



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Greetings Sir Knights,

As we navigate the ever changing weather of winter waiting for spring to meet us with more pleasant temperatures, we also work our way around this ever changing world to spread the word of our Lord and Savior. There is much uncertainty out there, but what is certain is the message of Jesus and the rewards that await us when our time comes if we follow his teachings.

Time is flying by and as I write this I have just 83 more days as your Grand Commander. There is still lots to do. There are several conferrals of the Orders of Templary coming up. Make sure and get out to support our new Sir Knights as well as the conferring cast in their endeavors. Easter weekend is always a great experience in Alexandria, VA. Saturday, April 15, 11:15 am, we will be at Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Join us in uniform, no sword, to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Sunday, April 16, 7:00 am, we line up on Shooters Hill at the George Washington Masonic Memorial for the Easter Sunrise Service. Once we march up the hill and are seated on the steps in front of the memorial the view is wonderful and the message always very meaningful.

The Grand Line officers will be making the journey to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in March to be present at the Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment. We will report back as soon as that conclave is completed. There are many other Commandery visitations, the Southwest Section Reception on March 19, and visits to other jurisdictions in the Northeast Department to represent Pennsylvania Templary.

May 19-22, 2022 will bring us all together again at the 169th Annual Conclave of our Grand Commandery at the Marriott on Penn Square in Lancaster. This is also the 225th Anniversary of Templary in Pennsylvania. What a wonderful milestone we have reached and continue to move beyond. I hope you can make it to Lancaster to celebrate with us.

While there may be unforeseen circumstances ahead of us, I am confident I, and you alike, can tackle any issue for the best interest of Templary here in PA.

This year has gone quickly for me, but wow, what a ride so far. And I am looking forward to what the future brings and the challenges ahead, not yet ready to sit idly by, but move this Grand Commandery and Templary forward and truly progress in our way of doing business.

Yours in Templary,
Mark G. Mattern, REGC

A Letter from the Associate Grand Prelate:

Here we are in the month of March, the days are getting longer and a little warmer. Most of us are looking forward to spring and the rebirth of flowers and trees. For Christians everywhere March is the season of Lent which, from the Old English, means “spring season”.

According to the Gospels Lent commemorated the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, which time he endured being tempted by the devil. For Christians today Lent is a time of prayer, repentance of sins, self-denial and a time to give up certain luxuries in the way Jesus sacrificed in the desert.

Let us take this month seriously, amid all the grief in the world, and remember what Jesus went through as we prepare ourselves for a great celebration of Easter.

Pastor & S.K. Lewis Burgett, AGP

A picture from April 1945 at Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Knights Templar shown placing Cross of Lilies at the Tomb following the annual Easter Sunrise Service that was held in the amphitheater.

