

State News for December, 2022



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Oregon



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Christmas Greetings, Sir Knights!

Over two thousand twenty-two years ago, our Lord and Savior was born in the manger in Bethlehem. Every December we gather to celebrate His birth, but more than this, we celebrate His life.

What a wonderful time this is. We give gifts to one another. We celebrate with our families and enjoy wholesome Christmas music about snow and sleigh bells and warming by a fire. We recite the legend of a magical elf named Santa Claus who drops down chimneys and gives gifts to all the children of the world. And we plant trees in our living rooms and decorate them with lights and ornaments. We give gifts in emulation of the gifts Christ gives to us. Christ loves us unconditionally and guides us throughout our lives. He gives us a plan of salvation and protection from the temptations and machinations of the devil.

Christ, the Son of God was caused to be born of woman. He grew up with all the pains and humiliations of mortal flesh. Finally he experienced a cruel and painful death before rising from the grave and returning to the side of the Father.

Christ did not have to do these things. He could have existed without pain or discomfort but He loves us and He chose to experience life as we do. So in turn is it our duty to love Him and to love one another. To be charitable, to extend Christian fellowship to each other and to the less fortunate, to live full and fruitful lives, and at our deaths, to await our admission to the many mansions in the Lord's house.

May we enjoy the festivities of this holiday season and celebrate the birth of our Savior. May we share with the wider world our joy in Christian fellowship. May our churches and congregations be full of song and rejoicing. May our Knights Templar Eye Foundation continue to bring light where there was darkness.

Sir Knights, as we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, let each of us be born again in His service. Let us renew and revive that warlike spirit, that childlike faith, that unbridled hope exemplified by our pilgrim brothers of old and may the modern Knights Templar bring the light of Christ to the darkest corners of the earth.

Joy to the world and glory be to God in the highest. Amen.

Courteously submitted,

Ryan Winters, KCT

Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Oregon, KT

A Toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Oregon.

The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2)

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

They came from afar to worship him. They followed a star to his location after reading the stars that told of His birth. His presence was such that these magi after seeing him not only presented him with gifts of great wealth but defied a King to save His life. Their story remains to this day as do their names, Melchior, Balthazar, and Caspar.

We as Knights Templar should emulate their journey. Especially during this celebration of His birth. So should we ever seek him out to adore Him. We raise a toast to the Right Eminent Grand Commander that he should ever lead us in this path.

I raise a toast “To the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Oregon.”



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