



**Grand Commandery
Knights Templar
Massachusetts & Rhode Island**



Knight Templar State News

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Merry Christmas Sir Knights,

My whole life I have always held onto the belief that Santa Clause is real. I am not talking about the Nicholas of Myra who died in 345 AD. He was and is certainly real and his good works and defense of Christianity are well known. I am talking about the Santa Clause that pops into our heads every time we hear those familiar Christmas Carols on the radio or see an old Christmas special. Do I expect to hear his reindeer on my roof or see him come down the chimney? Maybe... However, I have seen him in the eyes of my children when they were young, I hear him in an old friend's voice who gets an unexpected call, and I see it in the smile of the elderly when they get a visit from their family. Santa Clause is all of us and in all of us. We have it within our power every day to spread a little Christmas cheer, to make someone's life a little easier, or a little better. We do not need to go to some financial extreme complete with ribbons and wrapping paper. A kind word of reassurance, a simple email or text seeing how they are doing, a phone call, or a visit far exceeds the satisfaction of whatever is the hottest gift of the season.

The great part is that it does not cost us anything, and you don't have to save it up for Christmas. You can give it repeatedly and it will always be welcome, and you will not mind if they return it to you with a smile and a Thank you!

Regardless of how long you have been in the fraternity, you took an obligation to look after each other and to try to make the world a better place for everyone. During this Christmas season, I will be trying to live up to that obligation and I will try to keep that Christmas spirit alive in my heart throughout the entire year.

On behalf of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, Lady Alison and Myself, We want to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,
Sir Knight Peter A. Mooradian
IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

A time of darkness, a time of oppression and occupation by foreign forces, a time of lost hope. This was the situation in Israel two thousand years ago. A time which would prove significant in the future to come, but for those there in that moment it must have seemed that the light had vanished from their world. Yes they had their tradition and religion but their identity as God's Chosen people must have seemed far distant, Roman occupation, a puppet government, a religion which had become restrictive and overburdened with rules and punishments. To this we introduce the key players, Joseph and Mary, an ordinary couple, no one special, a couple about to have a child, a government who to collect taxes insisted on a census and forced them to travel to a place they had no support.

How they must have felt, alone, isolated and oppressed, no family, no friends nearby, not even a place to stay. And the baby arrives as they do, in it's own time despite less than ideal circumstances. For Mary and Joseph the world shone a bit brighter, their family has begun, everyone is healthy and the physical situation is tolerable if not ideal. They will soon return to their lives and all will be well. In their minds thus begins the story. We know it takes a much different turn. Angels singing, Shepherds watching, Wise men arriving; all this certainly out of the ordinary and unexpected. The king searching for new born males, he having been told one is a threat to his throne and finally the family's escape to Egypt. But then life resumes as normal for them with few incidents as the baby matures and follows the path of all Jewish males.

In the thirty years from that event in the stable in Bethlehem life has continued much the same. The events which follow in the next few years change the world. We all know both stories and neither has importance or is possible without the other. A baby born into a family is always a miracle for them, So what is the Christmas miracle? What is it for us?

As Christians we celebrate the significant events in Jesus' life, Christmas being the beginning of a renewed relationship with God, his sending to us his Son by whom a new relationship with God will be created, one based on forgiveness and love, not on rules and punishment. A new way of viewing the spiritual mandate in our lives to love each other and worship God. The light has come into the world and shines in the darkness. Let us all welcome the light of God's love into our lives this Christmas season and welcome him into our hearts as we would welcome a new baby into our families.

May the lord bless you and your family this Christmas Season. glen

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