

MASSACHUSETTS & RHODE ISLAND SUPPLEMENT

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DECEMBER MESSAGE From the Grand Commander

As I look out the window at the beginning of this month of Advent, I see unmistakable signs of winter. But then, that is to be expected and enjoyed. Later on in this month, if Covid allows, the local ski resorts and snow-sledding sites will be full of children on vacation and parents muffled to the eyes keeping watch.

Speaking of "keeping watch" – remember the shepherds in the fields keeping watch? And suddenly the Angel appeared in The Light of the Glory of the Lord to announce the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Star of the East brought the Wisemen following "the light". And we sing of "Glories Beam from Heaven afar" and the "Radiance Beams" from Jesus' face. Yes, Christmas is all about "light".

Merriment at Christmas time should also be about sharing that light with others. The joy and warmth of family gatherings, the greetings and breaking bread with old friends, and the love and happiness shared with ones' children are all "sharing the Light".

But so is remembering the lonely; feeding the hungry; helping someone to deal with the loss of a loved one or close friend; standing by the bedside of one who is sick; reassuring the family of one who is passing the Bourne of This World. Sharing "The Light" comes from within and moves outward through acts of kindness and generosity of spirit. So, pick up the phone and call someone who might be alone this Christmas; go visit someone that you know is ill; send a card to someone far away who is facing a Christmas different than the ones we like to think about.

Jesus came for you and for me. It was a surprise gift of love. Share His gift this Christmas with others... and remember, Barbara and I send you the light of our love at this special time of year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from our family to yours,

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from the Grand Prelate

On that first Christmas night we read that there were angels in the sky proclaiming a heavenly message:

"I bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people."

"For unto us a child is born...And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

What exactly is this good news for all of us? Isaih prophesies a child to be born to deliver us, Immanuel, translating to "God with us"! The Christ child.

Now that is great news! God is always with us, Christ is always with us. As we go through our daily routines sometimes we feel our aloneness and feel our emptiness.

God has a way of surprising us. If our hearts are open, God has a way of fulfilling his promise in us in a way we'd least expect. God will not forget us or abandon us.

Jesus is God's living promise never to abandon or forget us, but always to be with us. God can lift us up even in the worst of times, even when we are isolated from each other we are never isolated from him.

God will be our good news, our glad tidings if we open our hearts and walk in our faith.

God can do all that if we just let him.

So as we celebrate this "good news", let's remember how God fulfilled his promise to us by sending Jesus: "You are my chosen people, I love you very much. I will always be with you. Accept my love inside you and day by day the peace you seek will more and more be yours."

This is God's word to us – the Good News, the good tidings of great joy! Let's celebrate....

Merry Christmas!

Glen Cunningham Grand Prelate www.willoglen.com