

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication supplement of the California Cross & Crown Bulletin



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The Lenten Season.

by Sir Knight Craig L. Flagtwet

Greetings Sir Knights of the Great State of California.

By the time you receive this supplement, we will be beginning the month of March.

In ancient times the Ides of March, or the full moon on the 15th of the month, was a date to settle your debt by. The date was also marked with several religious holidays.

In modern times, the Lenten Season starts on February 22, 2023. This year, ASH Wednesday ends 46 days later, or 40 days not counting Sundays, on Thursday, April 6th, 2023. It is also interesting that the ashes are made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This year, Palm Sunday falls on April 2.

The week before Easter Sunday, called Holy Week is an important one in the Christian church. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus's triumphant arrival in Jerusalem, where he received palm branches at his feet. Then comes Holy Wednesday, which acknowledges Judas's plan to betray Jesus. The day after Holy Wednesday is Maundy Thursday, which commemorates the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples. Maundy Thursday is the last day of Lent.

According to Christian tradition, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon - that occurs on or just after the Spring Equinox. The Christian church calendars state that the Spring Equinox always falls on March 21.

In 2023, the first full Moon after March 21 takes place on April 6, which means Easter falls on the following Sunday, April 9th. Subtract 46 days from that, and you get the first day of Lent.

Many Sir Knights will honor the Lenten Season. During Lent, Christians will turn their focus to prayer, fasting and giving to mimic the time Jesus spent in the desert for 40 days. Jesus was led to the desert to reflect after his baptism, and he was quickly tempted by Satan to turn against his faith. However, Jesus did not give into the temptations, and therefore, followers of Christianity try to do the same by changing their actions.

This changing of our ways, or setting of debts, allows us to make a new beginning: to start right again and with more experience of how to succeed. I pray that this information helps you to better understand the Lenten Season and how the dates we celebrate are calculated. By gaining a better understanding of the dates and ceremonies important to us and our fellow Sir Knights, we become better equipped to understand the perspective of our fellow Sir Knights, if not our own.

Portions of this article were borrowed from a well written article publish by *Better Homes and Gardens*.



You will know them
by their works,

Craig L. Flaytwet
Grand Commander



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