

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for December 2022**

Web Site



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Grand Commanders Message

Sir Knights,

As I was pondering this message, I asked myself the following question, “What is Christmas and what has it become?” Let us remember how it started. Joseph with his pregnant wife Mary traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived at the house of Joseph’s parents, there was no room for them. I would like for you to ponder this for a moment. Their son married a woman who was expecting a baby, which was not a child of Joseph’s. They were not afforded shelter by his parents in which to stay the night. With no room for Mary and Joseph, they find a cave to stay in which was used by his family as a stable for their animals. When Jesus is born, he is laid in a manger made of stone so the animals could not knock it over. It was through these humble origins our Lord and Savior was born.

In our current times, we spend numerous hours shopping so that we can out gift or make sure our gifts are the most expensive. We make large grocery shopping trips to the store to plan and prepare a meal fit for a King, then many times frantically run back to the store because something was forgotten. This is what Christmas has become, a holiday of excesses. Many have forgotten the reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior. Sir Knights, as Christians, this should be first on our minds not only this time of year but throughout the entire year.

We are taught in the scriptures, *John 3:15-17* 15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.* 16 *For God so loved the world, that he*

gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved.

This, Sir Knights, is the reason for the season - The gift of eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we gather around the table this Christmas, remember the humble origins of our Savior and think about what the first Christmas must have been like.

Lady Gage and my prayer is that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas season.

May Peace, Love and Joy follow through the coming year.

In His Service,
James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander



THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS A BRIEF HISTORY

We have come to understand Christmas as a time to come together as a family exchange gift's and fill our bellies with delicious food. It has become an ever-increasing struggle to find the perfect gift or toy for a loved one or child, in the hustle and bustle of our increasing consumer driven need, I feel we have forgotten the true meaning of Christmas.

Sir Knights, as Christians we know Christmas as the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What does "birth" mean? It is the beginning of something new. When Jesus was born, he brought new hope to the world. The Christmas definition is "Mass of Christ." The word Christmas is one that the early Roman Catholic Church created to remember Christ by attending a mass or service. While the exact date of his birth is unknown, we observe it every year in December.

A special child was born in the small town of Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago to a young couple named Joseph and Mary. Mary was a servant of God. Although she was a virgin, God chose her to carry his son, the Messiah. When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem, they sought a place to stay. One innkeeper directed them to a stable outside of the inn. After the couple settled in, Mary went into labor and gave birth to Jesus. After Jesus was born, many gathered and brought Him gifts. Even today, gift exchange is a common practice. It is a symbolization of the giving spirit. Just as God gave us his son to pay for our sins, we exchange gifts with each other. God sent him to Earth to save the world from sin.

Christmas became a national holiday in 1870, in the year 221 Sextus Julius Africanus, a Christian historian, determined December 25th as Jesus birthday. Many of the customs and decorations have roots in early Roman traditions, such as the mistletoe, the Romans decorated their homes with trees to celebrate the winter solstice.

Sir Knights use this Christmas as a rebirth, a new commitment to yourselves and your families, it is never too late to make ourselves a new, with that I bid all our Sir Knights and their families with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully Excellent Grand Prelate Steven Cox



ELECTION OF OFFICERS STILLWATER BEAUCEANT ASSEMBLY #124

SK VEGDC JOHN E.KING IN ATTENDACE



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS STILLWATER BEAUCEANTASSEMBLY #124

SK REGC JAMES R. TAYLOR IN ATTENDANCE