



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
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S.K. Mark G. Mattern, Grand Commander

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Greetings Sir Knights,

February is upon us and while it is the shortest month or possibly the coldest month, in the northern hemisphere it is usually considered the last month of winter, depending on that pesky groundhog.

It can be pronounced either FEB-roo-air-ee or FEB-yoo-air-ee.

February has 28 days, except during a leap year, when it has 29 due to the addition of a leap day. Every four years, a leap day is added to the end of February to adjust for the fact that the calendar is 365 days long but the Earth's revolution around the sun actually takes 365 days and 6 hours.

In the U.S. and some other countries, February is Black History Month. Several U.S. and international holidays also fall in February, including Groundhog Day on February 2, Valentine's Day on February 14, and Presidents' Day on the third Monday of February. The American football championship known as the Super Bowl is typically held in early February (Go Steelers! Whoops, yeah, I guess not this year).

Valentine's Day is one that we as Knights Templar ought not forget, for it is the time to celebrate with our Ladies for all that they do for us. Our Ladies are kind enough to let us go out to our conclaves, concerned enough to make sure we get home safely, outgoing enough to come out for fellowship with other Ladies, and thoughtful enough to make sure we have great nourishment to carry on our tasks. They remind us of other events, and make sure we are on time. And they are there to greet us as we return home from a long day. Sometimes it's just a look that they give us, a hug, or a kiss as we walk in the door. Sir Knights, make sure and go that extra step to make it a special month for your Lady, for without them we surely would fail.

I am quite sure that I could not be doing everything I am without the love and support of my Lady Jodi.

We have lots to do before our Annual Conclave in May. Elections and Installation of Officers at the Constituent Commanderies. Roster Book updates and the Annual Return. Conferral of Orders at several locations (check the <https://mymasonicjourney.com/> for more information). Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on April 16th, Easter Sunrise Service on the steps of the George Washington Masonic Memorial on April 17th.

The Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery will be May 19-22 at the Marriott at Penn Square in Lancaster. Look for hotel room information to come out very soon and The Call will follow at the beginning of March.

Yours in Templary,
Mark G. Mattern, REGC

A Letter from the Associate Grand Prelate:

Galatians 5:16-26

Walking in the Spirit

¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: ^{19a}adultery, ^{19b}fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, ^{21a}murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³^{23a}gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Beloved Fraters:

February is a month that brings with it a variety of feelings. For many it is a dark month to be endured, as it falls in the midst of our winter season when the days are short and the weather is often dreary, cold, and often snowy. The good spirits of the holiday season have faded and we are keeping on keeping on until the promise of spring and the good news of Easter in April.

I have always enjoyed February for several reasons. I have learned to look on it in a different perspective and to highlight its positive aspects. It is very regular and in 3 out of 4 years prepares us for the March calendar having had just 4 even weeks of seven days.

In a similar manner St. Paul encourages us to change our outlook on life. Instead of looking to the things that tear us down, focus on the things of the Spirit which build us up. He knew how difficult life could be, but instead of complaining, St. Paul wrote about the joys of knowing our Savior Jesus Christ.

I pray that your February will be a time of renewal as we contemplate the life of Jesus Christ during the season of Lent which can help us appreciate more fully the passion of our Lord.

Courteously yours,

Rev. & SK David A. Eichelberger, PDC, KCT, IKT, Associate Grand Prelate
Prelate for Duquesne Commandery No. 72 & Pittsburgh Commandery No. 1