

# Connecticut

S.K. James S. McNeely, IV, KTCH  
Grand Commander



## Knightly News

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Sir Knights,  
Merry Christmas! May the wonder and joy of the season bring a smile to your face and warm your heart. As I write this Jack is preparing for Halloween and this is the first year that he truly has an understanding of what it entails. It is my hope that he will start to have that same basic understanding of what Christmas is as well. I am thankful that he has never cared about presents but he takes joy in the celebration with others. This year, I, have been looking forward to celebrating Christmas Observances with him so that we can all take in the wonderment and joy through the eyes of a five-year-old who is just realizing the true spirit of Christmas. I know that he will see how you give of yourself to celebrate the birth of our Savior and I know that example will only help to fuel his understanding and excitement for Christmas. It isn't the gifts under the tree that make it special, the true gift is the one that we give to each other as Knights Templar when we make a joyful noise to the Lord and help another grow in their understanding of the miracle that is Christmas.

Regardless if our Observances are in person or virtual, I hope that you will look and listen to the sounds, songs, and story of the season with a new appreciation. But mostly I hope and pray that you remember why we celebrate the season and may you and yours be safe, healthy, and blessed. Again, Merry Christmas!

James S. McNeely, KCT, KTCH  
Grand Commander

### **Knight Templar Eye Foundation**

by SK Steven J. Chiappalone  
Eminent Commander St. Elmo #9  
Grand Captain General

St. Elmo Commandery #9 in Connecticut requests your help. Please help us to meet our goal of raising at least \$2,500.00 for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. When we meet or exceed our goal, the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Connecticut, Sir Knight James McNeely, will allow us to shear the golden locks on his head and post the video to the internet!!

Please check the go fund me link provided and help us reach our goal!

<https://gofundme.com/f/r8khxc-st-elmo-9-kt-eye-foundation-challenge>

### **A Christmas Message**

by SK Edward Varjabedian, Grand Prelate

"Peace on Earth Goodwill Towards Men"  
December 2020

Tis the season where knights templars rejoice because Christmas is close at hand celebrating for it's the birthday of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we celebrate, we must renew our annual commitment of why we exist as Knights Templar. Therefore, at this unusual venue thanks to technology, a Christmas Observance celebration is held throughout our land, and possibly throughout the world. Each commandery is rejoicing and celebrating the birth of the greatest man who ever lived. This year's virtual Observance or hybrid allows those who are otherwise physically unable to attend to participate. We welcome their presence with open arms.

In the four Gospels, Saint Luke, writes about the birth of Jesus perhaps more than in the other three gospels. He writes that the birth of Christ was accompanied by a "heavenly host," in other words a large army of good angels especially lead by the Arch Angel Gabriel. All of these good angels together urged that there be "Peace on Earth". "For on this day you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. "Suddenly there was with the angel, with a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards them" (KJV)

Dear fellow Sir Knights, is society living up to the proclamation set forth in St Luke's Gospel?

Both Peace on Earth and Good Will Towards Man. As the message of the Angels over 2000 years ago, it was the Good News of Salvation, linked with redemption exemplified what Christmas was all about. Today, when we have so much suffering all around us, in the form of the Covid virus, the economy, loss of jobs and failed dreams, wild fires destroying our precious lands and the sadness that has caused. We are all looking for Good News. Maybe this year of all years we will think of Christmas less of Santa Claus and material gift giving and instead put Christ back into Christmas. It should mean more as our observance tables are always set up in the shape of a cross it is the symbol that we gather around offer prayers and replay the Nativity story as we have done for hundreds of years. Remember in Hebrew "The Lord is Salvation" "So when the angel Gabriel directed Joseph to call the newborn child Jesus it was for a special reason it was for OUR Salvation.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE  
GRAND COMMANDERY**