

# Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWS



S.K. James Ian Ogilvie (13)

Grand Commander

[www.mayorkrite.org/grand-commandery](http://www.mayorkrite.org/grand-commandery)

Greetings Sir Knights,

It is hard to believe that the hard chill of the fall is heavily upon us here in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Last night it dropped below 30 degrees in some areas of our state. For any New Englander we would tell you that is normal for November, and they are not

wrong. This is the time of transition for us. I was blessed this past weekend on October 28 th to be elected and elevated to the Office of Grand Commander. We saw the conclusion of a fantastic year under the skillful and dedicated leadership of Sir Knight Eugene Blake Nichols. Sir Knight Nichols is a man whom I have deep admiration for and will strive to emulate his great work in the coming year. I am thankful to have him as a mentor and a friend and to have been able to serve under him this past year.

We began this new Templar Year in our Grand Jurisdiction, just as we see the end of one season and the beginning of another. This is also a season of thanks, which we celebrate here in the United States, with Thanksgiving. I have so much to be thankful for as many of us do. When I spoke after installation, more than half of my speech consisted of many thanks. I am truly thankful for the honor of serving our Grand Commandery and Sir Knights. Thankful for my friends, family, and brothers. Most of all I am thankful for the blessings I receive every day.

In our fraternity, our Christian Order, and within our Christian faith, we are blessed. These blessings are what we should all strive to be thankful for every day. In our fraternity, we are blessed with more light in knowledge, and with the companionship and greater family our brothers offer. A truly great thing to be thankful for. In our Christian Orders, we are blessed with duty and service of a higher calling in defense of the Christian Virtues. Finally, in our Christian Faith, we are blessed with being taught of the ever present and ever lasting love that Jesus taught. The lessons of how the service to our fellow men brings with it the rewards of life and of heaven. These are all things to be truly thankful for.

As we near Thanksgiving, we are often reminded to give thanks for all that we have in our life. I would add to that, that we should not only be thankful for what we have, but to be the source of thanks for others. One thing that we are often taught within all our paths, is service to our fellow man. We are reminded in the bible that Jesus said, "I am among you as he that serveth". This reminds us that the Savior of the World knew he was not above caring for and serving his fellow man. Within our fraternity we are taught to help aide and assist and to serve our community. Finally, within Templary we are taught to serve with faith and humility and to always practice charity and benevolence. All these lessons are common to all three and are essential to being good and faithful servants.

Now as we go into November, I would ask you to consider this. As part of our responsibilities as Masons, as Templar and especially as Christians, be something and someone that others are thankful for. If you know of anyone that is alone or without on Thanksgiving, or anytime for that matter, consider preparing a place for them at your table, to join you. If you know they are alone, check in on them and offer them a caring ear and words of encouragement. If there is something you know they need and can provide but they do not want to ask, just provide in as caring a way as possible.

From my family to yours I would like to wish you a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving season and encourage you all to find all the blessings in your life, both big and small. Be thankful for all that life and the lord has given to you, and finally to be a force for good in the world.

Fraternally,  
James Ian Ogilvie  
Grand Commander

### **¶ Prelates Message**

A Heart Full of Gratitude: Thanksgiving for Family, Friends, and God Thanksgiving is a time of year that calls us to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. It is a special season where gratitude takes center stage, and we are reminded of the precious gifts of family, friends, and our unwavering faith in God. As we gather around tables laden with food, let us also gather our hearts in thanksgiving for these fundamental aspects of our lives.

#### Gratitude for Family:

Our families are the bedrock of our lives, offering love, support, and a sense of belonging. It is within our families that we experience some of our most cherished moments, sharing in both joyous occasions and challenging times. Our family members are the ones who stand by us through thick and thin, offering a sense of stability and unconditional love.

Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for the family we have been blessed with. It's a time to remember the warmth of a home filled with laughter, the love of parents who have guided us, blings, children, and extended family. Let us not take for granted the people who make our lives richer, and let our hearts overflow with gratitude for the gift of family.

#### Gratitude for Friends:

Friends are the chosen family of our hearts. They are the companions on our journey through life, offering camaraderie, encouragement, and a shoulder to lean on. True friends are there in moments of celebration and in times of sorrow, and they provide us with a sense of community and belonging outside of our families.

Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude for the friends who have walked with us through life's ups and downs. It's a moment to remember the laughter shared, the tears wiped away, and the support offered when we needed it most. Our friends are the reflections of God's love in our lives, and on this day, we thank Him for the gift of friendship.

#### Gratitude for God:

As Christians, our faith in God is at the heart of our thanksgiving. We recognize that every blessing, including the gift of family and friends, ultimately comes from the Creator. Our faith is a source of strength, comfort, and hope, guiding us through life's challenges and joys.

Thanksgiving is a time to offer our deepest gratitude to God for His unending love and boundless grace. It's a moment to reflect on the ways He has watched over us, provided for us, and offered us His unfailing support. Let us remember that our gratitude for family and friends is, in turn, an expression of gratitude to the Divine who has placed these treasures in our lives.

In conclusion, Thanksgiving is a time for reflection and gratitude, and it is an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings of family, friends, and God. These gifts are intertwined in our lives, forming a tapestry of love, support, and faith. As we gather around our tables, let us also gather our hearts in thanksgiving, recognizing the immense value of family, the richness of friendships, and the unwavering love of God in our lives. In this spirit of gratitude, we find joy, peace, and a renewed sense of purpose.

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