

Grand Commandery of New York
December News



John Scott
Grand Commander

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Dear Sir Knights,

Merry Christmas Sir Knights and Friends

May God grant you peace and serenity this Christmas and throughout the holiday season. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” – Luke 2:11
Since my last message, Lynn and I thoroughly enjoyed the company of many Sir Knights and friends at our reception on October 19th. Thank you to all who attended and to the many friends who helped make this evening a success. Special thanks S.K. Ted Volkert, Grand Sentinel, and Lady Beth for their help and support, and to Sir Knight Grant Held, Grand Standard Bearer, for his article on this wonderful event. For further details, please see Sir Knight Grant’s article that was published in the Official Grand Commandery Knights Templar of New York Facebook page.

I also had the pleasure of attending the reception for M.I. Daniel D. Elliott, Most Illustrious Grand Master, on November 2, 2024, at the Resorts World Catskill Casino in Monticello, New York. It was a wonderful evening of celebration for a well deserving friend and Sir Knight. Thank you to Sir Knights Conrad Johnson, PGC, KCT, John Mullin, VEDGC, and Lady Josephine, and Michael Sikos, GSWB, and Lady Raisa, for also attending. If you are interested, the Official GCKTNY Facebook page has pictures of the attendees.

We are now in the season of Advent when we focus our attention on preparing to celebrate, by remembering the birth of our Lord Jesus, in true humility in Bethlehem. Because Jesus has already come into the world and has secured the forgiveness of our sins by his death, we

embrace both the holy repentance and a holy joy during this season. Accordingly, during the four weeks of Advent, we are called to reflect on our lives, turn daily from sin and do the work to which God has called us—an avocation we should continue all year.

During Advent we also conduct our Christmas Observances. In preparation for your Christmas Observance, I ask that you use the theme “Come Home” as you draft your Christmas Observance programs and send out your notices and invitations. Whether you are reaching out to a Sir Knight who has stopped attending Commandery Conclaves, to a Brother who has not yet received our beautiful Orders, or to a friend who may be interested in becoming a Freemason—let them know that your Commandery invites them to *Come Home* to a place where they will find warmth and support, joy and laughter and the love of our Risen Lord. A personal invitation may be all that this special friend needs to kindle or rekindle his interest in Masonry and Templary.

And now, may “the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in **hope**, through the power of the Holy Spirit.” – Romans 15:13. From our family to yours, Lady Lynn and I wish you a blessed Christmas and prosperity, joy and moments of light during the New Year.

Courteously and in His service,
S. K. John W. Scott, R.E.G.C., K.C.T.

Grand Prelate's Corner

My prayer is that Hope, Peace, Joy and Love come to each and every one of you this season of Advent and Christmas. For those of you who don't know the meaning of Advent, it comes from the Latin word “adventus” meaning coming or arrival.

During this time of the season, we as people of God and of Jesus Christ gather together to celebrate His humble birth. We do this both at our local church, our Commanderies and with our families. We come together to celebrate Christ's first Advent (*coming*) while also eagerly awaiting His second coming. So we rejoice in looking back on God's faithfulness throughout history while also waiting in eager anticipation for His promised return and the breaking forth of a more glorious epoch in our history of creation.

For Christians, and we Templars, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ. As we gather for our Christmas Toasts or Observances in our Commanderies let us remember that Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. This is the time to reflect on the significance of Jesus' birth, emphasizing themes of hope, peace, joy and love or goodwill toward all.

The late Billy Graham once wrote: “The real Christmas message goes far deeper. It heralds the entrance of God into human history. It is Heaven descending to Earth. It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced to a despairing, hopeless, and frustrated world the coming of the Prince of Peace. It answers all the great questions that plague the human race at this hour.

The Christmas message is relevant, revolutionary, and reassuring to us today. I believe it can be summed up in three words: a cradle, a cross, and a crown. On that first Christmas night, the Bible tells us about the angel coming to those fearful shepherds and saying, “Fear not, I bring you good news” (Luke 2). This is the true meaning of Christmas—the Good News—that God sent His only Son to Earth to save people from their sins. Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition, not a dream—it is a glorious reality of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love upon this earth! Amen and Amen.

From The Editor

This past November 13, Masonry ,as a whole, lost a faithful member. Past Grand Commander David Shire set aside his working tools, sword and shield and passed away peacefully at his home in Niagara Falls, NY.

In life one hopes to have a haven of “best friends”. I am blessed with this, but my BFF was David Shire. I served as his Grand Sentinel in 2011 and as an aide for his Annual Conclave as well as other events and travels during his year as Grand Commander.

I met Dave when I became a Knight Templar in 2002. He and his wife Carol became very close friends of both Lady Debi and me. My only regret is that I was unable to be with my best friend when he became ill.

Please keep SK Shire, Lady Carol and their family in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

To my BFF, “Hey Guy”

