



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
[pagrandcommandery.org](http://pagrandcommandery.org)

**S.K. Harry J. Smith, Grand Commander**  
[smithhjktpa@gmail.com](mailto:smithhjktpa@gmail.com)

Editor: SK Mark G. Mattern, PGC email: [grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com](mailto:grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com)



## December 2022

My Fellow Fraters:

(Taken from Luke 2: 9-14)—

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

There are so many beautiful verses of Scripture written about the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Of those this one is my favorite. The long-awaited and prophesized arrival of the Messiah has come to fruition and is announced on this day. Jesus was born into a turbulent and imperfect world. Born a mortal, he too would experience various emotions and shortcomings as he progressed to become The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Let the birth and early life of Jesus be a lesson to us all—we too are mortal and are imperfect. We do and will make mistakes along the way. We should all take a “time out” this Christmas Season to give thanks for what we have and share. Let us all reflect on how we treat others as well as how we want to be treated. Are we doing all we can to exemplify the life that Jesus led? Have our actions and misdeeds hurt the ones we love the most, and what can we as Christians do to atone for these shortfalls?

Do as that little baby born in a manger taught us to do—Forgive unconditionally. Love unconditionally. Do for those less fortunate, living in fear and the destitute. Help to heal those we may have hurt and move forward, taking those experiences to help others in similar situations. We all know Christmas is much more than the giving and receiving of gifts, the decorations of our homes and the rushing around that comes with it. Christmas is about re-committing our lives to Christ and his teachings. Rejoice in his birth, because his existence guaranteed our eternal live in the next world where we will meet Christ face-to-face.

Christ is truly “The reason for the season!”

On behalf of Lady Pauline, we wish the Elected, Appointed Officers and all Sir Knights and Ladies of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Courteously,  
Sir Knight Harry Jude Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

## Grand Prelate's Message

One of the world's most beloved Christmas carols is Silent Night. There's something especially moving about reflecting, through song, on the silent, holy night long ago when Jesus was born. The reason we turn out the lights and light our candles on Christmas Eve night is to see the glow they provide and remind us the light is still shining in our darkness.

About six hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah described another silent time in the Savior's life. Though he was innocent, "he was oppressed and afflicted" with suffering during his arrest and trial; "he was led like a lamb to the slaughter," but "he did not open his mouth."

When his persecutors made false accusations, Jesus said nothing. While he hung in torment on the cross for nearly six hours, he spoke only a few brief sentences. When darkness covered the land and it was like night for about three hours--the voice of Jesus and the voice of God were both silent. Maybe you are finding yourself suffering in silence this Christmas. Perhaps every night is silent and lonely because there is no one available to listen. If so, remember that Jesus knows what it is to suffer in silence.

But because Jesus knows our suffering, and he promises that even in the most silent of nights his holy presence is with us; we are not alone. As he promised his disciples after he rose again, he says to us, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age"

One of my daughters woke me in the middle of the night and said, "Dad, I had a bad dream, and now I can't sleep." After I assured her that her mother and I were in the next room and that Jesus was watching over her, she crawled back into bed and fell asleep. All it took was that simple assurance. As adults, we might not have the same bad dreams that children have, but there are times when we also can have trouble sleeping. Sometimes in the night I have anxious thoughts that keep me awake. I toss and turn and worry. Maybe you have nights like that too.

So many things can keep us awake--fears and anxieties that seem to grab hold of our minds and won't let go. We may have anxieties about our health, our safety, our security, our relationships, our children, our jobs, our finances, our future. Sometimes our fears are even realized, and our grief and heartaches keep us awake. We may long for a loved one who is no longer with us, and there may be tears of loneliness that keep us from sleeping.

As those who profess the name of Christ and serve as his Knights, may we remember the name Immanuel--which means "God with us." In the dark of night if our spirit is in turmoil and sleep won't come, remember that Jesus is here with us. As children of God, we can rest and sleep in that simple assurance. May we wish our REGM and Lady Pauline and every Knight and their family a Merry Christmas and the Peace that only the Christ Child can bring.  
Courteously,

Sir Knight and Reverend Preston A Van Dursen, Grand Prelate  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania