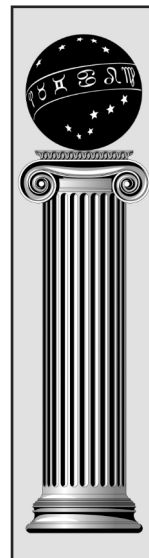


# ST. JOHNS LODGE NO. ONE

## F. & A.M.

### PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

### CONSTITUTED - 1757



June 2025

3941<sup>st</sup>  
Regular  
Communication



R.:W.: Mazen M. Alsabe  
District Deputy Grand Master  
Metro District

W.: Anthony M. Amaral  
Grand Master of Ceremonies

M.:W.: Rick Baccus  
Grand Master

R.:W.: Richard F. Lynch  
Grand Marshal

**This Month's Communication: June 18, 2025**

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PROVIDENCE, RI  
Permit No. 2898

Return Service Requested



St. Johns Lodge No. 1 Providence  
F. & A.M.  
P.O. BOX 8397  
WARWICK, R.I. 02888-0397

St. Johns Lodge meets the third Wednesday of every month, except July and August,  
at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 2115 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Telephone: 401-223-7041

Secretary's mailing Address: P.O. Box 8397 Warwick, R.I. 02888-0397

Telephone: 401-323-8955 Email: [secretary1prov@gmail.com](mailto:secretary1prov@gmail.com)

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Officers Rehearsal

6:30 PM

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

St. Johns Lodge #1 P-Regular Communication

6:00 PM

Sunday, June 22, 2025

St. Johns Lodge #1P-268<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication

2:30 PM Lodge Opens (Mason's Only), 3:45 PM Family & Guests Arrive, 4:00 PM Dinner, 5:15 PM Semi-Public Installation.

Thursday, June 26, 2025

St. Johns Lodge #1P-Steak Fry

6:00 PM

Attest: M.:W.: Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr., Secretary

W.: Jason Shealy, Master

## Master's Message

Greetings My Brothers,

My grandfather, of whom I've spoken frequently this year, had a saying which may be familiar to you. He would say, "Jay, if you're going to take the time to do something, try to do it right." Without a doubt, his intention was to instill in me a high personal standard that I might bring to all life's endeavors. As I grew, I came to recognize a flaw in that perspective. If I intend to try something new, to grow as a person, does that mean I should wait until I am 100% prepared for the task at hand, before attempting it? That didn't make very much sense to me; I'd spend all my time preparing for a task I may never attempt! Surely, the point isn't to stay in perpetual preparation, but rather, to act and to do.



These days, I've adopted a familiar **G.K. Chesterton** quote to complement my grandfather's wisdom, "*if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly.*" I presume he means doing the thing badly just the first few times, until learning and improvement can occur. Perhaps one favors the great Enlightenment thinker **Voltaire**, who himself quoted an old Italian proverb when saying, "*le mieux est l'ennemi du bien,*" or, "*the best is the enemy of the good.*" Great thinkers seem conflicted about what standard, precisely, is appropriate for any good and noble labor, particularly for those matters of great importance.

This complexity grows when one is in a position of leadership. Those who precede you may wish very much, for better or worse, to have their influence. Those who follow may support your vision, or may just as likely usurp and divert your path for their own maligned purposes. How does one navigate such treacherous waters, and still maintain harmony, confident he has led with integrity, and to the best of his ability? According to the late **General Colin Powell**, "*being a great leader means sometimes pissing people off.*" Brothers, I don't presume to be a great leader, but I certainly did not get through my year unscathed by General Powell's observation.

How, then, shall I consider my year as Master? Do I dwell on the bickering and politicking which were incidental and of little importance? I think not. It is good to focus on the exceptional moments of ritual, delivered by our officers to the highest of standards. Good to take delight in memories of shared joy and pleasantries at our holiday party, as well as our other many social gatherings. Good to remember the generous charitable services performed by our lodge, which improved the quality of life for our communities, if only for a little while. Good to have witnessed the raising of five excellent Master Masons, each set upon his own unique and spectacular trajectory within the Craft.

It is good to remember our departed **Brother Scott Alexander**, his abiding loyalty to the Craft, and his legacy which reminds us to be the best versions of ourselves, going the extra mile in commitment to service, square dealings, and truth.

As I come to the end of my term, I confess I still grapple with these larger questions. There is no shortage of voices telling me I could have done this thing better, or that thing differently, or shouldn't have done this other thing all together. General Powell might be impressed.

Rising over the din of distraction is that voice which means the most to me, that of my grandfather, **Willard Shealy**. Papa loved this Craft

in the simplest, purest, most noble of ways. He did not allow his peace to be ruined by the predictable malcontent of others. He just kept working in the quarries of Masonry, laughing alongside those brethren who best work together, sharing the labor with him. He is the good and noble example which I strive to emulate, and by which I measure myself in moments of strife. Always joyful, always of service, always square in his dealings with others.

We will soon hold our Annual communication, and choose new officers to lead our lodge for the ensuing year. Like the old Eagle Scout I am, I've tried to leave the lodge better than I found it. I sincerely hope that those entrusted with the future of our lodge keep in mind the most important aspect of leadership; putting the needs of those whom you serve before your own. If being Master taught me anything, it's that the Worshipful Master is a servant, not a king. May we continue to serve each other, lovingly and with compassion, to preserve harmony and heal discontent wherever it has taken root.

It has been an honor to serve this lodge, through her seasons of joy, and her darkest of hours. For all the achievements we pursued this year, one single goal remained my guiding light, more important than anything else which might be achieved. I didn't want to embarrass my Dad. Now, at the end of my term of office, I stand confident that I lived up to that goal to the best of my ability. Love you, Dad. I did the best I could for you and Papa. I tried to do it right.

Brothers, serving you has been the privilege of a lifetime. Thank you.

*W.: Charles Jason Shealy*

Charles Jason Shealy  
Master, St Johns No 1 Providence



## Most Worshipful Brother Rick Baccus



**Our 170<sup>th</sup> Grand Master for the State of  
Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

## Lodge & District Events

Saturday 06/07/25	<b>Logia Libertad #50</b>	7:00 PM
	Annual Communication	
Tuesday 06/10/25	<b>Overseas Lodge #40</b>	7:00 PM
Wednesday 06/11/25	<b>Officers Rehearsal</b>	6:30 PM
Saturday 06/14/25	<b>Gaspee Chapter DeMolay</b>	2:00 PM
Monday 06/16/25	<b>Rising Sun #30</b>	7:00 PM
Wednesday 06/18/25	<b>St. Johns Communication</b>	6:00 PM
Sunday 06/22/25	<b>St. Johns Communication</b>	2:30 PM
	268 <sup>th</sup> Annual Communication	
2:30 PM Lodge Opens (Mason's Only), 3:45 PM Family & Guests Arrive, 4:00 PM Dinner, 5:15 PM Semi-Public Installation.		
Monday 06/23/25	<b>Jenks Lodge No. 24</b>	7:00 PM
Thursday 06/26/25	<b>St. Johns Steak Fry</b>	6:00 PM
Saturday 06/28/25	<b>Gaspee Chapter DeMolay</b>	2:00 PM

## Get Well Wishes

**Lino Martin**

976 Long View Drive, North Attleboro, MA 02760

Let us remember all sick or shut in Brothers who could use a call, card or visit. Please report all such brothers to the Master W.: **Jason Shealy** or any of the following **Sick and Distressed Committee** members; Walter Kelly, Kenneth Phillips, Karapet Emdjian or contact Bob O'Brien at [bob.obrien@gmail.com](mailto:bob.obrien@gmail.com) or **401-487-4750**

## June 18th Monthly Communication

6:00 PM: St. Johns open to transact such business as shall regularly come before it.  
6:45 PM: Dinner  
7:30 PM: Award Presentations

Call: Brother Senior Steward @ **401-861-1757**  
or email: [sjlprov@gmail.com](mailto:sjlprov@gmail.com)

No later than **Friday, June 13th** for reservations.  
Any Brother with special dietary needs beyond the listed menu, please mention it in your message.

**St. Johns is looking for an Assistant Secretary to train with Brother Secretary to one day take over. Must be serious about the commitment. Contact Worshipful Master, Brother Secretary, or Brother Senior Warden if Interested.**

## Ballot on Petition to Join by Affiliation

**Robert Francis Kempe**  
Manchester Lodge #12

## Ballot on Petition to Join by Degrees

**Mr. Dennis Lazaro Leggett**  
21 Longfellow Terrace, Providence, RI



Victoria Pfanstiehl, ASL Interpreter, Leo Gutierrez, RISDeaf Athletic Director, M.: W.: Andre H. Faria, W.: Jason Shealy, and Dr Christen Kelly, RISDeaf Audiologist



W.: Jason Shealy with R.: W.: Lance William Chappell, 55 year pin recipient.

## St Johns Lodge Number One Providence ~ Officers 2024-2025

Master: W.: **Jason Shealy**

Senior Warden: **Robert Larrabee** Junior Warden: **William C. Gouge**

Treasurer: R.: W.: **Ronald P. Reed** Secretary: M.: W.: **Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr.** email: secretary1prov@gmail.com

Chaplain: W.: **Robert J. O'Brien**

Associate Chaplain: **Peter A. Healey**



Senior Deacon: W.: **Joshua A. Irizarry**

Junior Deacon: **John P. Gauthier**

Senior Steward: **Octavio Gomez**

Junior Steward: **Sean C. Paley**



Marshal: W.: **Scott E. Miller**

Sentinel: **Alan Vukas**

Tiler: **Karapet Emdjian** Associate Tiler: **Thomas J. Kumes**

Master of Ceremonies R.: W.: **Timothy L. Culhane**

Lodge Reporter: W.: **Timothy L. Culhane**

Finance Committee: W.: **Edward D. Bertrand (2026)**, W.: **Scott E. Miller (2025)**, **Edward O. Quinn (2027)**

## Living Past Masters of St. Johns Lodge Number One Providence

### St. Johns Lodge No. 1P

1971 Hagop Tikoian  
1975 Robert D. Coleman  
1976 Barry A. Phillips  
1979 George M. Hanrahan  
1980 Carl E. Croft  
1981 Ralph DiScullo  
1982 Anthony Marcello, Jr.  
1984 Gregory W. Dexter  
1986 Elton D. Ricker, Jr.  
1993 Anthony Marcello, Jr.  
1994-95 Thomas A. Ashley  
2001 Gregory W. Dexter  
2002 William E. Whetstone  
2006 Gerald T. Plemmons  
2007 Russell A. Kawa  
2008 Kenneth B. Phillips  
2009 Ronald P. Reed  
2010 Edward D. Bertrand  
2011 Donald L. Williamson, Jr.  
2013 Richard F. Lynch  
2014 Robert J. O'Brien  
2015 Timothy L. Culhane  
2016 William J. DeLuca  
2017 Edward D. Bertrand

2018 Richard Gonzalez  
2019 Mazen M. Alsabe  
2020 Scott E. Miller  
2021 Joshua A. Irizarry  
2022 John B. Paliotta  
2023 Joseph J. Bernier

### Unity Lodge No. 34

1969 George W. Haworth

### Barney Merry Lodge No. 29

1978 William E. Whetstone  
1990 David Lancaster  
1992-93 Robert B. Ellston  
1997-98 William E. Whetstone  
2000 Ronald P. Reed

### Thomas Smith Webb No.43

1966 Bogos W. Pelgian ^  
1982 Steven Babigian ^  
1984 Steven Babigian ^  
1985 Mohamed H. Hussein ^  
1986 Dennis C. Smith

1987 Louis Micheli Jr.  
1988 Thomas F. Gregory ^  
1989 Duncan C. Watson  
1989 Bryan W. Cooper ^  
1990 Steven Skaling ^  
1992 Thomas F. Gregory ^  
1993 Louis Falaguera  
1993 William M. Troberman ^  
1995 Joseph Costa  
1996 Eugene Thibeault  
1999 Frank DiMascio ^  
2000 Eugene Thibeault  
2004-05 James F. Desmarais  
2007 Philip R. Hartnett  
2008 Robert Boehm  
2010 Gary Moe  
2011-12 Dennis Sullivan

(\*) Corinthian Lodge No. 27

(^\*) Orpheus Lodge No. 36



## Honorary Past Masters of St. Johns Lodge Number One Providence

2025 Scott C. Alexander \*

\*deceased

## Living Past Grand Masters of St. Johns Lodge Number One Providence

1994-1995 Ralph DiScullo  
2000-2001 Benjamin A. Phillips  
2001-2002 Dennis W. Pothier  
2004-2005 Bradford L. Barco  
2005-2006 Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr

2007-2008 Steven E. Smith  
2008-2009 Richard S. Sokoll  
2009-2010 Richard L. Ault, Jr.  
2014-2015 Wyman P. Hallstrom, III  
2015-2016 Raymond E. Hassell

2016-2017 Stephen T. McGuire  
2017-2018 Peter Iacobucci  
2018-2019 Glenn S. Carlson  
2020-2021 Gary S. Kaufman  
2021-2022 Robert B. Ellston

2022-2023 Robert A. Palazzo  
2023-2024 Douglas J. Grant

## St. Johns Distinguished Service Medal

1967 W.: Kinglsey L. Bennett\*  
1968 Kenneth W. Fawthrop\*  
1970 W.: Harold W. Thatcher\*  
1971 W.: Rufus C. Fuller, Jr.\*  
1971 W.: J. Harold Robertson\*

1975 M.: W.: Wesley Reuter\*  
1980 W.: Ralph W. Wilkins\*  
1982 W.: James F. Candelet\*  
1992 M.: W.: Arthur R. Cole, Jr.\*  
1992 W.: Anthony Marcello, Jr.

1994 M.: W.: Ralph DiScullo  
1995 R.: W.: Edward L. Calamar, Jr.\*  
2000 R.: W.: Henry V. Aharonian\*  
2005 W.: Elton D. Ricker, Jr.  
2007 W.: Gregory W. Dexter

2009 R.: W.: Russell A. Kawa  
2014 R.: W.: Kenneth B. Phillips  
2023 M.: W.: Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr.

\*deceased