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Email: info@JFSwartsel251.org **Website:** www.jfswartsel251.org **Phone:** 813-949-4814

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays

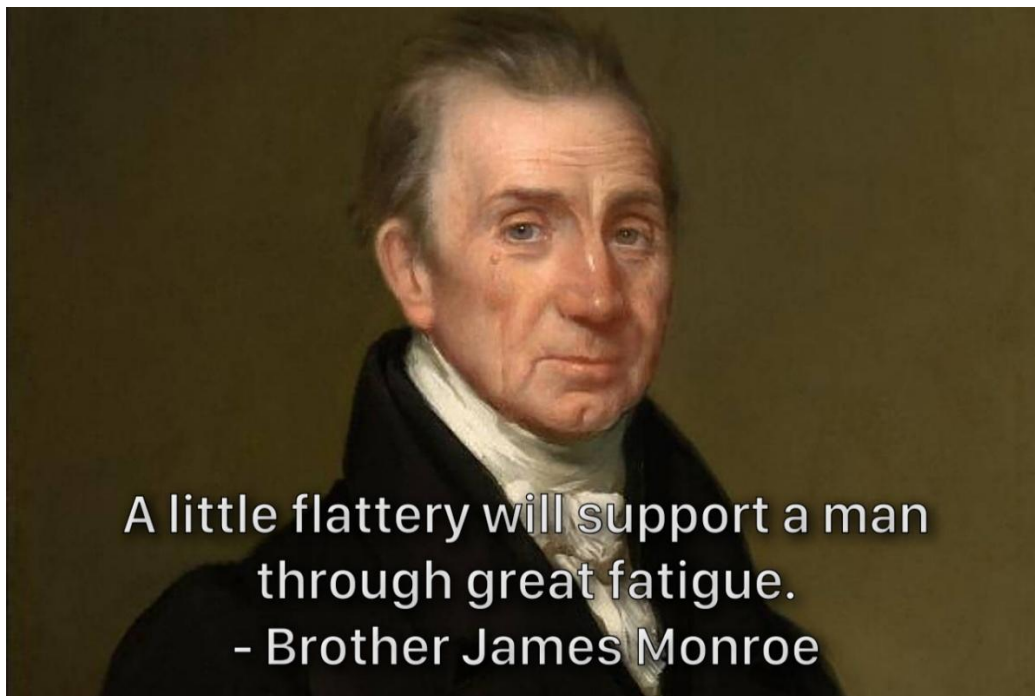
Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:

W.: M.: Allan Jenkins - R.: H.: Adam Feldman - W.: Jerry M. Snell Jr. – W.: Marty Greif –
 W.: Wade Angel – Br. Jack Jones – Br. Denis Monefeldt –
 Br. Per-Henrik Nordstrom – Br. Carlos Perez – Br. Anthony DeLuna

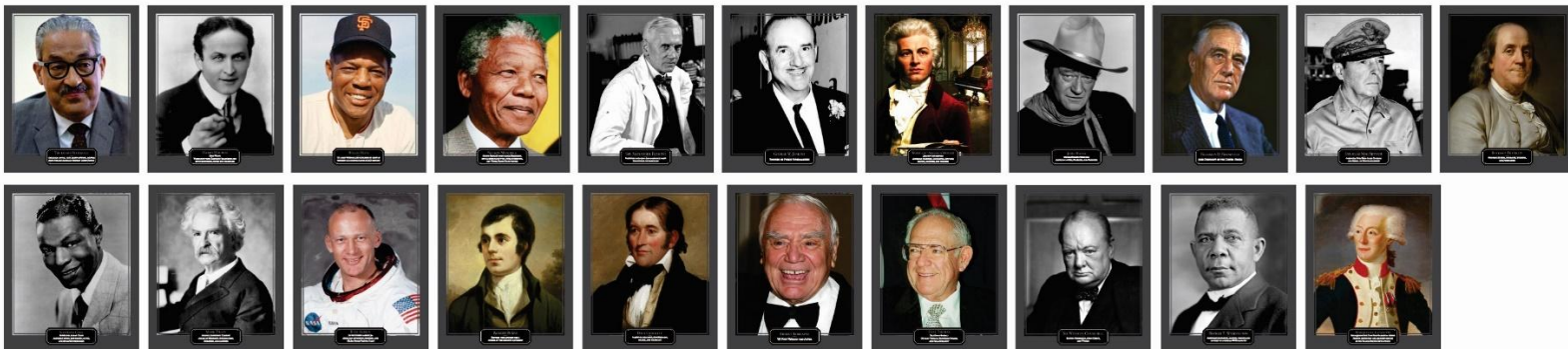


Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

The Lutz Fire Department, TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56
 BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12 Lutz
 Lutz Little League Baseball
 Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County
 McKittrick Elementary School
 “Helping Paws Program”
 Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County)
 De Molay (Hillsborough County)
 Shriners’ Hospital
 Lifepath Hospice
 Jobs’ Daughters
 Land O Lakes High School
 Steinbrenner High School
 Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg
 Metropolitan Ministries
 The Joshua House



If they could do the things they did then,



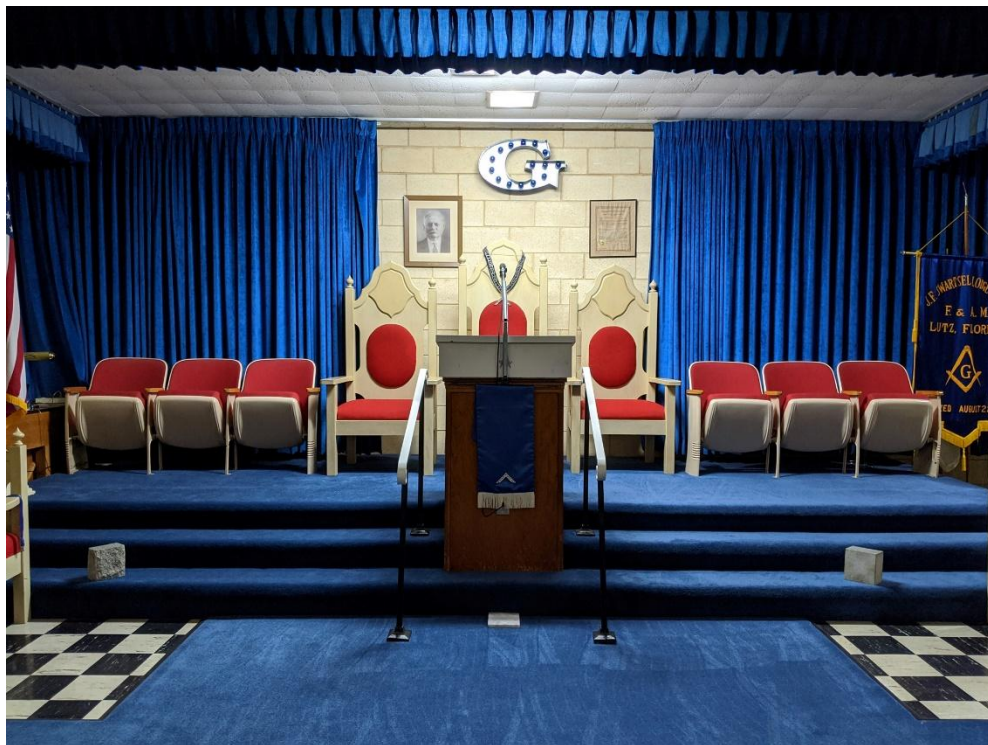
imagine the things that we can do now.

Thank you to **all** of our Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon
The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel, Palma Ceia and Community Lodge

Please follow the link to our website for a complete list of past masters.

Your 2025 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins
Senior Warden Brother Joe Circhirillo
Junior Warden Brother Thomas Holland Overman
Treasurer R : H : Jeffrey Thomas Sklet
Secretary W : David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain Br. Jason Warren Schein
Marshall W : Brian Andrew Reach
Senior Deacon Brother Jack Wilbur Jones
Junior Deacon Brother Denis Graham Monefeldt
Senior Steward Brother Kyle John Jesso
Junior Steward Brother Jose Lao Labasbas Jr.
Tyler Brother Jose Luis Valdes Jr.
Musician Brother John S Nagy
Historian W : Samuel McPherson





Please remember your Lodge boosters and thank them!

R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley - R.:W.: Donald R. Bell - Mark L. Lager - Daniel Allen - Brad Sollberger - Ernest P. Sidlow



Chair Chatter

From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert, Sr.

Brethren,

Please check your Dues Card to see if you have paid your 2025 Dues, and If you have changed your address, please give me a call @ (813) 838-7705 or email me at dlambert7907@gmail.com so I can update your records.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates:

October 2025.

- 1st (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM), District 19 School of Instruction @ Universal Lodge No. 178
- 2nd **Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 7th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 10th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple.
- 13th 6:PM – 8:PM, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ Universal Lodge No. 178.
- 14th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 16th **Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 17th **5:PM – 7:PM, Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel.**
- 20th 7:30 PM – Friendship Chapter No. 209 meeting
- 20th **Lodge Visit to Dunedin Lodge No. 192. Dinner at 6:30. Meeting at 7:30**
- 21st 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 24th 7:PM, DeMolay.
- 25th Trestleboard Articles to W.: Allen Jenkins & W.: Jeff Sklet.
- 25th 9:AM – Noon, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ Brandon Lodge No. 114.
- 27th **6:30 – 8:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ EGYPT Shrine.**
- 28th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 30th **Family Night**

From the Worshipful Master: Worshipful Allan Jenkins

Brotherhood in Action: Another Great Month at J.F. Swartsel #251

This past month was a shining example of fellowship, family, and fraternity for our lodge.

We kicked things off with a fun-filled bowling event at Pin Chasers. Brothers, friends, and family came together for an evening of laughter and strikes (and maybe a few gutter balls), but most importantly, we shared the joy of fellowship outside the lodge.

In the spirit of traveling, ten of our brothers paid a visit to Universal Lodge #178 and proudly brought home the traveling gavel. Moments like this remind us of the strong bonds we share across the district.

Education and dedication were also on full display as we led the way at the District School of Instruction. With twelve brothers in attendance, we not only showed our commitment to Masonic growth but also earned the *Column Under Construction*—a testament to our unity and hard work.

And who could forget our famous fish fry? The turnout was incredible. In just 1 hour and 20 minutes, every plate was sold. A true success, thanks to the efforts of our brothers and the support of our community.

Looking ahead, the energy doesn't stop here. We're preparing for our final Family Night of 2025 on **October 30th**—details will be announced soon, but we can promise another memorable evening together. Then, on **Saturday, November 1st**, we'll hold our annual *Farmer's Fellow Craft Degree*. This special tradition honors our lodge's namesake and remains one of the most meaningful events of our year.

We are a vibrant lodge, growing stronger every day, and we welcome all brothers to come out, visit, and share in our journey.

Fraternally,

W.:M.: Allan A. Jenkins

From the Senior Warden: Brother Joe Circhirillo

Brothers,

I want to thank all the Brothers who helped us again with the fish fry. It was another success Brothers. This is the way we raise money for our charities and we do it every month. You need to find time to help us because it doesn't work itself. We only have on left this year, October 17th. Let's go out with a bang and make it a big success! The more we sell the more we make for charity. We are doing good for ourselves, our community and our charities. I am looking forward to the upcoming Farmer's Degree in November.

Fraternally,
Brother Joe Circhirillo

From the Junior Warden: Brother Thomas Overman

October 2nd menu: Lasagna, mixed veggies, bread, salad bar cookies cake.

Oct 14th sauerkraut and Italian sausage, beets, potatoes German style, dessert.

Fraternally,
Brother Thomas Overman

From the Senior Deacon: Brother Jack Jones

The FC Degree & The Winding Staircase: a 3-Part Series

Part 3 of 3: The Winding Staircase & The "Seven" Steps

My Brothers, we are pushing forward in our work to deliver a stellar and memorable degree ceremony; “Passing” Brothers Bagnuik and Curtain to the degree of Fellow Craft in the "Farmers Degree" on Nov.1st

We have described the intellectual and moral maturity of a Fellow Craft via the “Three and Five” steps allegories of the Winding Staircase, wherein the Fellow Craft degree is focused on cultivation of wisdom and ethical character, emphasizing the importance of education, knowledge, and the pursuit of truth. In this the final climb up the “Winding Staircase,” we teach Brothers to undertake a deeper exploration of the liberal arts and sciences, thus further deepening their understanding of the world around them. *Let's go into the symbolism and wisdom found **beyond** the Fellow Craft's “ascent” of the Three & Five steps on the Winding Staircase... onward to the Seven Steps!*

The Seven Steps

The Seven “Steps” in Freemasonry refer to a symbolic progression of moral and spiritual growth toward the maturity of the Brother. These represent stages of self-improvement, enlightenment, and the pursuit of wisdom. They guide The Fellow Craft along a path of personal development and ethical living.

The Symbolism & Allegory of these Seven “Steps” are aligned with the Seven liberal arts and sciences, often referred to in Freemasonry, the Seven liberal arts are divided into two groups: the Trivium and the Quadrivium, which are classical models of education that date back to ancient Greece and Rome.

The Trivium (3) consists of grammar, logic, and rhetoric, which are the arts of language and communication.

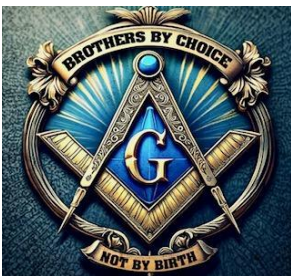
The Quadrivium (4) includes arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy, which are the arts of number and the physical universe.

Together, these Seven “Steps” afford a pathway to the progressive ascent toward moral perfection, spiritual illumination, and the attainment of wisdom., representing a well-rounded foundation for the intellectual and moral development of the Fellow Craft Mason

This, my Brothers, concludes Part 3 and the final article describing the important, and beautifully symbolic, allegorical concepts of the "7 stairs" relating to The Winding Staircase portion of the Fellow Craft degree.

I hope that this series was both enjoyable and educational for all; I enjoyed sharing it with you.

Fraternally,
Bro. Jack Jones, Sr. Deacon



A message from Community DeMolay Chapter

Community DeMolay is on a Roll!

We've just accepted a petition for our third *new* member who will be installed next month at the **District 4 & 5 Conclave!**

📍 **Where:** Masonic Park & Youth Camp

📅 **When:** October 24–26

This will be a weekend you won't want to miss. We'll be putting on *both* the Initiatory and DeMolay Degrees, so any prospects attending will get to experience the full degrees and meet DeMolays from across the state.

Beyond the ritual, there's a full schedule of fun events planned, fellowship, and plenty of food.

💰 **Cost:** \$25 per person (includes meals & snacks)

👔 **Dress:** Casual — leave the suit and tie at home, the degrees will be held outdoors.

It's going to be a great weekend, and we hope to see you there!

For questions, email: amaslin@fldemolay.com

A message from Plant City York Rite

Plant City York Rite Bodies at J.F. Swartsel are on the rise!

2025 has proven to be nothing short of remarkable for our Companions and Sir Knights. Against every challenge, we've not only endured—we've flourished.

This October, we will welcome **five new Sir Knights** into our ranks, a milestone that reflects both our dedication and our momentum.

Our continued growth stands as proof that the York Rite tradition now at J.F. Swartsel Lodge is alive, vibrant, and gaining strength with every passing month.

With new members joining our journey, we're not just preserving the heritage of our Order—we're building its future.

The best part? We're only getting started.

A message from Tampa Scottish Rite

Discover the Meaning Behind the Feast of Tishri

Join us on **October 13th** as our own Brother Gil Weisman speaks on the Feast of Tishri at the Scottish Rite. This autumn celebration, rooted in the ancient harvest festival and the dedication of King Solomon's Temple, reminds us that just as the fruits of the earth are gathered in season, so too must we labor to build and refine the temple within ourselves. It is a time to give thanks, reflect on our journey, and renew the bonds of brotherhood.

Open meeting: 7:00 pm

Dinner: 5:30 pm — \$12 (reservations required – contact the Scottish Rite office)

Celebrate tradition, fellowship, and renewal with us — all are welcome!

A message from Frienship Chapter No. 209 Order of the Eastern Star

We are back to our Eastern Star meetings after a 2 months break. Seeing pictures of our Masonic Brothers and the many activities you are embarking on looks so exciting. Also., Congratulations to the DeMolay team for the beginning of a learning experience for youth. We have exciting information to share with our Brothers. Friendship Chapter #209 is having a **CRAFTS & TREASURERS SALE at the LODGE on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025**, From 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you would like to rent a booth or donate items **contact Gina McNairy 813 376 6093**. Summer was exciting for many. The Grand Representative: of Indiana, Sister Maudelene McCleary and Barbara Gant, of New Hampshire (and her girls), each attended their Grand Chapters. From Florida our Worthy Grand Matron, Sandy Leduc and her team were in New Hampshire as well. Most exciting for us, was the Most Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star and several of her officers were present. I will share, she is a very fun loving and funny lady who had many stories to share fun to be around. My Cohort was so kind to make this trip special as he scheduled us for extracurricular activities, like a 2 hour boat tour and a train ride up Mt Washington.eating out at restaurants with good food. As we grieve with Sister Suzan Moore in the loss of Brother Bob, please remember her in your prayers. He will be missed.

Star Love

Barbara Gant, P.M. Friendship Chapter #209
Grand Representative of New Hampshire in Florida and
Co Chairman Perpetual Membership

In honor of our 100-year anniversary, this is the original Lodge building from back in the day



What have we been up to?

Officers meeting. Making decisions to steer the Lodge in the right direction for the rest of the year



While some of the Brethren remained at labor in the Lodge, others traveled to St. Petersburg to learn the story of The Taxil Hoax. This infamous 19th-century fabrication falsely accused Freemasonry of dark and sinister practices, gaining wide circulation before being exposed as a fraud.

The Hoax is more than just a curious chapter in history—it's a powerful reminder that misinformation spreads quickly, while truth often takes time to be heard.

Even today, we see how rumors, half-truths, and falsehoods can shape public opinion. As Masons, the lesson is clear: we must always seek light, guard against deception, and stand firm in the pursuit of truth.



We dropped in on the Brothers of Zephyr Lodge No. 198 last evening —mainly to see if they could cook as well as they talk. Turns out, they can! The meal was outstanding, the fellowship even better... though we suspect they fed us so much just to keep us quiet. Well played, Brothers, well played.”



We had a blast today (pun intended). A group of Brothers from Swartsel went out to the trap range for a lot of fun and fellowship. For extra fun we divided into two teams. Team 1 had to buy Team Two pizza afterwards because Team Two won! You can keep the fun rolling next month as we go bowling. [#swartselstrong](#)



Some Brothers from the Lodge had the pleasure of attending Hillsborough Lodge No. 25's Table Lodge. The food was outstanding! It was a lot of fun meeting all the other Brothers from around the Tampa Bay Area.



MLT and District School. 11 Brothers from Swartsel were in attendance for District School last night! We won the Column Under Construction for a second month in a row. We also learned a little about the FC Degree. Best part was hanging out with Brothers from other lodges in district 19. Let's keep the streak going next month.



Another great night at Swartsel! We had a guest speaker tonight. Ms. DeDe Grundel, Executive Director of Joshua House. This is one of our charities. They are a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for foster children and teens who have been abused, abandoned and neglected. Very informative. For our Brothers who like to keep tabs on everyone, Ms. Grundel left so that we could open in due form. 😊.



Information about Joshua House, one of our charities.



Friends of Joshua House Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for foster children and teens who have been abused, abandoned, and neglected.

Joshua House is a safe haven comprised of five homes, a therapy center, learning center and library, and life enrichment center on one 11-acre property.

Housing up to 48 children ages 6-17, Joshua House is a therapeutic residential shelter that provides safe, nurturing, and family-like living for our community's most vulnerable children.

Friends of Joshua House Foundation is 100% community sustained. We appreciate your support!

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SUPPORT

- One gift can change a child's life. Donations to Joshua House support our life enrichment program, shelter upkeep, academic programming, therapy center, and many other areas of need for our kiddos.



RESOURCES

- All items on our Amazon Wishlist!
- New or very gently used clothing (teen sizes).
- New shoes, undergarments, and socks (teen sizes).
- Hygiene products.
- Household and pantry items.

TO PURCHASE WISHLIST ITEMS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR SCAN THE QR CODE.



LIFE ENRICHMENT

- Gift Cards that allow our children to shop, visit the movie theater, eat at their favorite restaurants, and experience fun!
- Tickets and passes to activities in the community like theme parks, sporting events, concerts, etc.
- Share your special talents/passions in an activity that enriches our children's lives.

VOLUNTEER

- Host your own donation drive.
- Life Enrichment Activities with the children.
- Campus beautification projects.
- Individual projects/positions (as needed).
- Special events for the foundation.

VISIT OUR VOLUNTEER INQUIRY FORM ON OUR WEBSITE.

WWW.FRIENDSOFJOSHUAHOUSE.ORG || (813) 406-5694 || PO BOX 2451 LUTZ, FL 33548

Worshipful Master and Youth Appreciation Night at the Scottish Rite Valley of Tampa. Thanks to all who came out to support our Worshipful Master, Allan Jenkins.



Swartsel adds another Noble to Egypt Temple Shrine! Congratulations Noble Labasbas. Celebration continued after the ceremony.



Oasis is a 501(c)3 organization that helps clothing and backpacks full of supplies to the less fortunate kids in Hillsborough County. In Hillsborough there are 220,000 students. Last year they gave 3 sets of clothes, socks, underwear, and shoes to over 19,000 of those kids.

With our money (and the Lutz Guvna') we donated 612 back packs and over \$1,500.00 in cash to the cause. [#swartselstrong](#)



Great evening with our Brothers at Logia Universal No. 178—supporting our DDGM and bringing the Traveling Gavel back home to S.F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251!



Great night at Swartsel! The Traveling Gavel has found its way home to us. It looks good with the Column Under Construction. Thanks to all the Brothers of the Lodge for making this happen. Another great meal. The Brothers who couldn't make it really missed out on some good food.



We asked for your support, and wow—did you ever deliver!

Our Fish Fry sold out in just 75 minutes. The crispy golden fish, hearty homemade sides, and warm fellowship made for an unforgettable evening.

We sincerely apologize to those we were unable to serve. It was never our intention to turn anyone away, and we are truly sorry for the disappointment.

The good news? Next month we'll be ready with even more plates, even more flavor, and the same friendly smiles. So mark your calendars, tell your friends, and plan to come early—because you won't want to miss the best Fish Fry in town!



Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County. Good fun and fellowship.



Let's go Fishing Brothers and Sisters, bring your family and friends.



FALL FISHING TRIP

November 15, 2025

Districts 19 & 20 Masonic Fishing Trip

Join your Brothers for fun and fellowship on the Two Georges fishing charter.

This is an opportunity to have fun with your Brothers, your friends and your family. It's also a great opportunity to introduce quality men who are worthy and well qualified to Masonry.

This is an 85-foot long PARTY boat equipped with all the latest fishing technologies. So be prepared to enjoy yourself!

It's only \$100 per adult and \$75 per child under 12 years old. The rates include EVERYTHING you need to catch your limit. Fishing equipment, tackle, bait, parking, license and tax are all included for this low rate.

We'll have a contest for the biggest fish caught with a 50/50 pool.

You must be on the boat by 7:30 am for the 8:00 am departure. The boat returns to port at 4:00 pm. The boat is located at 810 Dodecanese Blvd, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.

To participate we must have your check by September 30th.

Make checks payable to J.F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 and send them to:

David Lambert
23336 Jerome Road
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639
(813) 838-7705

Fun & Fellowship

Only \$100 per adult!
And \$75 per child!

Bring your family!
Bring your friends!

You must register by
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**Dine-in
or
Take out**

**J.F. Swartsel Masonic
Lodge 251 hosts a
monthly Fish Fry event
to raise funds for our
Hillsborough County
Community Programs**

FISH FRY

FUNDRAISER



**FRIDAY
10/17/25
5PM-7PM**

**Enjoy Every
Crunchy
Bite of It**



A list of programs we support can be found @ jfswartsel251.org

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"Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our Brother; bright and glorious be his rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia spring which shall flourish there. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties over his resting place, and, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may his soul spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear Brother, Farewell!"

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