



Third District Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Lecture - Why Do We Wear White Gloves? A Symbol of Purity, Service, and Sacred Responsibility

It is an honor to stand before you today. In our Prince Hall Family, rituals are steeped in deep meaning, and our regalia is never chosen by chance. Today, I invite you to reflect upon a symbol we often wear, yet we may not always pause to fully consider why. The **white gloves** that earnestly adorn the hands of Prince Hall Masons and Eastern Stars.

These gloves are not just mere regalia or a requirement of the uniform; they are **silent teachers**. When we see a Brother or Sister adorned in that pristine white, it is a powerful declaration of the character we strive to maintain and the sacred responsibility we carry.

1. The Standard of Clean Hands and Pure Hearts

In our tradition, white is the universal symbol of purity, innocence, and moral uprightness. By covering our hands, we are reminded that our actions in this world should be blameless. This aligns perfectly with the wisdom found in *Psalms 24:3-4*:

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."

The gloves serve as a **spiritual filter**. They challenge us to ask: Are these hands lifting others up? Are they doing the work of Charity, Truth, and Loving-Kindness? When we wear them, we declare that we possess the integrity required to stand in His holy place and carry the torch of the Prince Hall legacy forward.

2. Leaving No Trace of Malice

In operative masonry, gloves protect the hands from rough stones. For us as speculative Masons and Eastern Stars, the meaning is even more beautiful. The gloves remind us to handle the reputations and hearts of our Sisters and Brothers with **tenderness and grace**.

Just as a white glove leaves no smudge on a polished surface, our interactions should leave no stain of gossip, envy, or bitterness on our Sisters or Brothers. We move through each other's lives with a "soft touch," ensuring that we leave every person better than we found them. This is **service without expectation of reward**—a reminder that true greatness is measured by how we treat one another when no one is watching.

3. In harmony with the Ritualistic work and Historic Foundation

In the traditions of the Order, white gloves represent purity of purpose and uprightness of conduct. As we labor together in service to God and humanity, the gloves signify that our hands are dedicated to righteous action, free from malice and injustice.

Moreover, white gloves express the equality of all who assemble within the Chapter. Regardless of station, occupation, or worldly distinction, each member stands upon common ground before Almighty God. Just as Scripture teaches that there is no respect of persons with Him (Romans 2:11), so too the Order upholds the principle that all labor—whether of the hand or of the mind—is honorable when performed in sincerity and love.

4. A Call to Recommitment

Therefore, Sisters and Brothers, the next time you draw those gloves over your fingers and or fasten them at your wrists, feel the weight of the commitment you are making. The white gloves are not merely an adornment, but a solemn emblem.

You are vesting yourself in the virtues of our Order:

- **To exemplify Integrity** in all your dealings.
- **To invite Unity** in our sacred fellowship.
- **To pursue Excellence** in our community service.
- **To include Purity** in your every intention.

Let these gloves remind you that your hands are the tools through which God's light shines. May they always be busy in service, steady in friendship, and express Sisterhood and Brotherhood.

Keep your light shining, keep your hearts faithful, and may God continue to guide the work of your clean hands in our Order.

Fraternally,
Sister Monica Michelle Smith
Grand Assistant Lecturer
Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, P.H.A.