



# GRAND COMMANDERY OF NEW MEXICO

State Supplement for March 2025

[www.nmyorkrite.org](http://www.nmyorkrite.org)

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**James E. Bungard, REGC**

Good Sir Knights of the New Mexico Division!

St. Patrick's Day will soon be upon us and as the Irish say, "top of the day to you". I would be remiss if I didn't mention St. Patrick's Day in reference to our Past Jr REGC, who always likes to tell people just before playing "America" on his bagpipes during St. Patrick's Day celebrations, "We are all a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day, but no matter what, we are all 100% American". I can't agree with him more and I especially love the wonderful sound of those bagpipes.

As we enter March the weather is starting to warm up and winter will soon be behind us. While I have a strong attachment to winter, I do look forward to the longer days and warmer evenings.

As we travel through March, we as Knights Templar must prepare ourselves regarding the purpose of the Lenten season. It is during this time that we can reflect on the meaning of our relationship with God and the meaning of the gift of salvation. However, more importantly it is a chance to reflect on death for we are all born to die. Thankfully, Lent ends with re-birth in the resurrection; we all have the chance at re-birth thanks to the sacrifice made for all mankind.

As you reflect on the gift of salvation, also give thought to the life that you want to lead moving forward. We can celebrate the gift of rebirth by changing how we lead our lives. We Sir Knights share a common faith, even though we may celebrate and observe Lent with different traditions. Therefore, I would encourage every Sir Knight to spend some time during these forty days reflecting, praying or meditating on the meaning of salvation, your relationship with God, and how you can improve that relationship.

We each voluntarily knelt at that alter where we picked up that sword and that buckler. Today, I ask that we again pick them up to do battle with the internal, so we might improve that house and find pleasure and meaning in the oaths we took.

The New Mexico Grand Lodge Annual Communication will occur this month in Hobbs, NM and I would like all Sir Knights to try to attend. The registration link is: <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/148th-annual-communications-of-the-grand-lodge-of-new-mexico-afandam>. There is also a link to the Grand Lodge registration form located at the bottom of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico web site.

I would also like to invite all Sir Knights to the 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico which will begin on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Our formal activities will

take place at the Ballut Abyad Shrine Center, located at 6600 Zuni Road SE, in Albuquerque. The registration link can be found at: [nmyorkrite.org](http://nmyorkrite.org) under Annual Session.

Prior to the 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we will convene a meeting of the Past Commander's Association at 7:00am.

The 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico will convene on Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am followed by the reception of distinguished members, guests, and visitors to our Grand Commandery. Lunch will be at 12:00pm. The afternoon session to finish all remaining business will start at 1:00pm. Installation of the Grand Commandery Officers elected and appointed to serve for the ensuing year will take place at 2:00pm.

A Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner will be held Thursday evening at the Ballut Abyad Shrine Center Ballroom, with all the revenues exceeding expenses generated going directly to help send ministers in the future (subject to conditions in the region) from New Mexico on the trip of a lifetime to the Holy Land. A Social Hour before dinner will start at 5:00pm followed by dinner at 6:00pm. Appropriate dress for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner is business casual or Commandery uniform.

The Memorial/Vesper Service will start at 4:00pm on April 11, 2025, Friday afternoon (just prior to the Social Hour).

Be well! In service of Christ,

James E. Bungard, REGC