AL 6026
December

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

The Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan

To be the Fraternal Organization of choice for men in the Province of Saskatchewan

Grand Master's Monthly Reflections



"It Starts with Me"

MW Bro. Michael Keogan, Grand Master, 2026-27

December is a special time of year. Across Saskatchewan, the arrival of winter brings shorter days, colder temperatures, and the familiar sights and sounds of the Christmas season. For many, it is a time of family gatherings, celebrations, traditions, and the opportunity to reconnect with those who mean the most to us.

It is also a time when we are reminded of the importance of generosity, compassion, and kindness. While the season can be filled with joy and celebration, we should remember that it is not an easy time for everyone. Some are facing personal challenges, others are grieving the loss of loved ones, and some may simply be feeling alone. A kind word, a telephone call, an invitation, or a little extra attention can mean more than we sometimes realize.

As Masons, these are opportunities to put our principles into practice. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are not principles that should be confined to our Lodge rooms or reserved for our meetings. They should guide us in our everyday lives. The spirit of giving that we often associate with Christmas is, in many ways, a reflection of the Masonic principle of Relief—the willingness to recognize the needs of others and offer assistance wherever we can.

I am often reminded that generosity does not always involve money or material things. Sometimes the most meaningful gift we can offer is our time. Taking the time to listen, checking in on a Brother, helping a neighbour, or making someone feel welcome can have a lasting impact. These simple gestures remind others that they are valued and that they are not forgotten.

The Christmas season also encourages us to reflect on how we treat one another. Respect and dignity should never be seasonal qualities. They should be part of who we are throughout the year. Whether we are dealing with a fellow Mason, a prospective member, a family member, or someone we meet in our community, each person deserves to be treated with kindness and consideration.

This brings me once again to my theme for the year, **It Starts With Me**. It is easy to wish for a kinder world, stronger Lodges, and closer communities. It is more meaningful when I ask myself what I can do to help make those things happen. I can choose to be more patient, more understanding, more generous, and more attentive to those around me. I can make the effort to reach out to someone who may need a friend. I can make certain that my actions reflect the values I profess.

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As we enjoy the celebrations and traditions of the season, I encourage each of us to remember those who may not have the same opportunities to celebrate. Let us make an effort to include others, offer encouragement, and extend a hand wherever it is needed. We may never fully know the difference a small act of kindness can make in another person's life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, Brethren, for the many ways you continue to support your Lodges, your communities, and one another. The generosity and commitment I see throughout our jurisdiction are reminders of what makes Freemasonry such a meaningful part of our lives.

May this Christmas season bring peace to your homes, happiness to your families, and renewed appreciation for the friendships we share. As we look toward a new year, may we carry the spirit of kindness and goodwill with us, not just through December, but into every month ahead.

Fraternally,

Mike Keogan
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan

Until next month, may we each remember that the work of Freemasonry always begins with one Brother. It starts with me.