



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Greetings Sir Knights,

The greatest the world has ever known is the gift of God's dear son, whom He sent down from Heaven to earth and the work of His great salvation was done. God loved us poor undeserving sinners so much that His only son Jesus He gave, so that whosoever repents and believes on His name, He promised He would save. This wonderful gift of salvation is available to one and all. To receive it just trust Jesus as your savior and for mercy on His name call. This gift is the only way to have eternal life and not perish forever. Jesus, on the cross paid your sin debt. May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of human understanding and closer to the blessing of peace.

The most wonderful time of the year is finally, yet suddenly upon us! December is the month we celebrate Christmas. There is no other holiday quite like it. We have Christmas Observances as Knights Templar's. We enjoy feasts, gifts, traveling to and from, and reuniting with friends and family. Christmas is a time for families to realize how grateful we should be for all we have. Knights Templar's should also share and be grateful for the brotherly love we share with one another. Every time a hand reaches out to help another...**That is Christmas.** Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for better understanding...**That is Christmas.** Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other...**That is Christmas.** We are all blessed in so many ways and I say to all of you, share the blessings you have with others. Spread the cement of brotherly love to the world around you.

In writing this message for December, I couldn't help but think of the Ten Commandments that were given to Moses. So, I thought it would be good to also remember the following during this most wonderful of seasons.

Here are The Christmas Ten Commandments:

Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of thy Christmas list.

Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that the soul is forgotten.

Thou shalt not let Santa Claus replace Christ, thus robbing the day of its spiritual reality.

Thou shalt not burden the shop girl, the mailman, and the merchant with complaints and demands.

Thou shalt give thyself with thy gift. This will increase its value a hundredfold, and he who receiveth it shall treasure it forever.

Thou shalt not value gifts received by their cost. Even the least expensive

Thou shalt signify love, and that is more precious than silver and gold. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Share thy blessings with many who will go hungry and cold unless thou are generous.

Thou shalt not neglect thy church. Its services highlight the true meaning of the season.

Thou shalt be as a little child. Not until thou has become in spirit as a little one art thou ready to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Thou shalt not forget to share your joy, hope, peace, and faith with those around you.

I thank each and every one of you for all your charity, hard work and the wonderful hospitality and friendship you have extended to Lady Dottie and me this year as we traveled throughout the state. Let us strive to continue this goodwill into 2024.

May the beauty and wonder of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ dwell within you and be a beacon of light to others. I wish you all a wonderful and most blessed Merry Christmas and blessed holiday season.

Upcoming Events

December 2	DeMolay Grand Masters Class in Elizabethtown
December 9	Rose Croix Christmas, Valley of Allentown
December 10	Forward Planning Meeting (Zoom)
December 11	Red Cross of Constantine
December 12-22	REGC in Texas
December 26-27	Grand Lodge of PA F&AM Communication in Lancaster
January 14	Forward Planning Meeting (Zoom)
January 26-27	Stated Conference of the Grand Commandery in Reading

Templar Knights in history: Jacques de Molay (1244 - March 1314) was the 22nd and last Grand Master of the Knights Templar. He attempted to revitalize the Order after the loss of Outremer. He also rejected the plans to merge the Templar's and the Hospitallers into a single organization. He was burned at the stake in Paris in 1314.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11



In His Service,
S.K. Thomas C. Helm
Grand Commander



Grand Prelate's Message

"The Angel's Message: HE'S FOR YOU! "

The greeting on one certain Christmas card goes like this: "Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of year do you sit around staring at a dead tree in your living room and eat candy out of your socks."

There are some things about Christmas that are pretty weird. A virgin teen becoming pregnant, a baby who would save the world from its sins, a God who wanted to become a human being. That's some pretty weird stuff. But to us, the supernatural will always seem odd. As one person has said, "If miracles happened all the time, we would have called them ordinaries".

Talk about something weird. Something odd. Something out of the ordinary. Imagine you are an honest, hard-working sheep tender. Enjoying a calm evening on the hills outside the city of Bethlehem. The Bible tells it better than I can...(LUKE 1:8-15) 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Look what the angels tell them: "I bring YOU good news of great joy that will be for all the people." "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to YOU" "This will be a sign to YOU. YOU will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

The angel's message to the shepherds was that this baby is YOUR Savior, YOUR King, YOUR Christ, YOUR gift – straight from God. Just for you.

God wanted them to see the incredibly personal nature of this Christmas gift. And he wants us to see it too. These shepherds weren't people out of the ordinary. Their holiness hadn't earned them this special privilege of being the first to hear the news. They were just people – and God wants people to know how personal this gift really is.

On our presents, we put little tags. To Kim from Matthew. To Mom and Dad from Kim and Matthew. That way when we pass out the presents it's easy to see who the gift is from. Had Jesus worn a tag, the tag would have read To: Matthew From: God. In the manger as a baby – To: (Thomas, Harry, Dotty), From: God. As a man, teaching the way to God, healing the sick, forgiving the wayward, touching the heartbroken – To: (Mark, Jerome, David), From: God. And on the cross – bearing the weight of humanity's sin – To: (Pauline, Jodi, Chuck), From: God.

Jesus is a gift to you – from God. God’s very special and personal gift of grace, forgiveness, healing, peace, hope, direction, promise, eternity – to you.

In the movie “Splash,” Tom Hanks meets a beautiful mermaid played by Darryl Hannah. She doesn’t know much about life above water but tries to live in New York City for a few days. Tom Hanks buys her a present, wrapped up in a box with a ribbon around it and a bow on top. She looks at it and says, “Thanks! It’s beautiful! I love it!” Then she sets it aside and gives him a hug. He says, “It’s a gift. You have to open it.”

Jesus came as a baby that was wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger. God’s gift to you. But unless you accept him and let him live in your heart, as your Savior and your King and your Lord – the gift really has no value to you. Jesus is God’s gift. Open your life – let him come out of the manger, out of the pictures, out of the pages of the Bible, and become real. Born in you.

Some pretty weird stuff. A world without Jesus would be a lot weirder than a world with Him. I need God’s gift. I’m hoping that before Christmas is over this year you can say the same. I would invite all Sir Knights this Christmas to look beyond the trappings that our society has heaped upon our Christmas celebration. Look for the joy that this tiny baby has come to bring us. Experience for yourself the awesome moment when God- the Creator, gives us his amazing gift.

Joy and peace to you and to your families this Christmas.

God’s Blessing,



SK. Rev. Robert A. Witmyer - Grand Prelate

