

## DECEMBER, 2017

Sir Knights:

Here we are, at both the end of the calendar year and the beginning of a new Spiritual year. A time when we “hunker down” for the Winter and await the Spring with plans and new opportunities. The harvest is reaped, the land is left to rest, and we now live on the fruits of our labors of the past year. Or at least, that’s the way our ancestors approached this time.

In this day and age, when we can quickly move mountains of snow, go to the supermarket for whatever we need from anywhere around the world in a matter of minutes, and generally have jobs that do not revolve around the cycles of the seasons, we tend to lose track of the power that a seasonal rhythm imparts on our lives. This is even noticeable within our houses of worship, where many churches seem to have abandoned the traditional Church Year, and instead teach and preach in a “timely” –one might say reactionary – way in an attempt to be relevant to the issues of the day, or the concerns only of the parish members. While there is value in this, there is also danger, in that the Eternal Word of God may be only selectively employed, and a full picture of who and what we should become as Christians is lost. The minor stories, the conflicting parables, the linkage between the cycle of the Jewish Temple year and the life and development of Christ – and indeed, the impetus behind the actual format of the canonic Gospels – are, by this approach, made difficult to experience.

We are fortunate, however, that this Season of the Church is one which starts us off on a new beginning. The Birth of our Savior is the temporal starting point for us to set our sights on becoming something much greater than we now are. The Nativity stories in Luke provide us with a human connection to the Divine – the Annunciation and Magnificat, the birth of John, the Star, Stable and

Wise Men all set us up for the fundamental experience of carrying Christ within ourselves, this day and every day:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God; <sup>3</sup> all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. <sup>16</sup> And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only Son,<sup>[b]</sup> who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known. (John 1)

May you all have a most Blessed Christmas Season.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*



*S.K. Scott & Gothe, REGC*