



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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June 2025

Sir Knights,

My theme this year is “Luceat Lux Vestra” or Let Your Light Shine (from Matthew 5:16). I ask that you “Let Your Light Shine” by sharing news of your commandery’s good works and enjoyable events. When you host an event, take up a collection, or perform a service, please take a photo and send it to me along with a brief description of what you did. Your stories of service and fellowship may be featured in upcoming issues of the Pennsylvania Crusader.

One of my goals during this Templar year is to improve our proficiency in drill, tactics, and sword work. We will update our training materials to ensure accuracy and enhance their usefulness. During the year, each section will host a one-day Sectional Workshop, at which Sir Knights will receive in-person instruction. These will take the place of the previous Line Officers’ Seminar. Throughout the year, Sir Knights who demonstrate their proficiency will be awarded a new Sword Proficiency Bar for uniform wear.

The personal charity I’ve selected for this year is Give Kids The World Village, a nonprofit resort in Kissimmee, Florida, that provides weeklong, cost-free wish vacations to children with critical illnesses and their families. A stay at the Village helps bind the mental and emotional wounds experienced by children with life-threatening illnesses and their caregiving families.

Another goal is for our Grand Commandery to reach 100% Life Sponsorship of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. To date, at least 20 Grand Commanderies in the U.S. have reached the goal of 100% Life Sponsorships, but Pennsylvania is not one of them. As one of the largest and strongest Grand Commanderies of the Grand Encampment, we should be leading the way. I ask that all Sir Knights consider making a one-time contribution of \$30.00 to the foundation to be counted as a Life Sponsor.

Lady Kathy and I are excited to visit with you in our travels this year. To see when we’ll be visiting near you, [click here](#) to view our travel schedule. Dates are subject to change, and new events will be added throughout the year. Some include:

June 7, 2025 Grand Chapter June Communication, York

June 8-9, 2025 Vermont Annual Conclave, Killington, VT

July 9-10, 2025 Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly, Altoona

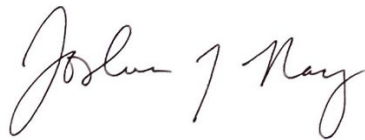
July 12, 2025 Tuskegee Airman Memorial Wreath Laying, Sewickley
July 12, 2025 PA Council of Deliberation, New Castle
July 19, 2025 PA DeMolay Convention, Breinigsville
July 27, 2025 Testimonial Dinner & Southeast Section Reception, North Wales
Aug 1-2, 2025 Grand Encampment York Rite Leadership Training, Philadelphia
Aug 16, 2025 One Day Conferral of Orders, Stroudsburg
Aug 23, 2025 Central Section Reception, Williamsport
Sept 5-6, 2025 Northeast Department Conference Albany, NY
Sept 20-21, 2025 Division 11 Reception & Memorial Service, Gettysburg
Sept 26-28, 2025 New York Annual Conclave, Albany, NY
Oct 4, 2025 Oriental Commandery Harvest Ball, Johnstown
Oct 24-26, 2025 Massachusetts & Rhode Island Annual Conclave, Mansfield, MA
Nov 7-9, 2025 Division Commanders' Seminar, Elizabethtown
December 13, 2025 Grand Chapter December Communication, location TBA
December 27, 2025 Grand Lodge December Communication, Philadelphia
Feb 1, 2026 Grand Commandery Stated Conference, Harrisburg
Feb 5-8, 2026 Masonic Week, Arlington, VA
Mar 14, 2026 Northwest Section Reception, Ambridge
Mar 21-22, 2026 District of Columbia Annual Conclave, Washington, DC
Apr 4-5, 2026 Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Weekend, Arlington/Alexandria, VA
Apr 11-12, 2026 Connecticut Annual Conclave, location TBA
Apr 24-26, 2026 Maine Annual Conclave, location TBA
May 8-9, 2026 New Hampshire Annual Conclave, location TBA
May 29-31, 2026 173rd Annual Conclave, King of Prussia

Commandery Anniversaries in June:

St. John's No. 4 - June 10, 1819
Pittsburgh No. 1 - June 21, 1847
Lancaster No. 13 – June 11, 1856
Palestine No. 14 – June 20, 1856
Kedron No. 18 – June 23, 1860
Hugh De Payens No. 19 – June 14, 1860
Lewistown No. 26 – June 11, 1867

Calvary No. 37 – June 16, 1870
Huntingdon No. 65 – June 20, 1888
Nativity No. 71 – June 9, 1892
Duquesne No. 72 – June 15, 1892
Shamokin No. 77 – June 23, 1896
Chartiers No. 78 – June 21, 1898
Damascus No. 95 – June 12, 1924
Mizpah No. 96 – June 12, 1924
Bethel No. 98 – June 23, 1925

Courteously,



SK Joshua J. Nay
Grand Commander



Associate Grand Prelate's Message

“He Ascended Into Heaven” Acts 1:1- 14

“He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.”

“ He ascended...” Up, up, and away. It must have been a very strange sensation for those disciples on the hillside. What was this? A magic show? Jesus suddenly levitating above them, disappearing into a cloud? Uh-huh. What's the trick? Was David Copperfield around there someplace? Okay. You can bring him back now. Anyway, we have work to do. A kingdom to establish. Come back Jesus. The show is over. Come back. Jesus. Jesus? But he was gone. Was this Good-bye?

No, rather, “See You later.” This was not the end of their relationship with Jesus but a brand new beginning. Not a cause for despair but a case for delight! In a unique way, the Lord and Savior was not less accessible but more. No longer would he be limited by space and time but now would be available everywhere and any time by the presence of his Holy Spirit. “ He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.”

Jesus is our Lord and King. But there is something utterly unique with this king: instead of being draped with the trappings of an all-powerful potentate as he deserves, he reigns as a suffering servant. Our sovereign Lord is revealed in the one who walked the dusty roads of Palestine, who had no place to lay his head, who emptied himself in obedience all the way to the cross. That was not the end of the story, of course. Hallelujah- he who died to be our Savior now lives to be our Lord. “ He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.”

Do you believe it? Do you really believe it??? If you do, then it will make a difference in the way you live because what we believe determines how we behave. How do we behave in honoring such a cosmic king as Christ Jesus? A good start is by taking his instructions seriously. If you want a quick primer on acceptable behavior, take a fast trip through the Sermon on the Mount. Angry words, insulting words are out. Our sexual behavior will be in control. We will be honest in our business dealing. We will go above and beyond the call of duty in response to appeals for help. We will care for the welfare of, not only our neighbor, but our enemy as well. We will be religious, but not showy about it. Possessions will have their rightful place in our lives, not the be-all and end-of-existence. We will not be judgmental, but we will use good judgment. We will trust God to meet our needs. Of course, the gospels have lots more for us, but those should do to get us started. Is Jesus Christ your Lord? Good, then you will do your level best to do what he says.

Piece of Cake, eh? Of course not. But we have the promise of his abiding presence to help us on our journey. This is, after all, our living Lord, the same one who “ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.” This is the one who is ultimately in charge, and that, my friends, is a wonderful word of hope for you or me or anyone who has ever been drenched in the storms of life.

Do you believe it? Do you believe what you proclaim in the Apostles Creed? If so, then live as Jesus is your Lord. Lord of all of your life!

“He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.” Thanks be to God !!

God’s Blessings

SK. Rev. Robert A. Witmyer
Grand Prelate

Officers of the Grand Commandery



Chartiers Commandery No. 78 Ascension Service

