

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

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OMSDT Calendar

MARCH 7 ROUND TABLE

MARCH 10 BIBLE STUDY

(The Life of Jacob - Genesis 28-36)

MARCH 21 ROUND TABLE

MARCH 24 PALM SUNDAY

NO BIBLE STUDY

MARCH 31 EASTER

(RESURRECTION SUNDAY)

ROUND TABLES AND BIBLE STUDIES

| 6 PM PACIFIC | 7 PM MOUNTAIN |

| 8 PM CENTRAL | 9 PM EASTERN |

ZOOM LINKS WILL BE POSTED ON BELIEFBOOK



The concept of decorating eggs dates to ancient times. But, they only start appearing at Easter during the Middle Ages. By the high Middle Ages, decorated Easter eggs became a part of the celebrations. In 1290, Edward I had 450 eggs colorfully decorated for his household's Easter festivities.

Eggs have a natural link to Springtime and re-birth. Finding any links to earlier pagan customs requires a highly speculative stretch and the idea that eggs held some special significance in a pagan Eostre cult lacks any supporting evidence - it is purely a theory.



Easter eggs were almost certainly a medieval Christian invention, designed to celebrate the end of Lent, when meat, dairy products, and eggs were prohibited. The Easter feast was a celebration at which eggs could be freely eaten for the first time in weeks.



St. Patrick

Written by GSY Reneé Nordio

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all his celebrity, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the product of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family.

At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.

During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.

After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing; a voice, which he believed to be God's, spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. To do so, Patrick escaped, walking nearly 200 miles from County Mayo, where it is believed he was held, to the Irish coast. After escaping to Britain, Patrick reported that he experienced

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a second revelation; an angel in a dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary.

Soon after, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than fifteen years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. Interestingly, this mission contradicts the widely held notion that Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.

Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion. Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs.

The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. For instance, St. Patrick used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

To read some of St. Patrick's own words, please visit this interesting page http://www.confessio.ie/etexts/confessio_english#01



“That is why I cannot be silent – nor would it be good to do so – about such great blessings and such a gift that the Lord so kindly bestowed in the land of my captivity. This is how we can repay such blessings, when our lives change and we come to know God, to praise and bear witness to his great wonders before every nation under heaven.” ~ St. Patrick

FEATURED BELIEFBOOK POST



Thank you, 1SGT Kenneth Glover (Priory of St. Luke) for your post made on 2-16-24. The internet is such a deep well of information and it's wonderful when our members find interesting content and cool images to share. ~GSY Renee'



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FEATURED BELIEFBOOK POST



1. **Sword:** A crusader's sword was double-edged and broad-shaped with a rounded point. It was about 38 inches long and intended for slashing and cutting rather than thrusting. It had a simple cross-guard and pommel. They were well suited for hand-to-hand combat and effective against the mail armor of the period.
2. **Barrel Helm:** His helmet is an evolution from the conical type with a nasal guard to this so-called barrel helm type. Helmets were not only for protection, but also projected power and prestige.
3. **Kite-shaped Shield:** He is equipped with a large, almond-shaped kite shield that is made of wood and covered in painted leather.
4. **Mail Coif:** From the middle of the 13th century on, the mail coif was no longer attached to the mail shirt but was worn as a separate defense.
5. **Surcoat:** From the middle of the 12th century, knights wore a long textile garment over their mail armor that was known as a surcoat. It was a loose, sleeveless garment with a deeply slit skirt that reached to mid-thigh. In the Holy Land it is believed that their use stemmed from a desire to copy the fashion of the crusaders' Muslim enemies and also helped keep the desert sun from heating the chain mail underneath. The surcoat was rare until about 1310. Surcoats did not display heraldry identifying the wearer until the early 14th century.
6. **Mail Armor:** The most common form of armor available after the fall of Rome was mail. It was easy to produce and did not require large masses of iron. It was formed from rings of iron, each of which was linked through four others—two above and two below it. Mail armor was used to protect the body from the head to the thighs with a padded gambeson (vest) worn underneath. The full weight of a Templar's weapons and equipment was between 53 and 60 pounds.

~ 1 S G T *Kenneth Glover*

FROM THE DESK OF OUR GC

Grand Chaplain
(Fr. John) Kelmy Rodriguez



W E ARE CALLED TO LOVE OTHERS; TO LOVE IS DIVINE

Our communities are plagued and infested with violence. Some of our neighbors, friends, and family members are victims of these senseless acts. Others have sheltered deviancy. Some of the deviant acts come from within our very households. We are called to love others, yet we tend to turn a blind eye, and purposely ignore the problem. We eventually begin to formulate forms of self-justification and mollification. Problems never go away when they are left unaddressed. It is like sweeping dust in the corner of a room and not disposing of it. A topical view of the room may appear clean; sooner or later, the accumulation will begin to settle back into the room. It tends to become worse than before.

Unspeakable Acts

A perfect example of this violence is an incident that occurred a few years ago on the New York City Transit System. A man in his early 40's was videotaped on a passenger's cell phone. The video shows him assaulting a 78-year-old homeless woman. At no moment whatsoever did anyone offer assistance nor attempt to defend this poor older woman. Nobody even tried to stop the heartless man from repeatedly kicking her in the head. I was disgusted seeing this violent act committed towards the vulnerable older women. It was heartbreaking to see that no one intervened and worse that someone had the audacity to record the attack. Can we honestly say what is more troubling in this incident? The perpetrator who fiercely attacked the homeless, older woman, or the group of young men who stood by idly and recorded it?

Another incident happened to an 80-year-old man holding a Bible in his hand while preaching on a Brooklyn-bound train. He was suddenly assaulted with a woman's heel as she cursed him, God, and his Bible. It was

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heartbreaking to see this man bleeding from his head as he continued to speak the Word of God. Once again, no one came to the aid of this elderly evangelist.

Love Others

God created us to love all His creations. Would you dare strike and hit your sister or brother? Your mother? Your grandmother? I wonder if the heartless man who brutally beat the homeless woman has a sister, a mother, a daughter, a cousin, or an aunt? If so, what would his sentiments be if it occurred to one of them? No matter how it may be perceived, he struck his sister with the unwarranted brutal assaulted. The same goes for the lady who attacked the evangelist on the train; she attacked her brother.

His Children

When Sarah was introduced to Abimelech by her husband Abraham, she was introduced as his sister. This happened for fear that he would have been killed by Abimelech's men, and Sarah exposed to all. The Bible says God came to Abimelech in a dream and warned him not to harm Sarah and disclosed her exact relation to Abraham. The next day Abimelech confronted Abraham to ask why he presented Sarah as his sister and not his wife. Finally, came the golden response. *"Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father— though not the daughter of my mother— and she became my wife."* (Genesis 20:12)

Take a moment and reflect on this piece of scripture; you will grasp the context well. Next, you must see that even though we are all individuals from various ethnicities, cultures, faiths, economic standings, families, and geographic locations- we are all children of GOD. To become a Christian, you must understand that we are all one. One sacrifice atoned for all and

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one body broken for all iniquities. Consequently, we are one in belief despite the many variations that denominations promote. One from a spiritual genealogy and we are one when it comes to the blood of Christ. His sacrifice was to atone and satisfy justice for all our transgressions.

Love Others: Love In Your Spirit

From the commandments, no one can follow every commandment to the letter. We abide by the “spirit of the law”. Some commandments are for the Church and its administration, others for personal and spiritual growth. Additionally, the book of Luke highlights one of the most important commandments: *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”* (Luke 10:27)

If you don’t love Him and all of His children, there is a severe problem. An astringent deficiency in your spirit. “He will not love the one who does not love!”

FROM CHAPTER 4 of the book *KNIGHTS OF CHRIST* by DANIEL A. BIDDLE

Love—not gallantry or pride—should drive a knight to be a knight and should govern his thoughts and actions.

Without love, your knightly life, virtue, and deeds are worthless. According to 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, without love, your life is reduced to a clanging symbol, you are nothing, and you can gain nothing. For these reasons, a true knight lives with love as his life’s main goal. All of his actions should come from a place of love—especially, those actions that require defending others in the heat of battle.
