



Mite: (*noun*) a small coin, in particular a small Flemish copper coin of very low face value.

St. John's Mite Frequently Asked Questions

Relief is a central tenant of Masonry. We are obligated to help our brothers, their spouses, and their dependent children at their time of need. A majority of this relief is funded directly by the brother's lodge. Sometimes, however, the need may be greater than an individual lodge can afford to give. To help in these situations, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia formed St. John's Mite. St. John's Mite provides additional monetary relief above and beyond what the lodge provides. Lodges who wish to submit a request should have their secretary transmit a letter of request to the St. John's Mite Secretary.

Who is eligible for relief?

Any Mason in good standing with his DC Lodge, the surviving spouse of a DC Mason, or his dependent children under the age of 18 are eligible for relief.

How is relief granted?

The relief process begins when the lodge requests it. The secretary should transmit a request for relief to the secretary of St. John's Mite. The executive committee may consider the request between quarterly meetings, and will try to expedite relief as quickly as possible.

Who serves on St. John's Mite?

St. John's Mite has a representative from every lodge in the District of Columbia. The representatives elect four officers – President, Vice-President, Secretary, & Treasurer – who oversee the operation of the Mite for the year and hold quarterly meetings.

Is it confidential?

The work of St. John's Mite is confidential. Members of the Mite swear confidentiality about the meetings, applicants, and type of relief given. The relief amount, but not the reason or cause, given to individuals is disclosed on our 990-PF filed with the Internal Revenue Service. These documents, however, are not made public.

Is it a straight match?

St. John's Mite is not limited in giving a dollar-for-dollar match. At the discretion of the Mite, relief may be less than or greater than what the lodge has given depending on the need for relief.

What expenses are eligible for relief?

Under the constitution of St. John's Mite, it can provide food, clothing, shelter, fuel, medical assistance, burial, and other means of relief. The Mite exists to help, and will work with you and your lodge to provide succor to our Brothers and their families.

What expenses are not eligible for relief?

Under the Constitution of St. John's Mite, it may not consider relief for personal indebtedness to banks, credit card companies, loan companies, or any other financial institutions.

How is St. John's Mite Funded?

St. John's Mite is lucky to be supported by an assessment levied on every Mason in the District of Columbia. This assessment by the Grand Lodge allows us to provide a majority of the relief requested. We also receive contributions from various lodges and individuals. As a 501(C)3 Charity, these contributions are eligible as a deduction on your income tax return.

What if I have further questions?

Please reach out to your lodge's St. John's Mite or contact Zach Rubenfeld (zrubenfeld@gmail.com), the St. John's Mite Secretary.