

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• DECEMBER 2025 • VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 12 • FRONT PAGE •

OMSDT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4 ●	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 ●	15	16	17	18 ●	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 ● Christmas Day	26	27
28 ●	29	30	31			

THURS DEC 4 ROUND TABLE
SUN DEC 14 BIBLE STUDY
THURS DEC 18 ROUND TABLE
THURS DEC 25 CHRISTMAS
SUN DEC 28 BIBLE STUDY
ROUND TABLES AND BIBLE STUDIES
| 6 PM PACIFIC | 7 PM MOUNTAIN |
| 8 PM CENTRAL | 9 PM EASTERN |
ZOOM LINKS WILL BE POSTED
ON BELIEFBOOK



Merry

CHRISTMAS



TEMPLAR ACADEMIE

"CHRIST-FOCUSED IN ALL THAT WE DO"

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO THESE MEMBERS FOR
COMPLETING ACADEMIE
CLASSWORK IN THE
MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

KATRINA DYNAK (CAA Classes)
[actually 10-21-25]
GABRIEL POPP (CAA Classes)



His Blessed Birth

By GSY Renee' Nordio

As a believer in the miraculous and Holy Birth of Jesus Christ, I am usually amused by statements of non-believers who like to challenge the celebration of Christmas. Beaming with self-knowledge, they proudly put forth questions that really are statements, "*Ya know . . .Christmas is really a pagan holiday?*" Or, "*Ya know . . .they just picked December 25th as the date?*" These statements are usually delivered with a tone of dismissal, with the intent to contradict or discredit the blessed event.



Christians are well aware of the true origin of Christmas. We acknowledge that the actual birth date of Christ is not known. However, this does not negate our belief.

We also know that Christmas is not a pagan holiday. There have been seasons; spring, summer, fall, and winter, since God first created the heavens and the earth. And, there were many seasons that came to pass before the birth of Christ. And, seasonal pagan traditions were indeed abundant in the days prior to His birth. And, they continue to this day. However, these observances serve the purpose to worship their own (false) gods, planets, and the passing of seasons.

For example, in ancient pagan times, the last day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere was celebrated as the night that the Great Mother Goddess gives birth to the baby Sun God. It is also called Yule, the day a huge log is added to a bonfire, around which everyone would dance and sing to awaken the sun from its long winter sleep.

In Roman times, it became the celebrations honoring Saturnus (the harvest god) and Mithras (the ancient god of light), a form of sun worship that had come to Rome from Syria a century before with the cult of Sol



His Blessed Birth

Invictus. It announced that winter is not forever, that life continues, and an invitation to stay in good spirit. The first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere occurs between the 20th and 22nd of December. The Romans celebrated Saturnalia between December 17th and the 24th.

To avoid persecution during the Roman pagan festival, early Christians decked their homes with Saturnalia holly. However, as Christian numbers increased and their customs prevailed, the celebrations took on a Christian observance. But the early church actually did not celebrate the birth of Christ in December until Telesphorus, who was the second Bishop of Rome from 125 to 136 A.D., declared that church services should be held during this time to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour. However, since no one was quite sure in which month Christ was born, Nativity was often held in September, which was during the Jewish Feast of Trumpets (modern-day Rosh Hashanah). In fact, for more than 300 years, people observed the birth of Jesus on various dates.

In the year 274 A.D., the winter solstice fell on December 25th. Roman Emperor Aurelian proclaimed the date as "Natalis Solis Invicti," the festival of the birth of the invincible sun. In 320 A.D., Pope Julius I specified the 25th of December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ. In 325 A.D., Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman emperor, introduced Christmas as an immovable feast on December 25th. He also introduced Sunday as a holy day in a new 7-day week, and introduced movable feasts (Easter). In 354 A.D., Bishop Liberius of Rome officially ordered his members to celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th, as well.

However, even though Constantine declared December 25th as the birthday of Christ, Christians, recognizing the date as a pagan festival, did not share in the emperor's good intentions. Christmas failed to gain universal recognition among Christians until quite recently. In England, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas festivities between 1649 and



His Blessed Birth *(continued)*

1660 through the so-called Blue Laws, believing that Christmas should be a solemn day. When many Protestants escaped persecution by fleeing to the colonies all over the world, interest in joyous Christmas celebrations was rekindled. Still, Christmas was not even a legal holiday until the 1800s.

The popularity of a Christmas celebration was spurred on in 1820 by Washington Irving's book "The Keeping of Christmas at Bracebridge Hall." In 1834, Britain's Queen Victoria brought her German husband, Prince Albert, into Windsor Castle, introducing the tradition of the Christmas tree and carols that were held in Europe to the British Empire.

A week before Christmas in 1834, Charles Dickens published "A Christmas Carol," in which he wrote that Scrooge required Cratchit to work, and that the U.S. Congress met on Christmas Day. It was so popular that neither the churches nor the governments could not ignore the importance of Christmas celebrations. In 1836, Alabama became the first state in the U.S. to declare Christmas a legal holiday. In 1907, Oklahoma became the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

As believers, we can respond to those statements posed by non-believers that Christmas is not a pagan holiday. The truth is that some pagan traditions continue to be reflected in the Christian celebration. Christmas celebrations end the 12th day of Christmas (January 6th) when the Three Wise Men went to worship Christ, but, is also the same amount of days that the return of the sun was celebrated by ancient and Roman pagans.

There are also early pagan tree and wreath symbolism. However, early Christians under persecution for their faith, took a page from today and made 'lemonade from lemons!' They took many of those pagan traditions foisted upon them, and gave them a holy symbolism or seasonal date for their belief in Christ's birth.

Since no one knows the day of His birth, the Roman Catholic Church felt



His Blessed Birth

free to choose the 25th of December. The church wished to replace the pagan festival with a Christian holy day. The psychology was that it would be easier to take away an unholy (but traditional) festival from the population if they replaced it with a good one. Otherwise, the church would have left a void where there was a long-standing tradition, and risked producing a discontented population and a rapid return to the old ways.

As believers, we are not as concerned with every grain of detail, as we are the actual event. We celebrate the Blessed Birth that took place not needing to know the exact day or moment in time. Among Christians, His birth is celebrated every day. We call on His name in daily prayer and in our worship of Him. When He abides in our hearts, remembrance of His blessed First Coming can be done on any day of the calendar and at any movement of the clock.

This Christmas, may we all take the time to re-read the story of Christ's birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke to always remember and joyfully celebrate the Birth of our King!

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

~Luke 2:11



“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).”

~Matthew 1:22



Priory Mottos

Each Priory of the OMSDT Knights Templar Order has their own motto. Some mottos were chosen by its members and others were chosen by the Priory leader or by the Grand Prior with research into the person for whom the Priory is named. See the list below, also showing the Latin translation.



United States Priorities (including Canadian members)

Calvary Cross - Soldiers of Christ (Militia Christi)

Holy Trinity - God With Us (Dieu Avec Nous)

King David - Heart for God (Cordis ad Deum)

St. Helena - Light After Darkness (Post Tenebras Lux)

St. Joan - Act and God will Act (Actus et Deus Act)

St. Luke - Be Kind and Humble (Esto Benignus Et Humilis)

St. Michael - Faith and Truth (Fides e t Veritas)

St. Sebastian - Deeds Not Words (Acta Non Verba)

International Priorities

*Grand Priory of Europe - Hail to the Cross, Our only Hope
(O Crux Ave Spes Unica)*

St. Evaristus - Fidelity to Christ (Canones ad Christum)

St. Miltiades - Freedom in Christ (Libertas in Christo)

*St. Romero - Courage through Christ
(Fortitudo per Christum)*

Use Priory Mottos When Signing



Be sure to add your Priory motto to your signature on posts and comments you make on BeliefBook.

To sign properly on BeliefBook, just remember it's a three-line signature:

- *Your Rank and Your Name
- *Your Priory Name
- *Your Priory Motto (*English or Latin Version or both*)

Signatures should be included on every post you make (outside your own Priory group), as well as on every comment you make. We ask this so that it helps members learn to which Priory each member belongs.

Even if you're only sharing a photo or an image, please add your signature to your post. It may seem odd as you're creating the post with only an image or photo, but rest assured, it will look just fine once you post.

If you're an Officer in your Priory, please sign like this:

- *Your Rank and Your Name
- *Your Priory Officer Title and Your Priory Name
- *Your Priory Motto (*English or Latin Version or both*)

If you're a Grand Officer, please sign like this:

- *Your Grand Officer Title and Name
- *Your Priory Name
- *Your Priory Motto (*English or Latin Version or both*)

If you're a Grand Officer and a Priory Officer, please sign like this:

- *Your Grand Officer Title and Your Name
- *Your Priory Officer Title and Your Name
- *Your Priory Motto (*English or Latin Version or both*)

Thank you!

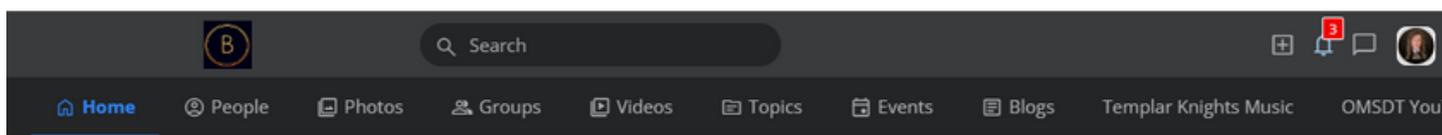
GSY Renee' Nordio
Prior, King David Priory
Cordis ad Deum (Heart for God)

BELIEFBOOK



As we head into the final month of 2025, it's been a year of growth for the Order; adding lots of new members, and it seems like that trend will continue. Having our own social media site, BeliefBook (BB), is just one aspect of our Order that sets us apart from the others. As most of you know, BB operates much like Facebook in a lot of ways, but it does have some unique features.

One feature that many may be overlooking is the Notifications function. Your notifications can be found at the upper right top of the BB Home page, indicated by a number in a red box over the bell icon. (see image)



Please use your Notifications to be sure you don't miss new posts that have been created, as well as ensuring that you don't miss comments made on the posts you've made, or to be notified if you've been tagged on a post. Click on the red box and it will give you a drop-down menu listing your notifications. At the bottom of that menu, click on 'View All Notifications'. It will open a screen with all your notifications; listing every new post made in Groups, notifications of comments made on posts you've created, and notifications if you've been tagged on a post.

You can't rely on just scrolling down the Home feed to see everything. Because it will take a LOT of scrolling to see if you've been mentioned in a post or if someone asked you a question on one of your posts.

If you're not using the Notifications function, you're likely missing a lot on BeliefBook. Also, please be sure to post to a Group rather than just creating a post from the Home page. Members only receive notifications when posts are made to Groups. And, lastly, be sure you are posting in your Priory group AND the OMSDT Worldwide group twice a week. Make the most of your BeliefBook experience by getting to know everyone by not missing anything and by being engaged with our sister/brotherhood!

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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

SHOP FOR THESE CHRISTMAS-THEMED SHIRTS OR CHECK OUT ALL THE ORDER AND TEMPLAR-THEMED GEAR. GRAB A HAT WHILE YOU'RE AT IT. SEE THEM ALL AT OUR BONFIRE STORE. LINK BELOW.



OMSDT KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BONFIRE STORE

[HTTPS://WWW.BONFIRE.COM/STORE/KNIGHTS-TEMPLAR-OMSDT/](https://www.bonfire.com/store/knights-templar-omsdt/)

OMSDT LEADERSHIP

ORDER LEADERSHIP

Grand Master (GM)
Rick Trujillo

Grand Prior (GP)
Derek Nordio

Grand Seneschal (GS)
Mark Snurr

Grand Secretary (GSY)
Reneé Nordio

Grand Turco (GT)
Marc Blaydoe

Grand Chaplain (GC)
Fr. (John) Kelmy Rodriguez

PRIORY LEADERSHIP

Priory of St. Luke
Grand Seneschal (GS)
Mark Snurr

Priory of King David
Grand Secretary (GSY)
Reneé Nordio

Priory of St. Sebastian
Prior Bruce Bennett

Priory of St. Michael the Archangel
Master Commander (MC)
Paul Aguilar

Priory of Joan of Arc
Prior William Ryan

Priory of St. Helena
Master Commander (MC)
Amanda Moreno

Priory of the Calvary Cross
Master Commander (MC)
Michael Creel

Priory of the Holy Trinity
Master Commander (MC)
Nicholis Ahik

All International Priories
Grand Prior (GP) Derek Nordio

