

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for January 2023**

Web Site



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Grand Commanders Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

Welcome to a New Year! I hope everyone had a joyous and blessed holiday season.

As Christian knights, we commemorate and celebrate the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in many ways. In the Commandery, this manifests itself through the Easter and Christmas Observances. While Christmas Day is held as the primary Christian holiday, December 25th is but the first of twelve days of Christmas. January 6th is known as the Epiphany, or Day of the Three Kings (Three Wise Men or Three Magi), which ends the 12-days of Christmas and commemorates several events in the life of Jesus: the revelation to and adoration of the Three Magi, the baptism of Christ, and the miracle at Cana; it is also sometimes known as Theophany meaning "manifestation of God."

The word "Epiphany" comes from the late Greek word "epiphaneia" meaning "manifestation or to show onto (revelation)." For Christians, it represents the revelations of Christ's birth to the magi, the baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist, and the miracle at the wedding in Cana when Christ turned water to wine. Epiphanytide concludes on February 2nd on a day known as Candlemas for some churches while for others it ends on Ash Wednesday. The last Sunday of the Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday. Depending on the church, the Epiphany is not always celebrated on January 6th. Some celebrate it the

Sunday after the sixth while many Orthodox churches celebrate the Epiphany on January 19th. The liturgical color for the Epiphany season is white.

According to the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, three wise men, or magi, named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, were visited by an angel who announced the Messiah had been born and these three traveled to Bethlehem, led by a star in the sky said to rest over where Jesus was born. When they found the baby Jesus, they praised his glory and bestowed the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh which were respectively symbolic of His royal standing, His divine birth, and His mortality.

In His Service,
James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF OKLAHOMA 2023 SCHOLARSHIP

Greeting Sir Knights and a Happy New Year. As we start the new year let us all give thanks to our Lord and Savior. It is also the time of year when we should reflect on the past so that we can move forward towards a better future.

We all are aware of the Masonic Charity Foundation and its senior essay contest. Maybe your Lodges have a scholarship program. But did you know our own Grand Commandery has a scholarship program sponsored by Grand Encampment. This is the Knights Templar Education Foundation Scholarship.

This year will mark the fifth year of Oklahoma participation in the program.

Each year a committee of seven Sir Knights will select up to four graduating students, 2 young women and 2 young men. Last year's awards were \$1,500 for each recipient. In some cases, the amount of scholarship may be adjusted for students with less than full-time schedule.

APPLICATION RULES

1. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior, college under-graduate, or postgraduate, or vocational student.
2. Scholarships apply to any accredited college or university, within or outside of Oklahoma. State accredited Trade or Vocational schools are eligible.
3. All applications must be filled out completely! Applications and letters will not be returned.
4. Applications must be postmarked to the Grand Recorder of Oklahoma by February 2023.
5. Subsequent scholarship applications may be submitted.
6. GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale must be maintained for subsequent scholarship applications.
7. Scholarships awarded will be deposited with applicant's school of choice. It may be drawn on for tuition, books, supplies, and other educational costs.

The application form can be found on the Grand York Rite web site at

<https://okyorkrite.org/docs/ScholarshipForm202x.pdf> (x being the current year.)

SK E.: Bob McLeod
Grand Sword Bearer



Grand Prelate Devotional

Setting Sail for a New Year

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”

Proverbs 29:18

Helen Keller was born with sight, but became blind as a young child. Yet she had vision. A reporter asked Miss Keller, “Is there anything worse than losing your sight?” “Yes,” she said, “It is to have sight but no vision.” Do you have a vision for your life at the threshold of a new year? On New Year’s Day, I review the goals

for my life. These are spiritual, relational, intellectual, physical, and financial goals. I pray over these and ask for God's will to be done in each one. I hold them in an open hand and ask that God would give me wisdom as to the direction He wants for my life. I don't want to be a man without vision. I don't want you to be one, either.

Begin to think about some goals you would like for your life. Pray and seek the Lord's face as you ponder the future.

SK Steven Cox
E.: Grand Prelate

