



Pennsylvania Crusader

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S.K. Mark G. Mattern, Grand Commander

Editor: SK Mark G. Mattern email: mgmattern@gmail.com



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Greetings Sir Knights,

We are entering November already and I hope everyone is well. This is a busy month with many Masonic events, but there are two other holidays we should pay special attention to.

Veterans Day on November 11th is a special occasion to say Thank You those people in our community that have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. While we honor those that have served, and continue to serve, we also need to support our veterans that need additional assistance to let them know they are not alone. We also need to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Copied from the Arlington National Cemetery website “For 100 years, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has served as the heart of Arlington National Cemetery. As a sacred memorial site and the grave of three unknown American service members, the Tomb connects visitors with the legacy of the United States armed forces throughout the nation’s history. It stands as a people’s memorial that inspires reflection on service, valor, sacrifice and mourning. Since November 11, 1921, the Tomb has provided a final resting place for one of America’s unidentified World War I service members, and Unknowns from later wars were added in 1958 and 1984”. On Saturday, April 16, 2022, at 11:15 am, I will be placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as the Grand Commandery has done for several years. My uncle was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, so this has a very special meaning for me.

Thanksgiving Day, November 25th. Yes it’s a day for giving thanks for the things we have, eating too much, watching football, and planning those Black Friday shopping adventures, but it should mean much more than that. We should make sure not only to be thankful for physical things we have, but also the spiritual gifts we have received, and continue to receive every day, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are heading into a great holiday season that can also be very trying. Please make sure to take time to celebrate in the moment and enjoy the wonders of the universe that surround us.

Yours in Templary,
Mark G. Mattern, REGC

A Letter from the Associate Grand Prelate:

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Mark 4:18-19 (NIV)

My hope for you as we begin the month of November is that this surge in the variants will not deprive you of your Thanksgiving festivities. Oftentimes the details of family gatherings—meal planning, shopping, or making travel arrangements—take precedent and we worry over making everything perfect. As you prepare for Thanksgiving take a moment and thank God for His wonderful grace. God pours out His grace upon us in a continuous supply that seems to have no end resulting in a fruitful life. What a blessing! Thank God for giving you a fruitful life full of His grace. A life unencumbered with the deceitful desires and worries of this world not worthy of that grace. Make God the center of your life and you will enjoy the true essence of life. You will truly know the grace of God.

Heavenly Father, each day in my life is a sacred gift from You filled with peace upon grace and guiding me to see what truly matters so that I may experience the blessing of bearing fruit that will last. Amen.

Rev. & S.K. Orville R. Jones, KCT, IKT, AGP