



Missouri Supplement

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Looking Forward to Spring!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

As we head towards the end of this Templar Year, it is important for each Commander and Recorder to complete all the required paperwork and forms that have been sent by the Grand Recorder. As stated previously, we in the Grand Commandery would like for each Commandery in the State of Missouri to attempt to participate in the Drill Competition during the Grand Session. Another important goal for each Commandery is to work on completing the Honor Commandery Award form and submit it to your respective Regional Grand Commander. The Honor Commandery Award is designed to help guide each Commandery to work on completing tasks that will challenge the Sir Knights in the conclave.

There are some exciting events in the upcoming months that we want to bring to your attention. We are pleased to announce that we will have a Grand Masters Templar Crusade on March 21, 2020 at the Independence Masonic Temple. Palestine Commandery No. 17, the Grand Master's Commandery, will host the Commandery Orders. We would like for as many Sir Knights to attend this event and support your fellow Knights Templar as well as supporting the Grand Master, Sir Knight Stanton T. Brown, II. Further details of the event can be found on the MO Grand York Rite web site calendar (moyorkrite.org).

The 8th Annual Mid-America Easter Sunrise Service will be held on April 11 and April 12, 2020. This event is sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and hosted by the Grand Commanderies of Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri. There will be a banquet held on Saturday evening, April 11th at the Weston Crown Center Hotel. The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 8:00 am on Sunday, April 12th, at the Liberty Memorial followed by an Easter Buffet Brunch at the Weston Crown Center Hotel. Sir Knight Jeffery N. Nelson, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, is scheduled to attend along with Sir Knights from many states. Every Sir Knight is invited to attend this event, not only to support the Grand Commandery of Missouri, but to recognize the fact that Jesus Christ was crucified and rose from the dead. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6, NIV)

Finally, Sir Knights, please remember that we are Christian Masons and Jesus Christ is our Guiding Light and our Perfect Ashlar.

He is Risen!

Sir Knight Clark A. McLemore, Grand Commander

IT IS JUST UP AHEAD

January and February are often the coldest months of the year. February can be the hardest month for many of us. The festive Christmas Holiday is long past and, unfortunately, quickly forgotten. The boisterous parties for the New Year have long since faded into oblivion. All that is left is the weary darkness. The hours of daylight seem far too short. It is often bitter cold leaving everyone shivering under their blankets.

As February winds down, our thoughts of spring warm our souls. The weather will change in just a few weeks. The warm sun will come out and give us longer days. The snow will melt and the lakes and rivers will thaw. Soon the trees will bud and bring a happy green once again to the forests.

Around the end of February it is easy to fall into depression and get swallowed up in the darkness of the long winter. In the same way, when we are going through a long winter of our soul we need hope. We may not know what has caused the winter of the soul in our life that makes life seem so hopeless and pointless. But our faith can provide the cure.

The bible says, "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV)

When our lives seem most hopeless, it is most important for us to 'fix' our eyes on Jesus. To 'fix' our eyes on Jesus, means to ignore everything else and concentrate on Jesus and think about Him.

First and foremost, we need to think about how much He loves us. Jesus is for us, not against us. He is not a demanding task master, but a loving encourager who desires the very best for us. If He asks us to not do something, then it will be what is best for us. If He asks us to do something, then it will be what will result in blessings for us. When we love Jesus and are striving to live a life pleasing to Him, the vision we get of Him is love. No one else may understand, but He does. No one else may care, but He does. Jesus sees us always.

Jesus knows our troubles, and He loves us anyway. We need to fix our eyes on Him and think about the joy He has waiting for us. Remember His words, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2-3 NIV)

Jesus wants us. Jesus loves us. He is creating a place just for us! It will be joyful and wonderful and worth it all. Let's all fix our eyes on Jesus.