



The Valley of Jackson



Messenger

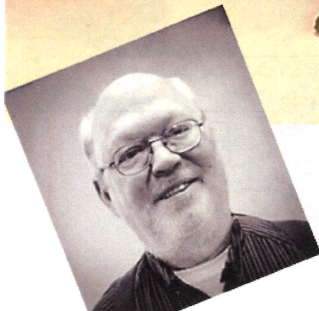
Newsletter of the Jackson Scottish Rite Bodies, Orient of Mississippi
A.A.S.R. S.M.Y. U.S.A

Jackson Scottish Rite Bodies, 5524 I-55 South, Jackson, MS 39215

Email: ScottishJV@gmail.com
Telephone: (769) 230-5760

Stated Meetings on the 1st Tuesday of each month

Winter 2025



**THE TWO-HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH REUNION
SCOTTISH RITE BODIES OF JACKSON
ILL. DANIEL (DANNY) HEYWARD STILL, 33°
MEMORIAL CLASS – NOVEMBER 2, 2024**

Photo courtesy of Bill Sellers

The Messenger

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Winter 2025

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Articles Deadline: May 22

Mailing Deadline: May 22

Statement of Allegiance

The Four Coordinate Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, sitting in the Valley of Jackson, Orient of Mississippi, derive their Charters from and acknowledge and yield allegiance to the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States (Mother Supreme Council of the World) of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General whose See is at the Grand Orient of Charleston in the State of South Carolina.

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Ill. James D. Cole, 33°

S.G.I.G.. Mississippi
Ill. Billy W. Sloan, 33°

Personal Representative
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**HELP US RAISE
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Benefits Our Own, Forever!

- Goes to student with familial tie to SR Mason in Mississippi ✓
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CREATES \$1,000 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

By creating this \$50,000 Endowed Scholarship, we will be ensuring that our children and grandchildren of Masonic families will receive these funds for higher education purposes in perpetuity.

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**

\$1,000 Scholarship in the 1st year

\$1,800 in each year after the 1st

Orient of Mississippi Endowed Scholarship Donation Form

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Date

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Primary Telephone

☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Work

Email Address

Scottish Rite Valley (If Applicable)

Contribution Details: (Please Select One)

☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$75.00 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000
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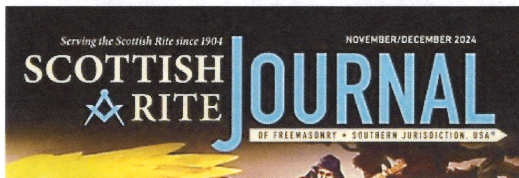
Mail Checks to Address Below:

Mississippi Scottish Rite Foundation
11087 Bayou Bernard Rd.
Gulfport, MS 39503-7639



This past August, a new Master Craftsman Online College course called The Ivory Key made its debut. This course was developed to help our new Scottish Rite Brothers make the most of the reunion experience by giving them a primer in Scottish Rite history, structure and philosophy. Candidates who complete this free course within 60 days of becoming a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, will receive a very handsome Ivory Key lapel pin.

Although the course was originally designed for new Brothers, the demand for this pin from "experienced" Scottish Rite Masons has been overwhelming. To satisfy this demand, any Scottish Rite Mason may now purchase the course for a cost of \$33, and upon completion, will receive the lapel pin. The course remains free for Scottish Rite candidates and Brothers who have received their 32° within the 60 day window.



Selfishness vs. Masonic Altruism

JOSHUA DANIEL WELCH, 32°, Valley of Jackson, Mississippi

The contrast between selfishness and altruism is never far from our minds and hearts in the current holiday season, for it is the contrast between the miserly impulses of the unrepentant Ebenezer Scrooge and the generosity of his clerk Bob Cratchit. Like Charles Dickens in his seminal holiday work *A Christmas Carol*, philosophers and religious leaders have long cautioned against the deleterious effects of selfishness on individuals and on society as a whole.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle, for example, in the *Nicomachean Ethics* wrote: "Now the man destitute of self-control desires either all pleasant things indiscriminately or those which are specially pleasant, and

he is impelled by his desire to choose these things in preference to all others..." (D.P. Chase, *trans.*) In the Christian tradition, Jesus says, "Whoever will come after [follow] me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Mark 8:34-35). This passage emphasizes the importance of self-denial and putting the needs of others above one's own desires.

In more recent times, Carl Jung, the Swiss pioneer in psychoanalysis, delved into the psychological roots of selfishness. Jung believed that selfishness arises from the ego's desire to assert itself over others, leading to feelings of isolation and disconnection. By contrast, he wrote in *The Red Book*: "Sacrifice is not destruction; sacrifice is the foundation stone of what is to come."

Throughout history, selfishness has, in fact, been a pervasive force that has hindered human progress in various ways. From individual greed to societal injustice, the ramifications of selfish behavior are far-reaching and profound.

Masonic altruism, on the opposite end of the moral spectrum, is a concept that embodies the idea of selfless giving and kindness towards others. As the Masonic philosopher and Scottish Rite leader Albert Pike once famously stated: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

In a world that often overvalues extreme individualism and self-interest, the principles of Freemasonry promote a sense of duty to help and support those in need. Through various charitable initiatives and community service projects, Masons demonstrate their commitment to making a positive impact on society. By putting the needs of others before their own, they embody the values of selflessness and compassion, setting an example for others to follow.

In order to combat selfishness and promote human progress, it is essential to cultivate a sense of empathy, compassion, and unity among individuals. As we each look inward at this special time of year, let us each work towards creating a more compassionate and interconnected world where altruism, not selfishness, is the norm. It is only through selflessness and empathy that we can truly achieve our full potential and contribute to the betterment of humanity as a whole.



The Ghost of Christmas Present (G.) seeks to turn the miser Scrooge's heart away from selfishness towards altruism in Charles Dickens's holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*. John Leech, "Scrooge's Third Visitor," 1843 book illustration.

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Selfishness vs. Masonic Altruism



Scottish Rite Journal Podcast

Beat Selfishness in the Long Run?

/ SJ-USA

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Congratulations to Bro. Daniel McKellar Welch 32° on publication of his article and podcast, "Selfishness vs. Masonic Altruism," in the Nov/Dec issue of the Scottish Rite Journal. Nice work!

Calendar of Events

Jan 1.....New Year's Day
 Jan 7.....Stated Meeting
 Jan 18.....Feast of Kadosh
 Jan 20.....MLK/REL Day
 Feb 4.....Stated/Installation
 Feb 17.....President's Day
 Mar 4.....Stated Meeting
 Mar 9.....Daylight Savings Begins
 Apr 1.....Stated Meeting
 Apr 12.....Passover Begins
 Apr 13.....Palm Sunday

Apr 17.....Maundy Thursday
 Apr 20.....Easter
 Apr 28.....Confederate Memorial Day
 May 3.....Spring Reunion
 May 6.....Stated Meeting
 May 11.....Mother's Day
 May 26.....Memorial Day
 Jun 3.....Stated Meeting
 Jun 14.....Flag Day
 Jun 15.....Father's Day
 Jun 24.....St. John's Feast

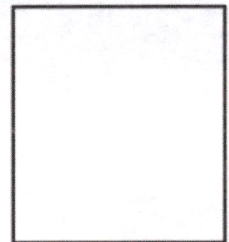


Travel the Orient at scottishriteitems.org



Jackson Scottish Rite Bodies

5224 I-55 South
 Jackson, MS 39215



Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission and the guarantee of equal right to all people everywhere our ultimate goal. -- The Scottish Rite Creed