

The noble heritage of York Masonry is yours to take. The frequent meetings of the various grades are conducive to firmer friendships and a closer spirit of brotherly love. Being a York Rite Mason does not mean you are elevated to a "higher rank". It is an educational tool to help you realize the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man, in your own life. We trust this information has increased your interest in the York Rite.

We invite you to claim this heritage.

YOUR CONTACTS:

---

---

Grand Chapter: 952-948-6750

For further information and a list of contacts and local Chapters, Councils and Commanderies visit:

[www.mnyorkrite.org](http://www.mnyorkrite.org)



Please use this to check out our webpage, see a video and print out the petition. Click on any of the tabs. Go into How To Join.

MINNESOTA  
YORK RITE  
FURTHER MASONIC  
HISTORY TO CONSIDER



The York Rite consists of four distinct but separate sovereign Masonic bodies:

The Symbolic Lodge

The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

The Council of Cryptic Masons

The Commandery of Knights Templar

# THE BODIES OF THE YORK RITE

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Each individual group is called a Commandery. Each Commandery confers three Orders or Chivalric Orders of Christian Knighthood. Freemasonry demands only a belief in a Supreme Being, whereas Commandery provides transition to the ideals of Christian chivalry. They consist of these Orders:



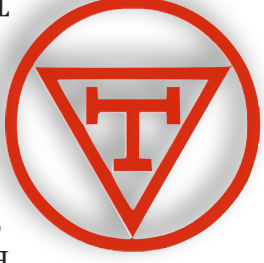
**The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross** tells the story of Zerubbabel securing permission to rebuild the second temple of Jerusalem and is a simple lesson of the powerful testimony to the almighty force of TRUTH, which is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. It is designed to impress upon you that there is but one God and that human nature changes, but little, over great cycles of time.

**The Mediterranean Pass and Order of Malta.** First called Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. It was the first organized body whose avowed purpose was the aid and care of those injured on the battlefield. As the candidate you represent a knightly warrior of the Crusades prior to your departure for the Holy Land.

**The Order of the Temple** refers to its members as "Soldiers of the cross". Though not historically connected to the Knights Templar of that warring period of the Crusades, today it is motivated by the same principles - the protection of the weak and oppressed, the relief of the distressed and the defense of the Christian religion. It is widely regarded as the most solemn and impressive experience in Masonry.

## ROYAL ARCH

The first three degrees of Symbolic Masonry are the first steps to the York Rite, the Royal Arch Masonry degrees continue the journey.



Each individual group is called a Chapter. The Chapter confers four degrees (Capitular Degrees), giving a complete story of Masonic symbolism in the following order:

The **Mark Master** degree is perhaps the oldest Masonic degree and is one of the most highly respected. It teaches practical lessons for everyday living. This degree supplements the Fellow Craft degree. The Mark Master degree teaches the use and lessons of the "Mark" each craftsman used to distinguish his work in the erection of the temple. It demonstrates how the craftsmen received their wages.

The **Past Master** degree teaches the candidate the important duties and responsibilities of the Oriental Chair and its qualification for advancement. It also teaches that he who would rule over others must first learn to rule himself.

The **Most Excellent Master** degree is based upon the completion and dedication of the Temple and the lessons taught in it and amid much rejoicing. It is commonly known that the symbolism of Freemasonry surrounds the building of this Temple.

The **Royal Arch** degree is the completion of the whole system of Freemasonry. It is said that this degree "is the most sublime and the very summit of perfection in ancient Masonry". It is in this degree where they discover the missing treasures at the rebuilding of the Temple, that which is lost in the Master Masons degree is restored to the Craft. No other degrees are so intimately linked to the Blue Lodge.



## CRYPTIC

Each individual group is called a Council. The Council confers three degrees (Cryptic Degrees). These degrees are conferred in the following order:



The **Royal Master** degree directly precedes the Master Mason degree. Without this degree and the **Select Master** degree the Master Mason degree and the Royal Arch degree would be incomplete. They are known as the "Degrees of preservation". These two degrees account for the concealment and preservation of the treasures revealed in the Royal Arch degree. The central figures in the degree are our three ancient Grand Masters and a fellowcraft. The Royal Master is the only degree in Freemasonry where the candidate "meets" our Grand Master Hiram Abif.

The **Super Excellent Master** degree teaches the beautiful symbolism of Faith, Friendship and Fidelity. This degree is the most dramatic and spectacular of all Masonic systems.



After reading this material we hope, as a Mason, you would continue your "further light" in Masonic education and consider the York Rite of Minnesota. Please visit the sites on the reverse and receive further information and the Royal Arch Chapter near you. If you were handed this by a York Rite member please don't hesitate to get his contact information.

Thank you for your interest.