



## Digital Missouri Message

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## Merry Christmas!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Do you find that the Holidays are hectic and stressful? Does your household occasionally resemble that of the movie, "A Christmas Story?" Do your Holidays include any of the events in the list below?

- Your teenager complains that not having received the gift of their dreams has effectively ruined their future forever (don't worry it will pass)
- The bills after Christmas will last till the following Christmas
- The in-laws get more grand baby time than your household
- You risk life and limb to scale your home to set up the decorations knowing that you will have to repeat the adventure to take them down soon
- Waking up at 4 am to face the throng on Black Friday
- One of your children's new love interests does not meet your wife's approval and you will all be at the dinner table together

If this list resembles times at your household, then just remember that the events on the list are temporary. If you put your faith in "Him," then it represents the spiritual and everlasting. When you are feeling stressed out by the holidays, remember that this is temporary and that John 3:16 offers you a future that is everlasting.

Have a great and blessed Christmas and remember if you see a Red Rider BB Gun under the tree you just may ...

### Dei Gratia - By the Grace of God!

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Commander

### HOSPITALLER COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Sir Knights, the following Hospitaller Committee message was very kindly provided by our Grand Prelate, Sir Knight Russell A. Bradshaw.

Matthew 2, verses 10 and 11, reflect the following words for each one of us to ponder, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child

with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (RSV)

Greetings Sir Knights from the Hospitaller Committee and the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery of Missouri to each one of you as we approach the joys of Christmas 2022 with our friends and families. As December 25th grows closer by the minute, have you each secured all your gifts yet? Are all of your packages wrapped and placed in just the right spot under the tree? I hope not! Let me explain.

Sir Knights, the opening text above from the Second Book of Matthew admonishes us as Christian Knights – no, directs us – to rejoice exceedingly with great joy because we too, like the wise men, have seen the star. You see that star or gift is glowing right now for all of us to see not just during the Christmas season, but all year around – 365 days a year, 24 hours each day, 7 days a week, minute by minute, every single second of our individual lives. God in His infinite wisdom did not send us a new set of clothes to wear; or the latest technological gadget with all the best features to show off; or the trip of a lifetime. No! God sent us something so much better that very first Christmas so long ago. He sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world – Immanuel, “God with Us” – and promised He would live with each one of us in our hearts every day. All we must do is ask Him to enter through the doorway.

So, do me a favor starting right now during the 2022 Christmas season and beyond, as you pause and celebrate all of your blessings, make sure to open the most important gift offered to you – the Christ Child. I’ll give you a hint where to find Him. A small baby boy was wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger because, as you already know, there was no room in the inn. Jesus was born in a simple, common manger. However, as Christian Knights, we know He really lives in each of our hearts!

Open your gift, Sir Knights, open your gift! However, please remember to share the gifts of Christ with each person you meet along life’s journey.

The Hospitaller Committee – Sir Knights Kevin Sample (Chairman), Bobbie White, Ron Skiles, and Terry Coppotelli – thank Sir Knight Bradshaw for his excellent message. On behalf of the Hospitaller Committee and the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery of Missouri, we all wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas.

The Hospitaller Committee

## **CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS**

Gold symbolizes immortality, divinity, purity, and the kingship of Jesus Christ. Frankincense, a sweet gum resin from the Boswellia tree, produces a sweet smelling white smoke and symbolizes the prayers and praises of the faithful as well as Christ's sacrifice and the divine name of God. Myrrh, an aromatic gum resin from the Commiphora tree, has a bitter taste and symbolizes the Suffering Savior, the Great Physician, and Christ's human nature.