

2017 Candle Lighting Ceremony

This candle lighting ceremony honors the beginning of the new Grange year. It is meant to impress upon us the ideals for which we as Grange members need to practice and live by.

Let us begin by lighting the worthy Chaplain's candle which signifies FAITH in the First Degree.

We learned FAITH in the early spring. We placed FAITH in God that our crops would grow and produce. We also must place FAITH in the abilities of our Grange brothers and sisters, that we can depend on each other through our Grange work to make our communities a better place to live. We have NO substitute for planning, organizing and being prepared.

Worthy Chaplain, please pass the flame on to the Worthy Pomona as we recognize HOPE in the Second Degree. HOPE teaches us to have faith and HOPE in our knowledge, our skills and our Grange members. May the seeds we plant while planning and organizing our years activities come to completion and be received with open arms throughout our Grange and community.

Worthy Pomona, please pass the flame on to the Worthy Flora as we recognize CHARITY in the Third Degree. As we dispense CHARITY throughout the community, we must remember the gift of the Grange. It is the responsibility of each Grange brother and sister to invite others to join us in our organization, so we can all gain wisdom and share our skills with one another.

Worthy Flora, please pass the flame on to the Worthy Ceres as we recognize FIDELITY in the Fourth Degree. It is in our communities that we enjoy the fruits of our labors in the Grange. We must celebrate our work as Grange brothers and sisters both in and outside of the Grange. Our labors have made the Grange stronger and our communities are a reflection of this strong organization.

Worthy Master, would you please join us at the altar as we bid goodbye to the old Grange year and usher in the new year. **(hand a lighted candle to the master when he approaches the altar)**

As we begin our new Grange year, let us share our steadfast support to all Granges in our community, throughout the county and around the state. The candle light that you hold in your hand signifies the cooperation of leadership and guidance that our Grangers will receive from you as our Grange Master. The flame represents Faith - Hope - Charity - Fidelity - Perseverance - and Patriotism. In the Master's charge that you deliver to Grange members, you tell us to be quiet peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry, helping the fatherless and widows, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world. As Grange members lend support to you, as our leader to accomplish this job, let this be our heartfelt service for the new year.

Now as we extinguish the flames and return to our stations, let us each keep deep in our minds and hearts the true meaning of being a loyal Grange member and friend.