



# Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois



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Grand Commander

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## Illinois State News for November 2021

Greeting Sir Knights,

November is a time we associate with plenty and giving thanks for the bounty we have harvested from the long toils of the year. November has many holidays to observe for a few examples:

All Saints Day	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	National Happy Hour Day	Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>
Election Day	Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thanksgiving Day	Nov 25 <sup>th</sup>
National Candy Day	Nov 4 <sup>th</sup>	Black Friday	Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>
Marine Corp Birthday	Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	National Small Business Day	Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>
Veterans Day	Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Cyber Monday	Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>

And my favorite day the kick-off of Inspection Season with Mizpah Commandery No 53 in Oak Lawn on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> being first on the schedule. This Commandery is special to me because it is my home Commandery where my Templar journey started. Many Templars were Knighted in a Commandery that has now merged or surrendered their Charter requiring them to find and be acquainted with a new home. Therefore, I give Thanks that my Commandery is still my home Commandery meeting in the Asylum where both my son and I were Knighted. All Sir Knights are welcome to attend Mizpah's inspection, Open at 1:00PM in full form and Order of the Temple to follow, under the direction of SK Mark A. Keagle, EGR, REPGC. The Ladies of Mizpah Commandery are planning a Ladies Program so bring your Lady for a day of fellowship and revelry.

Now that we are fully engaged in the Fall Season, the leaves are mostly on the ground as a blanket for Mother Earth to protect her from the long cold season ahead. We turn our clocks back and turn on our lights much too early. Our furnaces and fireplaces are called into service to keep our families warm and comfortable. We look forward to a feast at the end of the month called Thanksgiving. Take this opportunity to reflect not on what has gone wrong in your life but reflect on all the graces and good fortune that comfort your heart.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is a day we should all celebrate by thanking a veteran of the armed forces for their service. Without these fine men and women, we would find difficulty in giving thanks for our blessing. These men and women offered to put their live on hold and even risk losing their lives so that we may be warm and comfortable in the freedoms our great country offers us.

This year I'm thankful for many of the same things as last year, Family, Friends, a warm Home in a good house, food on the table, decent health and sharing the Joy of the Lord in a happy life.

This year in particular I am thankful for all the members of the Illinois Grand Commandery who put their Faith and Trust in me to lead them this Chivalric year along with a Great Core of Officers who make my job a pleasure rather than an effort. I'm also very thankful for the Past Grand Commanders for their council and advice, solicited or not. I am thankful for the many Sir Knights who support their Commanderies and Templary in Illinois.

I would call upon all Sir Knights to reflect on what you have in your life to be thankful for. For even just a little while, you will open your hearts and let some of your troubles out and clear your heads of the rubbish of a troubled life. Life in the pandemic over last year or two has weighed heavy on everyone hearts, but, for many during hard time comes the fondest memories. My parents were teenagers during the Great Depression of the 1930s, yet I can remember them talking, mainly about the good times with their oldest friends. My Great Grand Mother use to say how thankful she was when she had a sack of flour in the pantry. I didn't understand her at the time because they had plenty of flour at the A&P. The little things make the best memories and the biggest reason to be thankful.

Now, as far as the real big Holiday this year, if able, invite someone to your table who may be lonely or going through difficult times. Invite someone to your table who you enjoy spending time with. Remember don't eat too much as you still need to fit into your uniform. *(The dry cleaners have a way of shrinking them you know.)*

Happy Thanksgiving, and may God Bless you all.

John M. Sansone, Grand Commander

### Events of October

October 2<sup>nd</sup> a Council Day was held in Springfield by the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Illinois.

October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> The Grand Communication held in Springfield by the Grand Lodge of AF&AM of the state of Illinois – I had the Pleasure of Presenting a check for \$50,000 to IMOS for our joint venture to lend aid and support to Templars and their families in Illinois.

Schools of instruction were held in Ottawa, Petersburg, Joliet, and Mt. Vernon. I hope the Sir Knights took advantage of these schools to polish their skills and knock the rust off the swords.

At the School in Joliet on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Grand Commandery held a Rededication of Joliet Commandery No. 4. The first Commandery to be Chartered by The Grand Commandery of Illinois on October 26, 1858.

