

# Grand Commandery of New York

## News



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Grand Commander

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### Greetings Sir Knights

On September 23rd, many Sir Knights attended and supported the Most Illustrious Grand Master Don Kunego and the Grand Line at The Grand Cryptic Council 200th Anniversary Celebration in Albany. Columbian and Adoniram Councils conferred the Super Excellent Master Degree, with the Grand Commander delivering the Charge to the Candidates.

On October 8th, I, Sir Knight R. Conrad Johnson, REGC attended the 32nd Biennial Convention of the Organization of Triangles and the Order of Deborah. As one of the representatives of the York Rite in New York present, it was my pleasure and honor to participate in the Order of Deborah and to assist R:.E:. Mark Peerson, R:!. Dan Elliott and R:.W:. Bob Hogan in creating two new members of the Order—Miss Eliza Burley and Miss Sophia TenClay.

On October 12th, I, Sir Knight R. Conrad Johnson, REGC attended the opening day of the 154th session of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of New York. It was very well attended, with several hundred Ladies and guests present. It was a distinct pleasure to meet and congratulate Grand Matron Karen Kennedy and Grand Patron Ralph Hastings on their successful term.

On Saturday October 14th were two events of note: the 200th Anniversary Rededication Celebration for Capital City Commandery No. 2, and the Grand Commander's Reception. The rededication was very well attended with over thirty Sir Knights and Capital City Commandery opened their armory and took visitors on a tour of the Albany Temple. The evening was capped with the Reception at Sixty State Place, which was well attended and universally enjoyed. Three Sir Knights from St. Sava Commandery in Serbia, consecrated in Belgrade with the assistance of the REGC last December, made the journey out from Europe to attend. Distinguished visitors included M:.W:. Jim and Gail Sullivan.

The 200th Anniversary Rededication Celebration for Morton Commandery No. 4 was held in New York City on Monday October 16th. Sir Knights from all the Zone 2 Commanderies were well represented. Light Dinner and refreshments followed in the Holland Lodge supper room.

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### **Grand Prelate's Corner**

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, our hearts and minds turn to the reasons behind the celebration. Why is it that we take a day out of our normal routine to stop, take a breath, gather with family and friends and celebrate a day of thanksgiving for all the blessings that we've received?

As Christians, we are all called to be reflective, humble and grateful for the work God has done in our lives through his Son Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit that lives within us. Before the arrival of Jesus and his work on our behalf, millions of people in ancient times were encouraged to turn their hearts toward God with an attitude of thankfulness. In fact, God commands that his people have a mindset of thanksgiving in his word. Psalms 106, 107, and 118 all begin with a variation on the following imperative: "Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul also had a lot to say about maintaining a sense of thanksgiving and gratitude. Despite all the hardships and persecution he experienced, he was able to encourage his listeners in the following ways: But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:15–20).

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6–7).

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful...And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:15, 17).

Finally, the Apostle Paul lets us all in on a secret. For those of us who are always wondering what God's will is for our lives, the following can be said with great confidence: "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). No matter what situation we find ourselves in, thankfulness and gratitude is always appropriate. Amen.

