

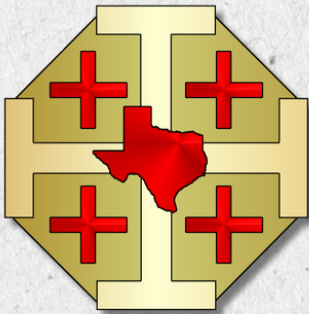
THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight
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Photo Description:
Recent Order of Malta with a multi-commandery degree team!

Sir Knights,

School is starting soon, summer vacations are coming to an end, and your daily commute may be more congested and take a few extra minutes. I find my commute time as an excellent opportunity to brush up on ritualistic practice. It's a great way to distract myself from the day's worries. It's a great way to improve my ritualistic proficiencies.

With inspection season coming up, please remember your district Grand Officers and members of Templar Instruction are also available to help you with floor work. Now is a great time to reach out to them and schedule a practice with them and your officers.

This month, your Grand Officers will be holding our mid-year meeting in Grapevine. A week later, your drill teams and Grand Encampment delegates will be traveling to Salt Lake City, Utah for the 69th Triennial Conclave. I ask that you keep us in your prayers for safe travels and a safe return.

And lastly, I ask for your help welcoming a new addition to our Grand Commandery family. Miss Makenzie Mae Lesikar, daughter of your Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Jason Lesikar and his wife Katie, was born on July 25th, 2024.

In His Service,

Justin C. Bauer
Grand Commander



69TH TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE



THIS MONTH



The 69th Triennial Conclave will begin with the drill competition on Saturday, August 17, 2024, followed by a “Pass in Review.” The Sunday, August 18th Divine service begins at 8:00 AM. The Grand Master’s reception is that evening. The business sessions will begin on Monday morning, August 19th with the public reception of distinguished guests and the grand commanders. The business session will continue on Tuesday, August 20th, with the Grand Master’s banquet on Tuesday evening. Installation will occur on Wednesday morning, followed by the session’s adjournment.

The Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City is the headquarters for the Triennial Conclave. This four-star property offers 850 luxurious guestrooms, complimentary in-room Wi-Fi access, down pillows, and other luxury amenities. The 10-acre grounds are beautifully landscaped with fountains, flower gardens, and over 300 trees. The experienced, friendly staff is dedicated to their tradition of hospitality and excellence. It is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City and just 10 minutes from the Salt Lake International Airport. Nestled between the Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountain Ranges in the magnificent Salt Lake Valley, Little America is within walking distance from shopping, restaurants, and cultural and sporting events. Other nearby attractions include historic Temple Square, the world-famous Great Salt Lake, and national parks, forests, and monuments.

If you are planning to fly to Salt Lake City, you can ride the light rail system TRAX Green Line from the airport to the 600 South station. The TRAX station is located on the ground level outside of the airport terminal on the east side (exit door 1A and go east). The cost is \$2.50 one way.

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PRELATE'S CORNER



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE SK BRAD BILLINGS, KCT

Sir Knights,

Do you consider yourself a sinner? Nowadays, it's almost universal for someone to say, "I'm a sinner, and you're a sinner, and there was only one perfect example." While I don't disagree with the sentiment of this statement, it leads some to believe that they can't help but sin and, therefore, should just continue.

So, what exactly is sin? It's a concept often associated with the Ten Commandments and the teachings of the Bible. But if we were to distill it down to its essence, sin is anything that deviates from God's plan. It's anything that doesn't contribute to the constructive unfolding of His divine design. And particularly, it's anything that squanders our most precious resource—time.

From a Biblical perspective, no example on this topic is more striking than Jonah's. God instructed Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach against their wickedness, but instead, he chose to flee to Tarshish in the opposite direction. As a glimpse into our Masonic teachings, Jonah tried to flee using the port city of Joppa. This story is easily seen as a metaphor for us choosing our plan over God's divine plan. While you can operate contrary to the designs of your life for a time, eventually, there will be a corrective incident that will set you back on your destined path. You can run away from your assigned responsibilities or the consequences of your actions, straying from what you know to be right and choosing a seemingly easier but ultimately harmful path. The main problem with this unhealthy exercise is the wasted time left in its wake.

With all the scrolling, social media, and Netflix binges of today, we live in an endless age of wasted time. On this topic, I would like to reintroduce two symbols that are familiar to all Knights Templar. The first is the hourglass introduced to you in the Chamber of Reflection; the other is the melancholy memento of mortality introduced in the Order of the Temple. Both are striking in their presentation yet simple in their message. Time is our most valuable asset; it is FINITE and passes almost imperceptibly until it is exhausted. The more we sin, the less time we spend on nobler deeds and more significant achievements. Let's not forget, time is a gift from God, and we must use it wisely.

Stones taken from the quarry were large and rough in their natural state. But we, who make mistakes and perpetuate sin, continue to chisel away the flawed parts. One day, that stone will be perfectly squared by salvation, but how much material will remain? That is up to us. And, while the smaller building blocks are as necessary to the edifice as the foundation stones, they have a different place in the pantheon of merit. Do you wish to achieve nobler deeds? I submit that this can best be achieved by circumscribing sin and limiting desires (not necessarily all bad) that don't aid in your mission to accomplish what God has called you to do. Let us all redouble our efforts and remit the remaining years of our lives to deeds of more exalted usefulness.

Please pray with me:

Almighty God, I approach your throne seeking guidance and wisdom for the path you have laid out for me. Let your plans be implemented in my life. Please give me the strength and determination to prioritize the time I have left to build your Earthly Kingdom. Give me the courage to follow what you have called me to do with unwavering faith, and help me to let go of all distractions that lead me away from Your purpose. Teach me to use my time wisely, to seek Your presence in all I do, and to align my actions with Your divine plan.

Thank You for Your endless grace and patience. Guide me each day as I strive to live a life that honors You, making the most of the time and opportunities You have given me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

AUGUST

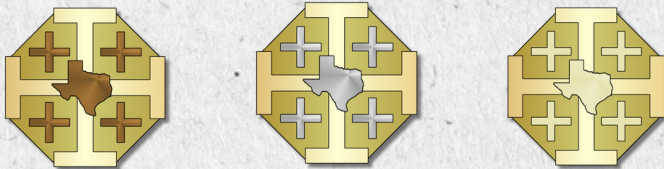
9-11 - Grand Officer's Mid-Year

16-21 - Grand Encampment's 69th Triennial
Conclave (Salt Lake City, Utah)

SEPTEMBER

9-11 - Grand Officer's Mid-Year

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE



The Grand Commandery is offering, for a donation to the Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation, a Holy Land Pilgrimage Badge. The badge may be worn by contributing Sir Knight purchasing the same as a part of his Templar Uniform. **The first 100 Sir Knights to purchase a full badge shall receive a sequentially numbered badge, which shall designate them as one of the Charter Donors.**

Pledge support today and reserve yours [HERE!](#)

SAVE THE DATE



172nd Annual Grand Conclave
4/10/2025 - 4/13/2025
Embassy Suites - Grapevine



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II



Sir Knights,

I appreciate those of you who have reached out with gracious comments about this publication. I am in debt to many valuable Sir Knights whom I rely on for assistance in building communication platforms for information. Summer time of 2024 is here in full force! In templary in particular, it is a Triennial year. I wish safe travels to each who are going to Salt Lake City to support our Grand Encampment. I know each of you will represent Texas well! As always, please remember to send in pictures to my email, which can be found on the cover page in the lower left corner!
