



Digital Missouri Supplement

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Merry Christmas to Everyone!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

I asked some of my friends and family, "What does December 25th mean to you?" Here are some of the answers that I received.

Christmas means that we will have a joyful dinner with family and friends. Christmas means having enjoyable times with the family. Christmas affords us the pleasure of decorating for the Holiday. Christmas gives us a chance to make the kids smile and to see the excitement and joy on their faces. Christmas gives us time with our extended family after the many months of isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Christmas gives us a chance to thank our spouse for her support of our participation in Freemasonry.

Most importantly, Sir Knights, we should remember that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. May your Christmas Holiday be safe and may God bless you all.

This month we have a Christmas Message from SK Michael C. Rohman, Chairman of the Hospitaler Committee. I hope that you enjoy it.

Walking with Christ in a Return to Normalcy!

Sir Knight Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Grand Commander

HOSPITALER COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Call to action – A "Ministry of Presence" for this Christmas season!

A few weeks ago, while traveling, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting with Brother Steven Monrotus. It was during this meeting that Steven shared his gratitude for all the prayers, calls, and cards that he had received. He told me that it created a "ministry of presence" for him and reassured him that he was not alone in his struggles. He said it meant the world to him.

The phrase "ministry of presence" would remain at the top of my mind over the next couple of days. Its like that song you can't get out of your head. That simple jingle that truly resonates with you.

Weeks after hearing "ministry of presence" for the first time, I received word that we had lost two Masonic family members to illness. I immediately recalled the concept of a "ministry of presence" and felt that we needed a call to action

this Christmas season. I would be humbled if the Knights Templar in the State of Missouri created a "ministry of presence" for all of our distressed worthy Brethren, and their families, who have suffered loss in 2021.

I would like to request that every Sir Knight who reads this article stop what he is doing for just a moment and respond to this call to action. Please say a prayer, pick up a phone, or pen a quick note to any member of our Masonic family who has suffered in 2021. Perhaps they have lost a loved one or are suffering from an illness. Maybe they are just lonely.

Here are just a few of the many families in my thoughts and prayers: the Bean Family, the Dobbins Family, the Eckert Family, the Goede Family, the Green Family, the Lloyd Family, the Mier Family, the Monrotus family, the Quesenberry Family, the Rose Family, the Walters/Bracken Family, and the Ward Family.

May God bless each and every one of our Masonic Families this Christmas season and remember that He gave His only begotten Son for you!

CHRISTMAS TIME

The most precious gift that a person can give is time. None of us knows how much time we have in the bank of life. While time can be budgeted, it cannot be saved. We cannot earn more time. Time once spent can never be returned. There are no refunds. It cannot be stolen, but it can be wasted.

Christmas time, though, is special. It comes only once each year and lasts for just a few days (okay, for some of us, it lasts several weeks). During Christmas we all seem to forget about how expensive our time is and give it freely to everyone. While money cannot buy happiness, time spent during Christmas seems to return many times its value in that special something that lifts our spirits, warms our hearts, and makes us smile. You can't help but sing and be happy.

CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

Gold symbolizes immortality, divinity, purity, and the kingship of Jesus Christ.

Frankincense is a sweet gum resin from the Boswellia tree. It produces a sweet smelling white smoke. It symbolizes the prayers and praises of the faithful as well as Christ's sacrifice and the divine name of God.

Myrrh is an aromatic gum resin from the Commiphora tree. It has a bitter taste. It symbolizes the Suffering Savior, the Great Physician, and Christ's human nature.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

May God fill all your days with immeasurable prosperity. May you receive the most special of God's blessings. May the Lord grant you and all your loved ones peace, joy, and goodwill. May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path. Merry Christmas!