

Grand Commandery of New York

April News



S.K. David R. Barkstedt
Grand Commander

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Faith

Sir Knights,

Holy Week begins with the commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday—marks the betrayal of Jesus on Spy Wednesday (Holy Wednesday), climaxing with the commemoration of the Mystical or Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. Holy Week concludes with Christ's rest in death and descent into Hades on Holy Saturday.

It is believed Jesus rested in death from the ninth hour (3 pm) on Good Friday until just before dawn on Sunday morning—the day of his resurrection from death, commonly known as Easter Sunday. This marks the beginning of the season of Eastertide, with its first week being known as Easter Week (Bright Week).

Holy Week liturgies generally attract the largest crowds of the year. Many Christian cultures have different traditions such as special liturgies or services, floats, sculptures or live reenactments of Christ's life, his arrest and crucifixion (also called the Lord's passion, the Passion of Christ or Passion of Jesus). In Eastern Rite Churches there are also many means to commemorate the Great Feasts and emphasize the theme of resurrection.

- April's Good Works- We also suggest that constituent Commanderies attend and participate in your local Church Saturday Night Easter Vigil in Full Uniform.
- *If you are not getting emails twice a month from Grand Commandery Constant Contact please email Harry Williams harry.williams@marist.edu with you name, email and Commandery Name and No. and you will be placed on the Mailing list.*

“It’s not something we do-it’s something we are.”

Upcoming Events:

April 1 Zone 1 School of Instruction

April 9 GEKT-Easter Sunrise Observance, Arlington , VA - All Knights can attend (see Grand Encampment website).

April 15 Zone 4 School of Instruction

April 22 Utica Commandery No. 3 Bicentennial Rededication

June 3 Zone 3 Pilgrimage , Saugerties NY

Lady Eileen and I wish all sir Knights and their families a Happy Easter

Courteously with Faith,

S.K. Dave Barkstedt R.E.G.C.

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Grand Prelate’s Corner

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection the belief in God's saving grace through Jesus is destroyed. When Jesus rose from the dead, he confirmed his identity as the Son of God and his work of atonement, redemption, reconciliation and salvation.

The Resurrection was a literal physical rising of Jesus’ body from the dead. The Old and the New Testaments speak of the truth of Jesus being raised from death. Jesus testified of his resurrection before He died on the cross and his disciples witnessed his body after the resurrection. The resurrection is the denial of death, being the assertion of life. Thus is all the thinking of the world reversed entirely.

Life is now recognized as salvation, and pain and misery of any kind perceived as hell. Love is no longer feared, but gladly welcomed. Idols have disappeared and the remembrance of God shines unimpeded across the world. Christ’s face is seen in every living thing and nothing is held in darkness— apart from the light of forgiveness. There is no sorrow still upon the earth. The joy of Heaven has come upon it because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All living hearts are tranquil with a stir of deep anticipation, for the time of everlasting things is now at hand. There is no death. The Son of God is free from the grave—and in his freedom is the end of fear.

No hidden places now remain on earth to shelter sick illusions, dreams of fear and misperceptions of the universe. All things are seen in light and in the light their purpose is transformed and understood—and we, God’s children, rise up from the dust and look upon our perfect lives. The song of Heaven sounds around the world, as it is lifted up and brought to truth. We have seen the face of Christ, His Love behind all forms, beyond all purposes. Holy are we because His holiness has set us free indeed.. We accept His holiness as ours—as it is.

As God created us so will we be forever and forever and we wish for nothing but His Will to be our own. Jesus Christ arose and is free because he let God’s voice proclaim the truth. All he sought before the crucifixion are resurrected with him, by his side, as he prepares with us to meet His and our God forever. Amen.

From the Editor

1. Congratulations to St. George’s Commandery #37 for the fine Pilgrimage they held recently. The new Knights from this event have so much to look forward to as Templars. May their journey through Templary be rewarding to them.

2. Proudly announcing the rededication of their Commandery, Utica Commandery #3, Knight’s Templar in Utica, NY, will be holding a weekend celebration of 200 years (1823-2023) beginning on Friday, April 21. Friday through Sunday the Commandery will hold events for all to participate in at their Temple in Utica. Registration forms are available by contacting the Commandery by email at: utica3kt@googlegroups.com. Reservations must be in by April 14 (cut off). You are all cordially invited to attend this great event.

Lady Debi and I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Easter. With His Crucifixion, Jesus promised us paradise after death—all we have to do is ask Him for forgiveness of our sins and open our hearts to receiving Him and the Holy Spirit. To believe in Him is the reality of our lives—including our death.