

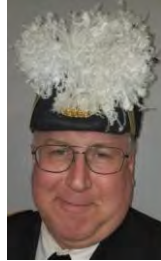
GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for DECEMBER

Web Site



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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SK RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

**O holy night!
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

**Refrain:
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine
O night, O night divine**

The end of the year is fast approaching, and the holiday season hustle and bustle has arrived. It isn't necessary to complain about the commercialization of the Christmas holiday because we as Christian Masons and Sir Knights are well aware what the season means to each and every one of us and our families. We each carry memories of Christmas pasts, those memories that we hold near and dear to our hearts. Whether it's a particular Christmas when the yard was covered with snow or the family gatherings with loved ones gone but not forgotten. We remember that the season is the celebration of the birth of our Lord and savior. We will soon find ourselves humming our favorite Christmas carols, sipping our Eggnog, wrapping and unwrapping gifts and feasting with those who matter most in our lives. There are Christmas carols and hymns that remind us what Christmas is about, to reflect on what is truly important in our lives. As Masons that lesson has been taught to us from our very first meeting, when we first knelt at the altar of Free Masonry and every step we have taken since. We are reminded to humble ourselves before God. **With faith and humility, you should let our light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.**

Merry Christmas Sir Knights to you and your families, and a joyous New Year.

SK Robert Rolseth REGC



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SK EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

As I ponder what to write this evening, researching for this article, I came across a great historical article on Wikipedia about the origins, and the progression and development of what we call the Christmas season. I am not going to cover any of that here, because you can all access that article for yourselves. What I do want to go over is the current situation. The time of year has arrived when we see skeletons, witches, vampires, zombies, and many more scary and not so scary characters disappear overnight and, completely skipping the pumpkin spice days of the thanksgiving holiday, they are replaced with huge extravagant yard displays, colored lights often coordinated to some type of rock music, colorfully decorated artificial or real evergreen trees, eggnog, and extremely mad shopping specials for days on end culminating with an event called Black Friday which by the way has absolutely no Christmas spirit and is often accompanied by fist fights and stampedes, all to get ready for the gift giving season that most of society doesn't even have the nerve to call Christmas anymore. Merry Christmas has become Happy Holidays for fear of offending non Christians. Every year our nation seems to moves farther and farther away from the true meaning of Christmas and as a Christian and a Knight Templar it saddens me deeply. Christmas should be the time of year that we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, not the time of year to get a great deal on a new big screen TV. Over two thousand years ago, some shepherds guarding their flocks at night, and some wise men saw a new star in the sky and made a trek to Bethlehem to witness firsthand the birth of the Messiah. A little over a thousand years later, our ancient brethren, devoted their entire lives to the service of the one true and living God and made a commitment to protect pilgrims traveling from afar, to offer their devotions at the holy shrine. As modern day Knights Templar we should be just as devout in our faith and endeavor to celebrate the Christmas season in the proper manor. Don't give in to societies need to destroy our Christian holiday. When people say Happy Holidays, respond with Merry Christmas. In my family, we have a tradition of reading the Christmas story in the second chapter of Luke on Christmas morning. The holy Scriptures and nativity scene are the main decorations on our coffee table for the season. Although we do always exchange gifts, that is not the main focus in our home. Remember the reason for the season and reflect on what you have done for your fellow man over the past year. Check on your elderly or shut in neighbors. Especially considering this pandemic we have been surviving. **Remember the commandment that Christ gave us in John Chapter 15-12. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Chapter 15-13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."** I don't expect any of you to forfeit your life this season, just live the gospel of Jesus Christ and Love your neighbor as yourself.

Yours in the faith Brethren Sir Knight John Cooper

Eminent Grand Prelate Knights, Templar of Oklahoma.