

THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight

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Right Eminent Grand
Commander of Texas

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Sir Knight

Michael Cote II

Editor

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Photo Courtesy:
SK Michael Cote II

Sir Knights,

Thank you so much for the confidence you have placed in me to be your Grand Commander this year. This journey has been nothing short of incredible. It has been an honor to meet so many of you at schools of instruction, inspections, conferences, and various other functions over the past nine years.

During my travels, I've listened to many Sir Knights express their thoughts over what they would like to see our Grand Commandery accomplish for our beautiful Order. With that in mind, I am implementing new programs and trying to strengthen some of our existing ones as well. One of the first changes is this newsletter. Now that it is not printed in our monthly magazine from the Grand Encampment, we have much more flexibility. This new layout will provide a better tool to communicate information, announcements, reminders, and other spotlights throughout the year. You will see several links to click on in this edition as well as future ones. Please click the links and see what all is going on. It is my hope that all Texas Sir Knights are as enthusiastic for Chivalric Masonry as your Grand Officers are this year.

In His Service,

T. Chance Chapman
Grand Commander

2023-2024 GRAND OFFICERS



Photo Courtesy:
SK Charles Broussard



Chance Chapman
Grand Commander



Justin Bauer
Deputy Grand Commander



Jason Lesikar
Grand Generalissimo



Gary Rock
Grand Captain General



Ralph Royall
Grand Senior Warden



Ricky Cox
Grand Junior Warden



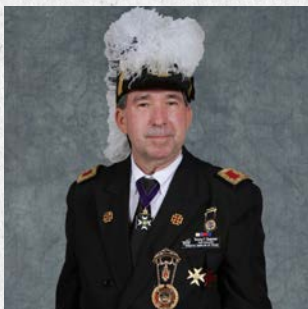
Daniel Bowden
Grand Prelate



Hunter Schappaugh
Grand Treasurer



Ronnie Wilson, PGC
Grand Recorder



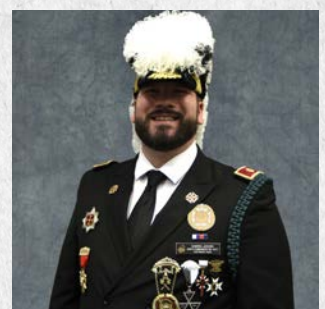
Tommy Chapman
Grand Standard Bearer



Judge Risley
Grand Sword Bearer



Christopher Little
Grand Warder



Gabriel Jagush
Grand Sentinel

2023 GRAND COMMANDERY RECAP



2023-2024 PROGRAMS

"Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked, and Bind Up the Wounds of the Afflicted."

Commanderies are encouraged to participate in a Food Drive, Clothes Drive, and raise money to donate to the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, the Scottish Rite Hospital, Shrine Hospital, Grotto Dental Care for Children program, or a similar program that helps those in need.

More information on this program can be found on the Grand Commandery website. [Feed](#). [Clothe](#). [Bind](#).



A.P.O.A.S. Commandery

The newest Commandery in Texas! A.P.O.A.S. Commandery will shortly be set to work, and we are looking for new members. This Commandery will serve as a history-preserving, educational, and unique experience Commandery. Membership is open to all Sir Knights in good standing. Meetings will be held with an experience for Sir Knights in mind. More information will be supplied shortly!



Penny-A-Day

Want to help the financial standing of the Grand Commandery of Texas? Consider supporting the 2023-2024 Penny-A-Day program! Any Sir Knight who contributes \$36.50 (or a dime-a-day) will receive a special coin in recognition of his contribution. Currently, we have raised **\$3,041.00!** For donations of \$75, a limited encapsulated silver-tone coin will be presented; and for \$150, a limited encapsulated gold-tone coin will be presented. If you choose to become a **"Chief Donor"** and contribute \$225, you will receive the 3-piece set of encapsulated coins for display with a certificate, and be recognized at the 2024 Grand Conclave!



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2023-2024 PROGRAMS

Grand Commander Lapel Pins



To commemorate this year, a custom lapel pin has been made for Sir Knights to wear when not in uniform to support the Grand Commandery! It depicts the Grand Commander's logo for this year, which features a triangular shape (to remind us of that we are to be the 12th Apostle of our Savior), bearing this year's motto, and the Texas rosette. These are at no cost to Sir Knights, but donations are appreciated.

Reverse Summertime Advent Calendar



While most shelters and pantries receive donations near the holidays at the end of the year, we must always remember as Templars, we need to be in the spirit of giving all year! This year, with aim towards the Summer heat, we will be conducting a statewide “Reverse Advent Calendar” of non-perishable goods for a food pantry or homeless shelter of your choosing. A list will be released in the coming months of one item a day we will recommend you gather during the month of August. This will be a very inexpensive donation, but it will require your time in service to others. This should go hand-in-hand with the Feed the Hungry Program mention earlier.

Acts 20:24

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

CONTINUED TEXAS PROGRAMS

Permanent Endowment Fund

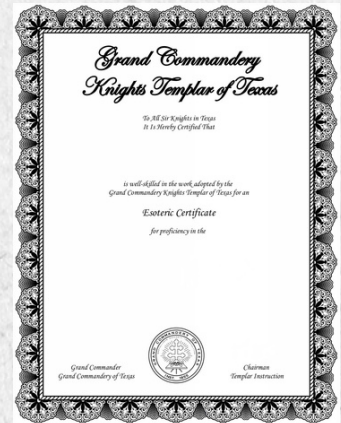
The [Permanent Endowment Fund](#) was created to provide a long-term resource that supports the goals and efforts of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas. Your financial assistance of \$250 for a starter badge will help further the success of the annual Grand Communications, as well as support the efforts of Texas DeMolay and Texas Rainbow, support the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, and subsidize any such other item as voted on by this Grand Commandery, as funds allow. For any addition \$150, a Diamond will be added to your badge! Your badge can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform above your left chest!



Esoteric Certificate Examinations

Please remember that the Grand Commandery of Texas has continued the esoteric certificate program for 2023-2024. As exam dates are made available, a listing will be provided.

You can also reach out to a Grand Officer or your District Committeeman to schedule an examination if one has not been scheduled in your area. Click [here](#) for more information on the procedures and requirements for earning a certificate.



Member Citation Cord Awards

Any Sir Knight who has been the first line signer for a total of three petitioners, who are either knighted or restored to membership since January 1, 2016, is eligible to receive the Member Citation Cord Award. There are various levels represented by different colors, to show your quantity of recruitment or restoration. Those being restored to membership must have been off the active roll for a period of one year or more in order to qualify in the count. The total is cumulative with no time boundaries. When [awarded](#) with a cord, it is to be worn on your left shoulder.



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GRAND ENCAMPMENT PROGRAMS

The Crusader's Cross



The Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. has a number of donation programs most being recognition programs. One of which is joining the Grand Master's Club. These are contributions of \$1,000 which can be accumulated over time. The Crusader's Cross is a badge to thank our individual Sir Knights. The \$1,000 level has the single, larger cross in the center. Each additional \$1,000 is identified with an additional small cross in a quadrant until all four quadrants are occupied. The various levels of the Crusader's Cross are displayed. There are 25 total variations. Recipients of The Crusader's Cross may wear it on the right side of the class "A" uniform.

Sid Dorris III Endowment Fund



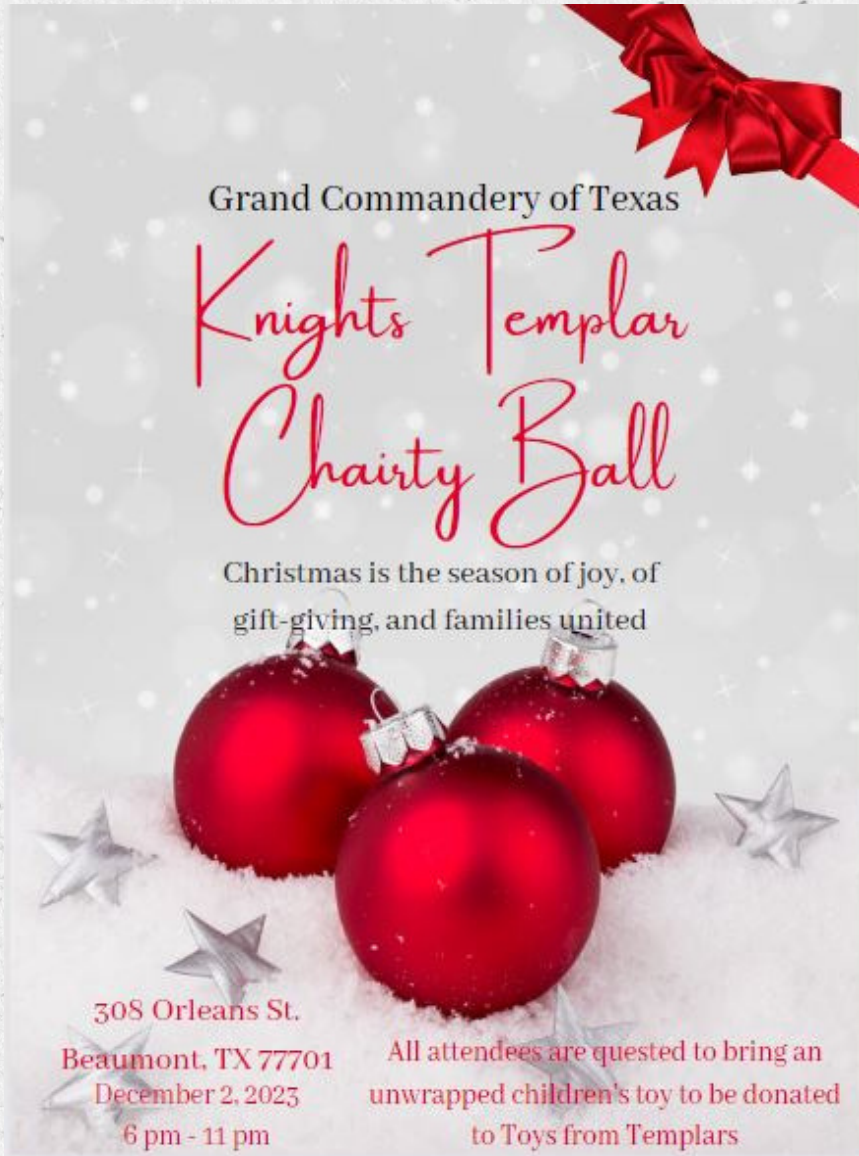
A Knight, a Commandery, a Knight's lady, or anyone else can make a contribution in any amount to the Endowment at any time. Any contribution of \$1,000 or more result in the donor being recognized in the Knight Templar magazine just like the members of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation Grand Master's Club. These \$1,000 contributors will also receive a Sid Dorris III Endowment Fund medal to be worn on the right side of the class "A" uniform.

Commissioned Templar Chaplain



The Grand Encampment has developed a training program for Chaplains. Long thought of as simply officers who read a prayer, or pray for the sick, Chaplains of all bodies should be leading officers in all Masonic bodies. The structure of the course is 12 units, each self-paced and requires reading, watching short videos, quizzes on the materials in the readings and lectures, and then short projects devised to immediately impact the lives of members of the organization. The course enrollment is \$75 with a \$25 textbook sold separately on Amazon ("On Being A Masonic Chaplain"). In token of your completion, you will receive a jewel which can be worn on your right side of your Class A uniform!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Come celebrate the Christmas Season with our Right Eminent Grand Commander and his Lady in Beaumont! On December 2, we will have the first Knights Templar Charity Ball. All are asked to bring an unwrapped toy that will be donated to needy children. Come enjoy music, dancing, food, and fellowship! Tickets will be available later in the year.

MONTHLY MENTION

Ablution /ə'blʊʃən/:

"The act of washing oneself."

In Christian practices, an abluion is performed with the intent of purification or dedication.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

District Schools:

District 1- TBD

District 2- TBD

District 3- June 3, Registration at 9 am, School at 10 a, Fort Bend

District 4- June 17, Registration at 1 pm, School at 2 pm, Corpus Christi

District 5- August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9:30, Ivanhoe

District 6- June 17, Registration at 8 am, School at 9 am, Worth

District 7- TBD

District 8- TBD

District 9- TBD

171st Grand Conclave:

April 11-14, 2024

South Shore Harbour Resort

League, City, TX

SURVEY

Take the [Grand Commandery Survey](#) to help grow our Order!

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PRELATE'S APARTMENT



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

Sir Knights,

Thursday, May 18th, 2023, is the day we celebrate the ascension day of our Lord, Jesus Christ. To Christians, the Ascension signifies that Christ completed his work on Earth and allowed him to go prepare a place for his followers in heaven.

The book of Acts Chapter 1 verses 6-11 reads: 6So when they met together, they asked him. "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

So, Sir Knights, let us stop looking to the sky and go be a witness for our Lord Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. To complete the work, we have here on earth so we may be with our Father in heaven when the time comes.

This goes along with the scripture theme of our Grand Commander Chapman during this year, Acts 20:24 which reads:

24However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Let us pray: Lord, your holiness is perfect. We cannot fathom the beauty of your greatness and grace. I'm never going to be perfect, God, but I want to be an example of your kingdom in every moment of my life. Let my actions speak louder than words ever could. I pray the Holy Spirit will prompt the hearts of the people around me to want to know you more. Help them recognize that "something different" in me, your peace and your presence. Thank you for saving my soul so I might be your witness. In Christ's name, Amen.



A BLESSING FROM SIR KNIGHT & REV. SEAN LEICK

Greetings,

In 2023, the Day of the Ascension of our Lord is celebrated on Thursday, May 18th and I would like to offer a bit of scripture and commentary on the ascension of our Savior, Jesus Christ. While there are several passages addressing the ascension of Jesus, there is one that is immediately adjacent to, and relevant in a particular way, to another topic which is very much related.

"If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about Heavenly things? No one has ascended to Heaven except the one who descended from Heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." John 3:12-15

In John's narrative, the ascension of Christ is placed directly adjacent to the historical account of Moses and the serpent. In the book of Numbers, we are taught that venomous (brazen) serpents were sent by the Lord to plague the people wandering in the wilderness. God commanded that those bitten were to gaze upon the brazen serpent that Moses had erected upon a staff. In other words, the antivenom for the bite of the brazen serpent was to gaze upon the image of the very thing which had bitten them. The solution to the problem of the serpent was the serpent itself.

In the gospel of John, right next to the passage about Christ's ascension, we are reminded to gaze upon that which has bitten us. But what is biting us today? It is certainly not Jesus Christ who plagues us, damages our families, or brings about pain, suffering, or disharmony. What plagues our culture today is sin, and as Jesus became sin and suffered the consequences for our sake (2 Corinthians 5:21), we are to gaze upon our crucified Savior as the "antivenom" to our own sins. We are to look to him who took our punishment upon himself so that we might have life everlasting.

There is none among us who is not guilty of sin, and we are told "the penalty for sin itself is death." Romans 6:23. What then may we do to atone for our sins and avoid an eternal death in complete separation from God? Quite simply, we are to gaze upon Jesus Christ crucified (having taken our sins upon himself) and confess him to be our Lord and Savior. By doing so we have been given the divine promise of life everlasting, and ascension, as "co-heirs of Christ," to be in the presence of the Lord forever. Amen.

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MONTHLY UPDATES

THE GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

May 20: York Rite Conference -
Lubbock

May 25: Official Visit to
Southeast Texas Commandery -
Kirbyville

May 31: Guest Speaker at
Holland Lodge - Houston

Top 5 Knightings Ranking (April 1, 2023 - April 30, 2023)

1. Lone Star No. 114 - 9
2. Melrose No. 109 - 3
- T3. Corpus Christi No. 57 - 2
- T3. Tancred No. 93 - 2
- T3. Midland No. 90 - 2

Top 5 Reinstatements Ranking (April 1, 2023 - April 30, 2023)

1. Ascension No. 25 - 5
2. Corpus Christi No. 57 - 1
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. N/A

TEXAS HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Have you dreamed of visiting the holy land, the place of our Savior's birth? The place he was crucified? Where the stone was rolled back and we learned the ultimate price had been paid and our sins have been forgiven? The Grand Commandery of Texas is organizing a Holy Land Pilgrimage for you and your lady!

Space is limited. Reserve your spot [here](#).

Key Dates: Deposit due- July 31, 2023; Full amount due- December 31, 2023; Travel- April 30-May 9, 2024

What does the price include? Airfare, double-occupancy lodging, meals, tour guide, entrance fees, in-country travel

Contact: Reservation help- 215-572-7676 (Gate1Travel); [Justin Bauer](#) or [Edward Peebles](#)



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR
AIDE-DE CAMP



Sir Knights,

When I first wrote this segment over a month ago in preparation for the first publication, I would have never thought I would be entrusted with the opportunities that occurred at the last Grand Conclave. What indeed an honor it is for me to have the opportunity to participate within the Grand Commandery of Texas. I'd like to thank Right Eminent Chapman for his personal confidence, as well as the support of my Commandery, Stephenville No. 100. Lastly, I'd like to thank Sir Knight Jeff Bennett for his years of service as the Editor for the Grand Commandery, and look forward to his continued contributions to Templar Masonry.

Please find my contact information on page 1, below the Grand Commander's message. If you have any information you would like to share or be published in the future, or have any questions about what you have read, please send it to me! Together, we can "Finish the Race" and make this Templar year one to remember! I look forward to hearing from all of you very soon.