



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Greetings Sir Knights,

Happy New Year Sir Knights! The New Year is now upon us. This is a time for new perspectives, opportunities, and challenges. There is much we have successfully done during 2023 but let us not rest on our laurels. Now is the time to ensure new goals and plans are in place to improve Knights Templary. Get involved in our mission as Christian Knights. Improve our participation at conclaves, continue mentoring and educating your fraters, and build our membership. Attend as many events as you can; Easter Sunrise Service in Alexandria, Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Annual Conclave to name just a few. Increase your efforts in providing for charity within our communities: clothing and food bank items and our Tunnel to Towers charity.

Let us go forth into 2024 with an optimistic attitude to Serve this organization of Christian Knighthood. Develop new and inspiring programs for your conclaves, have training workshops to improve our ritual and sword work. You can organize a York Rite Unity Night at your conclave inviting our Masonic brothers from the Blue lodges, Council, Chapter, Scottish Rite, Shriner's, and other bodies. This is a wonderful way to work together, to meet and greet other brothers and to let them know what we do and learn what they do. It is important to work together within our own organization of Knights Templar and with all Masonic brothers. Spread and share the brotherly love we have for each other. Make new plans to move forward and join hands advancing Masonry throughout our organization.

Many people make New Year Resolutions for their lives. I suggest we also make a resolution to improve Templary. Again, Sir Knights, Happy New Year and together we can make this a tremendous year of success.

January is named for the Roman god Janus, protector of gates and doorways. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future. The dawn of a new year is an opportune time to take stock of your life. Begin the New Year square with every man.

Upcoming events

January 26-27	Stated Conference – Reading
February 11	Forward Planning Meeting
March 21	Samuel S. Yohe Dinner
March 29	Good Friday
March 28-31	94th Annual Easter Sunrise Service - Alexandria
March 30	Wreath Laying - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: Sat. 1:15 PM
May 17 - 19	171st Annual Conclave – Delta Marriott Hotel – Breinigsville

Templar Knights in history: Pierre de Bologna (1270 - 1310?), unlike most Templar's, he was a well-educated individual. It is possible that he received legal training in Bologna, Italy. An ordained priest, he participated in the most notable legal attempt to clear the Knights Templar of any charges. De Bologna argued that torture could not have produced credible evidence. These defense efforts were met with fierce retribution. The Knights who went back on their testimonies (recanted) were burned at the stake as relapsed heretics.

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33



In His Service,
S.K. Thomas C. Helm
Grand Commander



Associate Grand Prelate's Message

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.” Isaiah 60:1-2

We are all familiar with the Magi being led by a star over the desert sands to find the Incarnate Savior, laying in the manger, still wrapped in swaddling clothes. This image is a fixture of Christmas pageants and Nativities almost everywhere. It is a symbol of God's coming for the whole world, “All the Nations” coming to the light of the Lord, as the prophet Isaiah says.

What escapes many people's attention is that the Magi did not find the baby Jesus still lying in the manger, they actually did not arrive until about three years after Jesus' birth, and they were not only led by a star, but the words of a prophet, as quoted in the Gospel, “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.” Matthew 2:6

Especially during the season of Epiphany, the Magi can be a great example and encouragement to all of us who have been a little late to the party. Those of us who have taken the longer, winding path to faith, to family, or any other of the fulfilling aspects of life. Their story serves as an approval that it is okay to get lost along the way, to only have a vague idea of where you are headed, and to need words of direction from others. They are an example of perseverance and dedication that we can all benefit from by emulating.

Whether we apply these lessons in our lives as Sir Knights, Fathers, Husbands, Brothers, Men, or Christians, the persistence and steadfastness of the Magi can lead us all to Epiphanies that we cannot even imagine. Do not be afraid to follow where you are called because you feel it is too late. Do not let doubt keep you from your task. Let the surety of faith guide you, and you will never go astray.

Faithfully yours,

SK Rev. Brandon P. Cooper, AGP



• HAPPY •

New Year

We wish you all prosperity, joy,
and success this new year.