



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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December 2024

Greetings and Merry Christmas Sir Knights,



As we enter the Christmas season, let us refocus on our Heavenly Father's gift of His dear son, Jesus, whom He sent to us to provide for the remission of our sins and our salvation. Our Holy Father presented this divine gift to the world, representing the assurance of redemption and eternal life. This blessed gift is freely available to one and all. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, paid for our sins on the cross, with the promise:

“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:15-16 KJV)

Embracing a spirit of giving and redemption, let us share and offer others an attitude of charity, patience, and benevolent understanding meant to bring the world closer to the blessing of peace and prosperity.

We gather together as Sir Knights, families, and friends in fellowship, celebration, and devotion in reverent Christmas Observances. We enjoy partaking of festive meals, the exchange of gifts and conversation, and traveling to reunite with loved ones. We, as Knights Templar, should also share our many blessings and demonstrate to all the love we share for one another as Brothers and Fraters. Take the opportunity to check on Sir Knights who haven't been around to see how they are, offer to share a ride, share a meal, or share your time. Demonstrate our Christian values by exhibiting thoughtfulness and compassion for others. We are all blessed in many different ways and, in the spirit of the season, share these blessings with others while we celebrate and commemorate the birth of our Lord.

This month brings a close to the year 2024. As the end of the calendar year approaches, review your Commandery's insurance coverage, update all records, and ensure that your possessions are properly and securely stored. Due diligence will help prevent issues or problems later.

Finally, we want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication, along with the hospitality and generosity you have extended to Lady Rebecca and myself as we travel throughout the jurisdiction. May we all continue to demonstrate to the world what it means to be a Knight Templar!

Upcoming Events

Check notices for your local Christmas observances.

Dec 3, 2024 -- Grand Chapter Communication – Philadelphia

Dec 4, 2024 – Grand Lodge Communication – Philadelphia

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day annually commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. In just over an hour, the surprise attack destroyed or damaged more than 300 aircraft and 19 Navy ships, including 8 battleships. More than 2,400 Navy personnel and civilians died and over 1,100 people were injured. President Franklin D Roosevelt called it “a date that will live in infamy,” and declared war on Japan the following day, on December 8th. Three days later, Japan’s allies Germany and Italy declared war against the United States. Thus, the United States entered World War II. Let us all remember, not only this terrible event, but those serving and deserving of our recognition and appreciation of the sacrifices made by our service men and women who have and continue to make to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. For those unable to be with their families this Christmas, may God bless you and grant you a safe return home.

Human Rights Day is an international United Nations holiday celebrated on December 10th every year. This day is intended to spread awareness about Human Rights across the world and encourage people to stand up and fight for their individual human rights.

Christmas Day is a religious, cultural, and commercial holiday. More importantly, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph after their journey from Nazareth. Angels announced His birth to shepherds who visited Him in a stable, and wise men followed a star to present gifts to the newborn. Some associate the holiday with Santa Claus. The character of Santa Claus primarily came from the legend of Saint Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop who helped the poor and sick. Saint Nicholas was known for his reported generosity and secret gift-giving. May the season bring us all joy and peace.

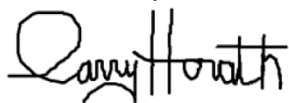
Anniversaries: St. Omer’s No. 7 – December 14, 1853

Pilgrim No. 11 – December 28, 1855

Northern No. 16 – December 4, 1857

Lady Rebecca and I wish a safe and blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Sir Knights and their Ladies wherever dispersed!

Courteously,



SK Larry D. Horath, Grand Commander

Grand Prelate's Message

Right Eminent Grand Commander and Lady Rebecca. May you find joy peace and happiness during this glorious time of the year. As we enter into this Christmas season I'm reminded once again of the story of our Savior's birth.

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’ . . . After they heard the king, they went on their way, and the star that they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him” (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11a).

A star appeared, and suddenly it moved in the sky and stopped directly over the spot where the Creator was living on the earth. The Magi saw it. They came and worshiped the Lord of the starlight!

How can we believe this report? Is this literally true? In the past I have had trouble believing this actually happened. Stars are gigantic balls of burning gases, that are supposed to be many times larger than the earth and very far away from the earth. We are told to believe that suddenly one day one of these gigantic fireballs appeared in the sky and moved until its light shone through the night onto the house where a baby named Jesus was living in a small town named Bethlehem.

Yet is it more difficult to believe than what we are told about this child? We are told that this little baby was the great Creator of the stars and of the earth. We are told that the star the Magi followed was directed and guided in its path by the baby upon whom it shined its light. We are told that this spotlight in the heavens was planned by the infant whom the Magi came to worship. This is the heart of the Christmas news from the first century: the God who created the stars came to earth and took upon himself the flesh and blood of a human child—in fact the Creator joined himself to our human nature—he became a man who was and remained God! The Scripture puts it this way. “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness. . . “ (John 1:3-5).

The star he made, by his will and plan, shined its light down upon him at precisely the moment that he predetermined. He created the Christmas star. He dictated that it would draw not only the wise men to him, so they might worship him, but also that that same light might attract our attention to him. We see that star through the faithful words written by Matthew.

Why did he come down into his creation? He answers that question: “I lay my life down. . . .” This was his purpose in coming at Christmas, so that he might die for us on Good Friday and rise for us on that Easter Sunday. He came to die in our place for our sins that we might all have the assurance of eternal life and his forgiveness. All he demands of us is that we receive him! Receive him who is the Creator of the stars, and his light will lighten up your life with his love!! “To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

So, the star that shone down on Jesus reminds us of the light that he will make shine in those of us who receive him. Therefore, on behalf of the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, we extend to you both this toast that during this Christmas season you may be blessed with hope, love and joy. And may the light of Jesus Christ shine on your pathway and in your heart as you press on through your knightly endeavors for the remainder of your term as our Grand Commander. May Lady Rebecca be emboldened with the compassion and love of Christ as she stands by your side to comfort and console you as she has done for so many others throughout this journey you have taken together.

To you and your family, may you have a blessed Christmas season!

In His name,

Orville R. Jones

Reverend Sir Knight, Orville R. Jones, HPC, KCT, IKT
Eminent Grand Prelate

