

# Connecticut

S.K. Craig R. Nelson, Sr.  
Grand Commander



# Knightly News

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## Grand Commander's Message

Sir Knights,

As we enter the month of December, we approach the time of Advent, and we prepare to celebrate the holiday of Christmas. We decorate the house, send out cards, and purchase presents. The days become busier as we rush around trying to complete these tasks before that special day arrives.

As Knights Templar, we look forward to celebrating the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was the wonderful gift that God gave to us. This is also the time of our Christmas Observances. Because of the pandemic last year, we were unable to meet in person. Although the Commanderies held some unique and wonderful virtual observances, the in-person fellowship was lacking. Hopefully we shall be able to experience some of that this year.

As we prepare for this joyous occasion, let us remember those who are less fortunate. Perhaps you can donate some clothes to a facility for the needy. Bring some food to a food bank or a homeless shelter. Send a card or make a phone call to someone who is alone or homebound. Consider making a donation to our Knight Templar Eye Foundation.

I would encourage you to take some time to remember and pray for those who are unable to be with their families at this time because they are serving our country in distant places and our first responders who are on duty keeping us safe.

My Lady Virginia and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Stay safe, be well and God bless.

Courteously,  
SK Craig R. Nelson, Sr.  
Grand Commander

## **For unto us a child is born...**

We have all heard the glorious hymns and songs surrounding the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. And how we look forward to hearing them again and again. A spirit wells up inside all true believers as we think on the entrance of that dear Holy child, the Son of God, to our physical existence.

As we have driven around in our daily errands, or even just taking a drive for no reason, how many of us have seen vehicles with the image of a simple stable with the silhouette of Mary, Joseph and the Child and a small star over head? Did we notice the words below the image “Put CHRIST back in CHRISTmas?” We are reminded by that simple sign that Jesus is with us every day, every hour if we remember to open our hearts to HIM.

We have glorious words from the Christmas oratorios from the Messiah and I won’t repeat them. But I suspect that they come to mind just with a simple reminder. We are called to serve Him, and God our Father, through prayer, and our works of charity. When we minister in kitchens for the less fortunate, or visit a sick person, or for some of us, comfort the dying and the bereaved, we are serving Him, we are answering the call to serve. Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow Him, and that call was first issued when God begat Jesus through the Holy Spirit through the faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother.

But let’s not forget Joseph, her espoused husband. He was sore tempted to put her away when she became with child, but the angel of the Lord dissuaded him from that action. After all, the child was not his, but he didn’t know until visited by the angel that the child was God Incarnate. Joseph served God and Jesus by taking Mary as his wife, and knew her not until she was delivered. This side of the story is covered in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew vs. 18-25. Joseph answered the call to serve! Will we?

And the answer is a resounding “YES!” Every day, every hour, every minute to the best of our abilities. We won’t all serve the same way, but we will all serve and rejoice that God has come among us in the birth of His Son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ!

Let us pray:

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen. (1928 BCP, the Episcopal Church)

ESK & Rev. William E. Weisert II, DD mA/HN  
Grand Prelate

### **Schedule for Commandery Christmas Observances**

Palestine / St. John’s	12/11/2021	11:30 AM (Virtual)
Trinity	12/11/2021	3 PM
St. Elmo / Cyrene	12/12/2021	4:30 PM (at St. Elmo)
New Haven	12/17/2021	6:30 PM- Dinner 7:30 PM- Stated Conclave 8:00 PM- Observance
Hamilton	12/19/2021	3 PM
Washington	12/21/2021	7:30 PM