

## Right Eminent Grand Commander Christmas Message 2024

To all fellow Sir Knights throughout the beautiful state of Montana,

As we prepare to celebrate the season of Christmas, a time of joy, reflection, and faith, I wish to extend to each of you warm greetings from the Grand Commandery of Montana. This season invites us to reflect on the profound mysteries of our faith, the birth of our Savior, and the message of peace, love, and humility that Christ brought into the world.

In our Christian tradition, Christmas calls us to look beyond ourselves, reaching out in fellowship and compassion to those around us. This Christmas, I would like to reflect on a word that embodies the spirit of the season in a unique and profound way. Though it originates from Eastern spiritual traditions, this greeting offers a beautiful and universal message that resonates with us as Knights Templar. Namaste.

Namaste, at its core, means “the divine in me bows to the divine in you.” It is an acknowledgment of the sacredness within each person, a recognition that we are all created in the image of God. This idea of reverence toward one another is also deeply embedded in our Christian values, reminding us that, in Christ, we see the reflection of the Divine in everyone we encounter.

During this holy season, let us embrace the spirit of Namaste as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Just as we bow before the humble manger in Bethlehem, let us also bow in humility and respect before each other, recognizing the light of Christ that shines within us all. Let us extend this acknowledgment in our daily lives through acts of kindness, charity, and brotherly love, fulfilling the command of Christ to love one another as He has loved us.

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, fill your hearts and homes this Christmas. And may we, as Knights Templar, continue to stand as beacons of faith, hope, and love in a world that so deeply needs the light of Christ.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyful Christmas.

In His Service,

S. K. Ronny Aasterud

R.E. Grand Commander 2024-2025

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Montana