



SOUTH CAROLINA SUPPLEMENT  
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Greetings Sir Knights and happy New Year!

What a year it has been. This previous year with all its problems, disappointments, failures, and sadness is now behind us, and a clean slate lies ahead. A new year always brings a sense of hope, doesn't it?

New Year's has been symbolized by an old man with the sickle and the newborn baby. The old has passed and the new one has come. Many of us will usher in the New Year with get togethers, horns, and fireworks. But when it is over there can be a feeling that it is all still the same, nothing is changed.

After the season of family time, lights, and glitter, we return to midwinter, cold and brown. Many of us have personal pains or anxieties and listening to the news can make many feel even more down. Some may feel alone despite people all around them. When one feels this way there is a temptation to stay that way, to stay under the covers in the dark.

Epiphany, or the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas, commemorating how a star led the Magi, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. Epiphany with its emphasis on light shining in the darkness, reminds us that life continues on, that revelation and growth and new beginnings are on the horizon, that new roads are ahead, new roads that will take us, if we let them, into new adventures, new

challenges, new opportunities to be the persons God wants us to be.

Epiphany reminds us that life continues, even as one year ends and another begins, one season following another following another.

As we head into the new year, in the spirit of Epiphany and life moving on some may ask, "how can we move on?" Isaiah (60:1-2) tells the people of Israel to:

*"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." "For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."*

Remember always, God has promised to uphold us no matter what – believe this promise! God has promised to grant us victory over all our spiritual enemies – believe this promise! God has promised to grant us full and free forgiveness of our sins through and because of Jesus Christ, our newborn Savior – believe this promise! Be confident that God is as good as God's word, and that our living, loving Lord will deliver them as promised.

May you all have a blessed year in 2021

Fraternally,

Mike Kirk

Grand Commander