



Grand Commandery of Michigan

"Together, for a Better Tomorrow"

Gary L. Paquet, Right Eminent Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies!

March 2, 2022 is the beginning of Lent. It's the beginning of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert and just before he began his public ministry. It's one of the Christian faiths most solemn religious observances, culminating with the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Growing up, I didn't truly have a grasp of the significance of this time in our liturgical calendar. It was a holiday. We went to church, extended family got together, we said grace, and had a bigger than usual meal. And while all of that was great, it was no big deal. Wow, did I miss the boat.

While religion was all around me, it wasn't a driving force or something we as a family emphasized daily. I don't believe this to be right or wrong, it just was. There were extenuating circumstances that made this our case. However, I'm sure this is the model many families find themselves in. While they believe in God and the ideals espoused in the holy bible, daily practice and the teachings of meaning of the words are not. I suppose there are many reasons for this. The hustle and bustle of everyday life, work; quite frankly, if it's not a priority, it's just hard to fit everything in.

I can hear some of you now, "religion is not something you just fit in!" I personally agree with you. I feel it needs to be the foundation our daily existence, but the reality is, for many, it's not. Just look around when you go to church. Is your sanctuary full? Thankfully, over the years, I have come to know and understand the deeper meaning behind these 40 days and the sacrifice Jesus made for me, for each of us. His teachings provide me the moral compass I need to make decisions that are not only in the best interest of myself and family but also for my neighbor and society. I hope this translates to my decisions in guiding the Grand Commandery of Michigan.



March Birthdays of Grand Officers and Ladies: The happiest of birthdays to each of you!

3/2- SK Shawn Bashore, PGC
3/4 – Lady Flo Herlihy
3/10 – SK Vernon Barnhart, PGC
3/10 - Lady Jane Rule
3/27 – SK James Hawn, PGC
3/20 – SK Loren Winn, PGC
3/31 – SK Jay Kennedy, GG

We have been facing some difficult challenges. The officers are addressing them and have been implementing programming to bring about the desired goal of making each of our commanderies stronger. This programming has been shared with you at inspections, virtual town halls, communications, and through visitations by the officers and me.

We are also fielding the impact of the decisions the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment has made regarding the CBSC and the removal of the Deputy Grand Master. Social media has featured these actions in various forums and their portrayal and subsequent impact has sadly been destructive to what we stand for as Christian Knights.

Some agree with the Grand Masters actions and support him and others, not at all. Many Sir Knights, and at least nine Grand Jurisdictions, have become so disappointed, they have invoked §4 (b) of the Constitution and called for a special conclave. This has triggered the Grand Encampment to call a special conclave of the Grand Encampment. This "Call to Conclave" will be held in conjunction with the East Central Department Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Your dais officers and Past Grand Commanders will be attending to hear the evidence and render a decision(s) that will hopefully be in the best interest of all involved, but especially the Knights Templar wheresoever dispersed.

During those 40 days Jesus walked in the desert and began his teachings as described in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, he was tempted by Satan on numerous occasions. Yet, his commitment to his father and to us, never wavered. He fulfilled his destiny to allow each of us to live forever in eternal life.

While there is nothing in our lives that would even begin to equate to the sacrifice God made by giving up his only son so our sins would be taken away thus allowing us to dwell in the house of the Lord forever, let us take a moment to reflect on this season of Lent, resist the temptations which may befall us, and provide us the guidance and wisdom to make decisions that are founded on the principles set forth by Jesus himself. When we do, be they for ourselves, family, friends, society at large, or for those of us who are in leadership roles, allow us to render decisions that are morally correct, founded on our values as Freemasons, and those of the Christian faith.

Until our paths cross again, safe travels to wherever the journey take you.

Respectfully,

Gary L. Paquet, Grand Commander



Upcoming Events:

March 5th - 49th Annual Tri-State Festival All-Order Day 9:00 a.m.
355 Napoleon Road, Michigan Center, MI

March 11-13th East Central Department Conference/Call to Conclave

March 19th 1st Captain General's Workshop Lansing, MI 9:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Services:

George Washington Masonic National Memorial Alexandria, Virginia

Lakeside Cemetery Chapel-Port Huron, Michigan

Great Lakes National Cemetery-Holly, Michigan

Fort Custer National Cemetery-Augusta, Michigan