



ILLINOIS SUPPLEMENT

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Wendell E. Walch
Grand Commander

Sir Knights and Ladies of Illinois

Greetings:

For most of us, the celebration of Christmas is held on the traditional date of December 25th. Those who follow the Russian, Serbian, Ukraine and Ethiopian Orthodox Church follow the old 'Julian' calendar and celebrate on January 7th. The Greek Orthodox Church uses December 25th but some individuals still use the January 7th date and those who follow the Armenian Orthodox Church use the date of January 6th.

Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas and begin four Sundays or forty days prior to Christmas. That brings the beginning to November 15th, or for those who follow the 'Julian' calendar and celebrate on January 7th, Advent begins on November 28th. Following Advent and the Christmas celebration begins the celebration of the twelve days of Christmas which ends on January 5th. The next day, January 6th is Epiphany and is understood as the time when the wise men or three kings visited the Christ Child and was the time of the Baptism of Jesus.

The recognized Christmas celebration of 'Candlemas' which is the ending of the forty days following Christmas ends on February 2nd. This is the time when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the Temple and for those traditionalists is the time to pack away the Christmas decorations.

As you can observe, the celebration of Christmas covers many aspects of a family's life. If you celebrated one or more of the

various Christmas traditions, it is important to remember that the center of the Christmas celebration is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

On behalf of the Officers and Ladies of your Grand Commandery, may I extend to you my very best wishes for a Merry and Joyous Christmas Season as you gather together with your family and friends. As noted at the conclusion of 'A Christmas Carol' tiny Tim says "I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year"

As we prepare to celebrate this important aspect of our Templar Year, I would request that each Commandery plan a program of celebration. It can be a dinner, a Libations Program, or a combination of both or a program which works with the Sir Knights of your Commandery. The important thing is that you plan something. We are at our roots a Christian Organization, and therefore we need to take this opportunity to demonstrate that we practice what we preach.

Wendell E. Walch, Grand Commander

December Inspections

December 2 Silangan Commandery No. 93, Chicago
6910 West Grand Avenue

December 9, Freeport Commandery No. 7, Freeport
305 West Stephenson Street

December 16, Calvary Commandery No. 25, Cary
Route 14 and Ross Street

If at all possible, please plan on attending those Inspections in your Division or in your area. They can use the assistance and will respond by attending a supporting the Inspection of your Commandery. Let us remember that a full house makes a great impression upon the candidate. Each new Sir Knight who is impressed is our greatest advertisement.