

Grand Commandery of New York

DecemberNews



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Grand Commander

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Faith

Christmas Greetings Sir Knights;

Report from the Palmyra Pilgrimage: the Grand Commandery congratulates all the new Sir knights “Knighted” during the most beautiful of Masonic ceremonies on Saturday, November 5, 2022. We thank the Zone 8 Council Officers’ Association for the Knight Templars New York Pilgrimage efforts and hard work. The most striking feeling that I receive as I travel around the state, is the enthusiasm from all Knights—young and old.

Matthew 1:18-23, The Christmas story

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

19-Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20-But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21-She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22-All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Opening Theme for the year "Faith". "God's word says that we are saved by grace through Faith in Christ Jesus and not by our own efforts or works." Ephesian 2:8-9. We are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works. Those different prepositions make all the difference in the world. Good Works are evidence of salvation, not the cause of it. If there are no works or change of life to follow salvation, then it should be questioned whether the person or Knight is truly saved.

What are the good works of our Grand Commandery and our Constituent Commanderies? There are many. Here's one:

(December's Good Works for a Knight Templar and his Constituent Commandery is taken out of General Order No. 1)

Charity— Knight Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF). Our Mission is to improve vision through research, education and supporting access to care.

(Commandery Challenge for all Knights in a Commandery to be 100% Life Sponsors with a \$30 donation to KTEF onetime fee). The bigger goal is to have all the Knights in the State of New York become Life Sponsors to the KTEF.

(Knight Challenge: to donate to the KTEF—become a Life Sponsor)

Currently our Grand Commandery is at the 40% donation level and we are well on our way to achieving 100% life Membership (\$30) for all the Knights. This distinction would put us in the class with only two other Grand Commanderies. What better time is there to give the "Gift of Sight" than during this Christmas Season.

If you are not getting emails twice a month from the Grand Commandery , please email Harry Williams (harry.williams@marist.edu) with you name, email and Commandery name and number and you will be placed on the mailing list.

"It's not something we do—It's something we are"

Upcoming Events:

Grand Commandery Christmas Zoom Observance: December 18, 2022

Zoomposium: January 21, 2023

(Details can be found on the Grand Commandery website <https://nygckt.org/> and on Facebook - Official Grand Commandery of New York-Knights Templar)

Lady Eileen and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Courteously with Faith,

S.K. David Barkstedt, R.E.G.C.

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Grand Prelate's Corner

Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. We inherited our sinful nature from the first human beings God created—Adam and Eve. While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came into the world as an infant to save us all.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: his only Son. Also, three Wisemen visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled “A Visit from St. Nicholas” penned in 1822 popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too. For Christians, the gift at Christmas of Jesus Christ is the reason for the celebration of the season. Jesus Christ who gives to us the gift of eternal life.

We know that through belief in Christ we are daughters and sons of God. Heaven will one day be our home. Perhaps this will help you look at the Christmas season differently this year. A chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of the season and our eventual promised home and glorified life. Amen.

From the Editor

Christmas is a glorious time of the year—full of excitement and wonder. We welcome the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ—into our hearts as well as into our homes. It is this premise that Jesus saves us. We welcome him into our hearts and ask him for heaven as our reward when we die. He told us from the Cross that those who believe in him will share Heaven with him upon earthly death.

You may not realize how important this is until you are faced with a wake-up call of life or death. Fortunately, most of us start early by accepting Jesus into our hearts, but it's never too late to accept Him into your heart. He's our hope and Savior—just believe! He's there for us and we celebrate his coming every Christmas—have *Faith* in Him.

From Lady Debi and me, a Merry Christmas to all and may you welcome Jesus into your hearts.