

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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Frederick (Fred) R. Kemp, REGC 2025-2026

From the Grand Commander

Sir Knight Frederick R. Kemp, Right Eminent Grand Commander

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has written the current article for this supplement.



My Thoughts:

I have been approached by several Sir Knights who are Roman Catholic, are having concerns about the stance the Roman Catholic Church has on Masons. I can only state my own opinion, which with \$2 dollars you can buy a drink at McDonalds.

I will admit that I have had a lot and still have a lot of emotional stress on this subject. I was baptized minutes after being born as a Catholic and was raised as a Roman Catholic, went to Catholic grammar school. My family was raised on the Roman Catholic religion. So, when the Pope declared that belonging to Masons was a Mortal Sin, it caused me to have a lot of anxiety. As a Roman Catholic I know that being in a state of Mortal Sin you cannot receive communion. Yes you can go to confession and be resolved of your sins, but you must be sorry for then and promise not to repeat them. I am not sorry for being a Mason, so therefore I cannot ask to be forgiven. Masonry and York Rite mean a great deal to me. I look at the good we do. Looking at the bible I do not see where it would find fault in our order. I know that the church teaches us that Jesus told Peter the sins that you forgive on earth are forgiven heaven, and the sins you hold on earth are not forgiven. But like the article in the Spring 2025 *Knight Templar* magazine I cannot believe that Jesus would condemn our fraternity. Yes, there may be some rogue groups that give us a black eye, but that is not the full fraternity.

So, yes I still struggle with the Pope's declaration. But I also believe that the Church is made up of men and politicians. They can be wrong! The church's own history teaches this. I am not trying to persuade anyone to my way of thinking, but I feel that I must at least give you my views.

Don't give up your faith! Jesus is our Lord and Savior. If you must, talk to your parish priest. Keep in mind he must follow the rulings of his superiors.

Frederick R. Kemp

Right Eminent Grand Commander

2025-2026

2026 Grand York Rite Sessions

The session will start on Thursday, August 31, 2026, at 8:00 AM with the conferral of the Order of the High Priesthood which will be followed by at 10:00 AM by the conferral of the Order of the Silver Trowel. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM and after lunch, at 1:00 PM, the Kansas Association of Past Commanders will induct new members into the Association. The meeting of Kansas College No. 125 of the York Rite College will be held at 3:00 PM and Ashmole Court No. 17 of the Masonic Order of Athelstan will meet at 4:00 PM. The Past Grand Presiding Officers Association will have their annual meeting at 5:00 PM and will be followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 PM, all will gather to commemorate the lives of those who have passed to the celestial lodge above at the necrology service.

On Friday, May 1, registration starts at 7:30 AM and the 160th Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons will have a public session at 8:00 AM which will be followed by the tiled session at 9:00 AM. Installation for the 2026-2027 Grand Chapter Officers will be held at 11:00 AM with lunch to follow at 12:30 PM.

The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will host their 159th Grand Assembly with a public session at 1:30 PM which will be followed by the tiled session at 2:30 PM. Installation for the 2026-2027 Grand Council Officers will be held at 4:30 PM. The Perpetual Life Committee will have their annual meeting at 6:00 PM, and the annual awards banquet will follow at 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 2, will be the final day of activities for the 2026 Grand York Rite sessions and will start with a breakfast for the Past Grand Commander's wives at 6:30 AM and the Knights of the York Cross of Honor will have its annual meeting to elect worthy candidates at their 6:30 AM breakfast meeting. Registration will open at 7:30 AM and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas will reconvene its 158th Grand Conclave at 8:00 AM with a public opening session and the tiled meeting will start at 9:00 AM. Installation of the 2026-2027 Grand Commandery Officers will be held at 11:00 AM.

All members are invited to attend. Dais officers of the constituent Chapter, Council, and Commandery are highly encouraged to attend and vote on the business held at the sessions.

To register, or for more information, visit www.kansasyorkrite.org.

2027 Triennial Drill Team Competition

We had a fantastic time working on our Knight Templar drill skills together on March 29 in Emporia. We have a few new members who are desirous of joining with us in preparing to drill at the Triennial Session in 2027. The session will be held in Burbank, California. We will have someone driving to Burbank who will transport our swords and other paraphernalia. That should help in getting all of our items there and in being ready for the competition.

Sir Knight Justin Crippen, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Kansas, is still seeking more members for the Kansas Knight Templar Drill Team. If you are interested in marching, and in the Knight Templar Drill Team, please contact Sir Knight Crippen for more information.

We are looking at putting together a team to compete in either the Class D or Class E team during the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA Triennial session. That decision will be made sometime after the 2026 Grand Commandery Conclave in Manhattan, Kansas on May 2, 2026. Stay tuned for more information which will be forthcoming!

