



Friendship Lodge No. 210 Trestleboard

2500 Masonic Drive – San Jose, CA 95125
Stated Meeting – First Thursday of Every Month

MARCH – 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<i>Stated Meetings Golden Rule 479 San Jose 10 Los Altos 712 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Stated Meetings Mt View DeAnza 194 Palo Alto 346 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>Stated Meeting Willow Glen Fraternity 399 Dinner 6:30 PM</i>	<i>FRIENDSHIP Stated Meeting Dinner 6:30 PM Suit or coat and tie</i>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				<i>SCVMOA 6:30 PM South Valley No. 187 Morgan Hill Officers Mandatory</i>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				<i>FRIENDSHIP Second Degree practice 7:00 PM</i>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				<i>FRIENDSHIP Second Degree for Bro. Brylle Laguno 7:00 PM Officers in regular stations</i>		
29	30	31				

From the East



Fraternal Greetings from the East!

Andrew Litfin, Master

From the South



March is a time of fresh beginnings, marked by the arrival of spring, brisk winds, and meaningful celebrations. As the bridge between winter and spring, it brings a familiar mishmash of snow and mud across the landscape, our spirits lift as the first flowers begin to bloom and the days grow a little longer.

And of course, we can't forget the delicious dinner menu for the March stated meeting! We'll be serving corned beef with red potatoes and cabbage, followed by Irish bread pudding topped with a rich whiskey sauce — a warm and hearty meal perfect for the season.

Jake Todino, Junior Warden

From the West



Fraternal Greetings from the West!

Sean Michael O'Hara, Senior Warden

Training Camp



Bro. Brylle Llaguno gave a virtually perfect full form Entered Apprentice proficiency at the February Stated Meeting. It reminded me of times long ago.

The Reverend's Corner



We have scheduled his Fellowcraft Degree for Thursday, March 26, at 7:00 PM, with the Officers in regular stations, including Bro. Sean O'Hara in the East. If any Officer cannot perform his part, we will qualify a replacement.

This month, we have an Officers Association Meeting (OAM) and School of Instruction (SOI) on Thursday, March 12 at South Valley Lodge No. 187, which meets at the Leverton Masonic Center, 380 West Dunne Avenue in Morgan Hill.

This month is the annual Morgan Hill Chicken Feed and Grand Master's visit.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. Friendship Lodge covers the cost of our officers' meals. If you are not an officer, you have to pay \$25.00 per person. But you are still welcome.

The SOI begins at 7:30 PM. The topic will be whatever the Grand Master wishes to say.

Traffic leaving San Jose is very heavy at that time of evening. You should depart San Jose no later than 5:00 PM to be sure to arrive on time.

Carpooling is recommended.

All Lodge Officers are expected to attend all SOIs. If you cannot make it for any reason, please our Inspector Worshipful Dinesh Chhabra. And let WM Andrew Litfin know, so we don't send somebody out to find you.

Casual dress is acceptable for the Chicken Feed. But please leave your jeans at home.

There are usually Masonic Youth groups selling pastries at this event. So, bring some cash. If you don't need any more calories in your life, they cheerfully accept cash donations.

Our ritual practices are on Thursdays, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Dress is casual.

Helmuth Litfin, PM and Daniel Doornbos, PM; Officers Coaches

Greetings Brethren,

(Comfort)

Comfort is the topic I chose for this month of March. We all have been seeking comfort in our homes over the past few months from the rain and cold weather. We got out our warm sweaters and winter coats. We may have put an extra blanket on our beds. But have we taken time to seek comfort for our souls?

We know that everyone needs comfort and assurance from time to time. We seek comfort from daily frustration and disappointments to life-changing losses, but the presence of God is always with those who struggle and grieve.

We can carry this awareness with us during our most trying moments. With a brief meditation and a one-minute prayer we can refresh our souls. We pause, become still, and go within, where we rest in the timelessness of the divine presence.

Like the psalmist/poet, we know with absolute certainty that our future is as bright as the promises of God. Even if we walk through a valley of shadows, we will have no fear. We take comfort trusting that even at midnight, bright morning awaits us. We release any worries, feel the comforting love of God, and know all will be well.

AFFIRMATION:

God's indwelling presence comforts me.

FROM SACRED WRITINGS:

Psalm 119:50 – This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.

God bless,
Reverend Gene

The Secretary's Table



Dues for 2026 are \$120.50. The due date for dues was January 1, 2026. If you haven't paid yet, there is still time.

You can pay dues online at any time through your iMember account. Note that iMember uses your credit card and charges a processing fee.

If you prefer to pay by check, make your check out to Friendship Lodge No. 210

You can hand your check to me in person. Or you can mail it to me at:

Daniel Doornbos
2165 Carobwood Lane
San Jose CA 95132-1213

Please do *not* mail or take your dues check to the San Jose Masonic Center. And please do *not* hand your dues check to somebody else, expecting him or her to give the check to me. Checks get lost that way. I need your check in hand so I can process your payment and generate a new dues card.

Daniel Doornbos, PM, Secretary



March Birthdays

- 8 – Jeffery Hiatt
- 10 – Ralph Zerwick
- 14 – Costantinos Costas
- 17 – John White
- 23 – Daniel Reyes
- 30 – Glorino Fularon
- 31 – Roger Beck

The Keystone Initiative

This plan is our guide for moving forward with strength, intention, and purpose. Based on feedback from members, officers, prospects, and the general public about what are the fraternity's challenges and what we can do to make it better. The result is more than a call to action; it's a roadmap to the future.



2026 Officers

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Wives/Ladies</u>	
Master		
Andrew Litfin	(Lauren)	408-832-5846
Senior Warden		
Sean O'Hara	(Savannah)	559-862-9372
Junior Warden		
Jake Todino	(Lyn)	831-207-1264
Treasurer		
Kendall Mills, PM	(Janet)	408-281-4084
Secretary		
Daniel Doornbos, PM	(Gillian)	408-802-7480
Chaplain		
Ed Advincula		510-921-7136
Senior Deacon		
Dan Chaid	(Theresa)	408-393-8905
Junior Deacon		
Al Dorji	(Hakimeh)	408-313-4781
Marshal		
Gilbert Cruz, PM	(Monette)	408-483-1964
Senior Steward		
Jack Caceres	(Sorena)	669-388-1816
Junior Steward		
Omar Martinez		669-296-7720
Tiler		
Louie Mar	(Ireen)	408-838-3873
Musician		
Chito Atienza	(Shirlita)	408-561-5850
Prospect Manager		
Don Gunaratne		518-335-1146
Inspector 345th Masonic District		
Dinesh Chhabra, PM	(Meenu)	908- 247-9288
Officers Coaches		
Daniel Doornbos, PM	(Gillian)	408-802-7480
Helmuth Litfin, PM	(Evonne)	408-421-9381

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Friendshiplodge210

Website: <https://friendship210.org/>

March Events

March 5 — Stated Meeting

Dinner is \$10.00 per person.

Corned beef with red potatoes and cabbage, Irish bread pudding topped with a rich whiskey sauce.

Dress: Coat and tie

March 12 — OAM / SOI

Morgan Hill Chicken Feed and Grand Master's visit. 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Note: Traffic leaving San Jose is very heavy at that time of evening. You should depart San Jose no later than 5:00 PM to be sure to arrive on time. Carpooling is recommended.

All officers are expected to attend. Dress: Casual

March 19 — Second Degree Practice

7:00 to 9:00 PM. All officers are expected to attend.

Dress: Casual

March 26 — Second Degree Conferral

For Bro. Brylle Llaguno. 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Bro. Sean O'Hara is in the East.

Officers wear tuxedos. Sideliners wear business suit or sports coat and tie.

Who was Saint Patrick?

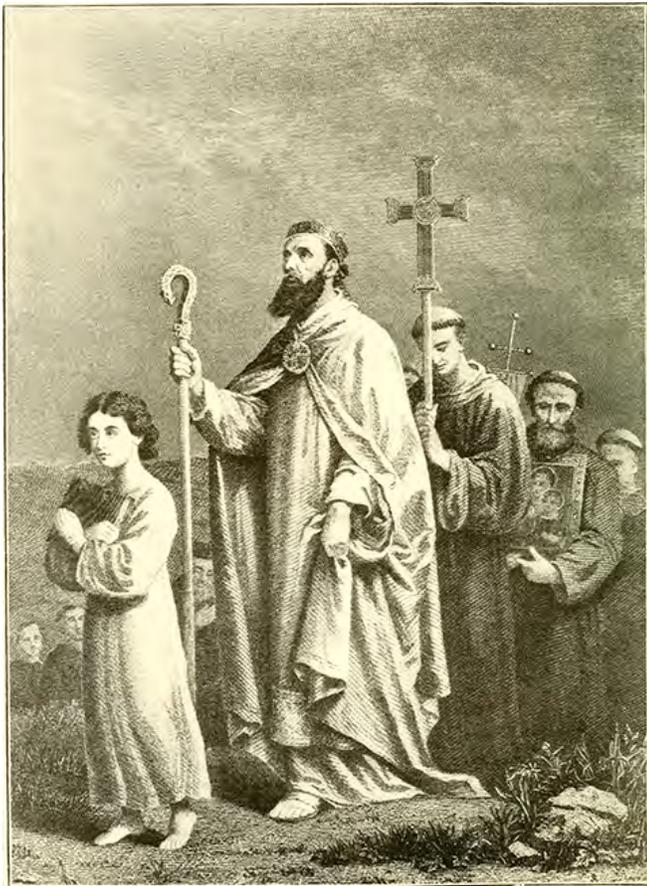


Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Roman-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron

saint of Ireland, the other patron saints being Brigid and Columba.

Patrick was born around the year 385, at the end of Roman rule in Britain. His birthplace is not known for sure. Some traditions place it in Cumbria, in northwest England, others place it in present-day Kilpatrick, near Glasgow, Scotland.

Patrick's father, Calpurnius, is described as a *decurion* (senator and tax collector) of an unspecified Romano-British city, and as a deacon. Patrick's grandfather, Potitus, was a priest from Bonaven Tabernia. However, Patrick's *Confessio* states he was not an active believer in his youth, considering himself to be "idle and callow (immature)".



Kidnapped and Enslaved

According to his *Confessio*, at the age of 16, Saint Patrick was captured from his family's villa at Bannavem Taburniae by a group of Irish pirates, known as the Dál Riata raiders. They took him to Ireland where he was enslaved and held captive for six years, where he worked as a shepherd.

Patrick wrote that the time he spent in captivity was critical to his spiritual development. He explains that the Lord had mercy on his youth and ignorance

and afforded him the opportunity to be forgiven his sins and to grow in his faith through prayer.

After six years of captivity, Patrick heard a voice telling him that he would soon go home, and then that his ship was ready. Fleeing his master, he travelled to a port two hundred miles away, where he found a ship and with difficulty persuaded the captain to take him.

After sailing for three days, the ship landed, presumably in Britain. Apparently, everybody disembarked and walked for 28 days in a wilderness. They had nothing to eat and soon became faint from hunger. After Patrick prayed for sustenance, they encountered a herd of wild boar. Since this was shortly after Patrick had urged them to put their faith in God, his prestige in the group was greatly increased. After various adventures, he returned home to his family, then in his early twenties.

Patrick Joined the Clergy

After returning home to Britain, Patrick continued to study Christianity. Patrick studied in Europe principally at Auxerre, in the Burgundy region of France. One historian suggests that Patrick was made a deacon while at Auxerre.

Patrick is thought to have received his tonsure at Lérins Abbey, a Cistercian monastery on an island near the French Riviera. Tonsure is the practice of cutting or shaving some or all of the hair on the scalp as a sign of religious devotion or humility.

Saint Germanus of Auxerre, a bishop of the Western Church, ordained Patrick a priest. Maximus, the bishop of Turin, Italy is credited with consecrating him as bishop.

Mission Call to Ireland

Patrick recounted a vision he experienced a few years after returning home, in which a man named Victorinus gave him a letter. The heading said, "The Voice of the Irish". Reading the letter Patrick imagined a voice of the people of Foclut forest crying out: "We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us".

Acting on his vision, Patrick returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary, arriving on 25 March 433. He found a home in the coastal town of Wicklow.

Tradition has it that Patrick was not welcomed by the locals and was forced to leave and seek a more

welcoming landing place further north; he rested for some days at the islands near the town of Skerries. The first sanctuary dedicated by Patrick was at the town of Saul.

Patrick wrote that he “baptized thousands of people” and was planning to convert the Irish pirates that enslaved him.

Saint Patrick ordained priests to lead the new Christian communities. He converted wealthy women, some of whom became nuns in the face of family opposition. He also dealt with the sons of kings, converting them too. He made several mentions of travelling around Ireland and of sometimes difficult interactions with the ruling elite.

Patrick Clashed with the Locals

Patrick’s position as a foreigner in Ireland was not an easy one. He refused to accept gifts from kings, which, due to the custom of the time, left him without legal protection. Patrick said that on one occasion he was beaten, robbed of his possessions, and put in chains, perhaps awaiting execution. Patrick wrote that many years later he was held captive for 60 days, but he gave no details about that experience.

Further history about Patrick’s life comes from the other document he authored, called *Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus*. It reflects the complex interactions among the post-Roman British, the Irish, Scottish, and the early Christian Church.

It is particularly interesting in capturing the conflict dynamics between the Scots of Dalriada, who had migrated from the north of Ireland to Scotland, versus the Scots who had remained in Ireland. It was a major family break-up.

The Scots of Dalriada allied themselves with the British tyrant and warlord Coroticus, whose Christian followers mistreated Patrick’s Christian converts and took some into slavery while raiding in Ireland. In addition to fighting within the extended family, Christians were fighting each other.

After his first letter of reprimand to Coroticus received only ridicule and insult, Patrick wrote an open letter announcing that he had excommunicated Coroticus and urged his followers to turn away. The letter describes the followers of Coroticus as “fellow citizens of the devils” and “associates of the Scots (of Dalriada) and apostate Picts”.

An apostate is somebody who renounces or abandons his religious beliefs and practices.

The Picts were one of an ancient people who lived in what is now eastern and northeastern Scotland. Their name, possibly from Latin word *picti*, meaning “painted”, may refer to their custom of body painting or possibly tattooing. Their warfare with the Romans during the occupation was almost continual. Centuries after the Romans left, some Picts embraced Christianity. Eventually, the Picts and Scots united their two lands in a new kingdom of Alba, which evolved into Scotland.

The Legend of Patrick and Dáire

According to tradition, Patrick founded his main church at Armagh in the year 445. The monk Muirchú writes that a pagan chieftain named Dáire would not let Patrick build a church on the hill of Armagh, but instead gave him lower ground to the east. One day, Dáire’s horses die after grazing on the church land. He tells his men to kill Patrick but is himself struck down with illness. Dáire’s men beg Patrick to heal him, and Patrick’s holy water revives both Dáire and his horses. Dáire rewards Patrick with a great bronze cauldron and gave him the hill of Armagh to build a church, which eventually became the head church of Ireland.



The Legend of Patrick Using a Shamrock

Legend credits Patrick with teaching the Irish about the doctrine of the Holy Trinity by showing people the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, using it to illustrate the Christian teaching of God in three persons.

In pagan (non-Christian) Ireland, three was a significant number and the Irish had many triple deities, a fact that may have aided Patrick in his evangelization efforts when he “held up a shamrock and discoursed on the Christian Trinity”. Historians

disagree whether the shamrock had any sacred meaning to the pagan Irish.

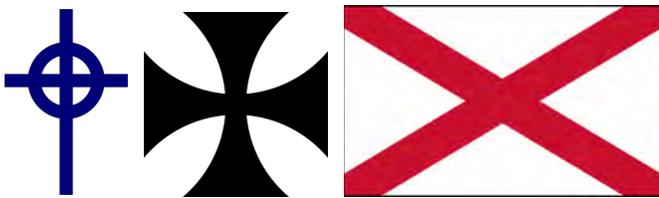
Icons of Saint Patrick often depict him with a cross in one hand and a shamrock in the other.

Shamrocks

The shamrock is a white clover. Its name in Gaelic is *seamrog*, which means “summer plant”. It is a common weed indigenous to Ireland. The Irish adopted it as a national symbol. And they say a shamrock won’t grow anywhere else outside Ireland. They should see my lawn...

The elusive four-leaf clover occurs when the occasional leaf bud forms an extra little leaflet. Folklore says, find a four-leaf clover and you will be very lucky indeed!

Enthusiasts, regardless of national or family origin, traditionally wear green clothing or a fresh shamrock on St. Patrick’s Day.



Three crosses are associated with Saint Patrick. (l to r) The Celtic Cross, Cross Pateé, and Saint Patrick's Saltire.

The Legend of Banishing Snakes

The earliest writings about Patrick ridding Ireland of snakes are by Jocelyn of Furness in the late 12th century, who says that Patrick chased them into the sea after they attacked him during his fast on a mountain. The earliest text to mention an Irish saint banishing snakes from Ireland is in fact the *Life of Saint Columba*, written in the late 7th or early 8th century.

Naturalist Nigel Monaghan, keeper of natural history at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, extensively searched through Irish fossil collections and records for any indication of snakes. He is quoted as saying, “At no time has there ever been any suggestion of snakes in Ireland, so [there was] nothing for St. Patrick to banish”.

There is only one known land reptile species native to Ireland, the viviparous lizard.

The Legend of Patrick’s Fast

The 7th century Irish bishop Tírechán wrote that Patrick spent forty days on the mountaintop of *Cruachán Aigle*, as Moses did on Mount Sinai.

The 9th century account says that Patrick was harassed by a flock of black demonic birds while on the peak, and he banished them into the hollow of *Lugnademon* (“hollow of the demons”) by ringing his special bell. Patrick ended his fast when God gave him the right to judge all the Irish at the Last Judgement and agreed to spare the land of Ireland from the final desolation.

The Legend of Patrick and the Innkeeper

A much later legend tells of Patrick visiting an inn and chiding the innkeeper for being ungenerous with her guests. Patrick tells her that a demon is hiding in her cellar and being fattened by her dishonesty. He says that the only way to get rid of the demon is by mending her ways.

Sometime later, Patrick revisits the inn to find that the innkeeper is now serving her guests cups of whiskey filled to the brim. He praises her generosity and brings her to the cellar, where they find the demon withering away. It then flees in a flash of flame, and Patrick decrees that people should have a drink of whiskey on his feast day in memory of this.

Supposedly, this story is the origin of “drowning the shamrock” on Saint Patrick’s Day. That is when you dunk a shamrock into the last glass of whiskey. Then you make a toast to the saint, drink your whiskey, and then toss the shamrock over your left shoulder.

Patrick was never formally canonized by the Catholic Church, since he lived centuries before the procedures for canonization were established.

Saint Patrick’s supposedly passed away on 17 March 461 at the age of 76. Hence, March 17th became his feast day. But one legend says he lived to the age of 120.

Every year, Saint Patrick’s feast day falls during Lent. Lent is a 40-day observance of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving leading up to Easter. However, most people assume March 17th is the one day during Lent when abstinence and fasting rules may be relaxed. The clergy usually goes along with it.