

Templars of the Plains

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas



June, 2026

Patrick C. Carr,
Right Eminent
Grand Commander

2026-2027

From the Deputy Grand Commander

Sir Knight Justin D. Crippen, KCT, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander

The Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



Good day to you Sir Knights:

I hope this communication finds you well. As we start our new Templar year here in Kansas, I would like to guide you on a few things. We are charged with a great task. We are to carry the torch that our forefather's in Knight Templary have passed to us. We must continue to grow both in our faith and in our fraternity as well.

Sir Knights you have to want to engage both your Commanderies and your community. Times have changed and we are in a period where some have to be shown that their time is of value. If you are showing up to meetings and not doing anything, or even trying to learn the movements, then your Companions and Sir Knights will not come back. You have to create and show the beauty of these degrees and orders in the York Rite. The stories matter, and they have to connect with the candidates or we will have wasted their time and ours as well.

With that said, as we continue to secure our future, things will continue to change. The leadership team is here to serve YOU our Sir Knights. We are working on new programs and different things to help our Commanderies to gain momentum. However, that only works if you put in the effort to seek further light in Masonry. Look for these new programs to start next May.

If you missed the Grand York Rite Sessions at the end of April and the beginning of May, you missed out on a lot of fun and excitement. If you did miss out, why? Did you know it's in our statutes for at least the three dais officers to attend. All officers and members are welcome. This is YOUR Grand York Rite! Hopefully you will make plans to attend soon next year.

During the session, we passed legislation to bring Kansas to a 100% life sponsorship for all Sir Knights in the state.

It has been an honor to serve you, my fellow Sir Knights! It has been the opportunity of a life time. I am also honored to announce we have a drill team, the first since 1996, and they are training to compete in the Drill Competition in 2027 at the Triennial session for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America! The Triennial will be held in Burbank California in August of 2027.

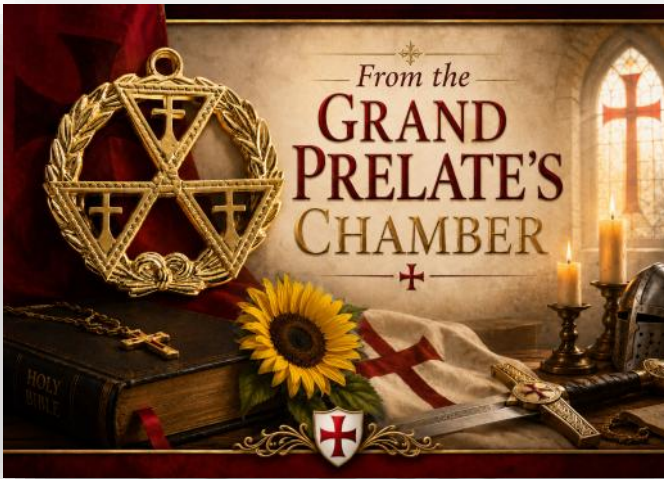
I leave you with this quote, one of my favorites: "Do or do not, there is no try."

Fraternally yours,

Justin D. Crippen

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

May the love of Christ be continually felt by each of you.



Sir Knights, I would like to begin a series of articles reflecting on the Lord's Prayer. As Sir Knights, we have the blessed privilege of praying the very prayer our Master taught us. Yet we may ask ourselves: have we truly taken the time to consider what this prayer means?

Over the next several articles, I will divide the Lord's Prayer into segments and share how each portion has inspired me. I want to state from the beginning that these reflections and interpretations are my own. If you find yourself seeing a particular phrase differently, perhaps these articles may still provide food for prayerful consideration.

Let us begin this series with some historical background. The Lord's Prayer appears in two places in the New Testament: Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. The version found in Matthew is the longer of the two

and is given during the Sermon on the Mount. Luke's version is shorter and is given after the disciples ask the Savior to teach them how to pray.

This prayer has been an essential part of the Christian faith since the earliest centuries of the Church. In the *Didache*, one of the earliest Christian writings outside the New Testament, Christians were instructed to pray the Lord's Prayer three times a day. Today, the majority of Christians continue to recite this prayer in worship services, Eucharistic rites, private devotion, and prayerful meditation.

This seemingly simple prayer, easy enough for a child to memorize, has proven spiritually deep enough that the Church has spent nearly two thousand years praying it, studying it, and striving to live by it. Within its few lines, we find reverence, surrender, dependence, forgiveness, temptation, deliverance, and hope.

Next month's article will focus on the opening words of the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name..."

In Christ,

Gary Strout

Sir Knight Gary B. Strout, CTC, Eminent Grand Prelate

June Grand Commander's Schedule

The Grand Commander will be traveling to represent Kansas Templary around the country and will also be making his official visit to the following Commanderies:

Missouri Grand York Rite Sessions	June 11, 2026	St. Louis, Missouri
Heartland Job's Daughters Grand Bethel	June 11, 2026	Wichita, Kansas
Day the War Stopped	June 12-14, 2026	St. Francisville, Louisiana
Junction City Commandery No. 43 Official Visit	June 16, 2026 @ 6:00 PM	Junction City, Kansas
Esdraelon Commandery No. 49 Official Visit	June 18, 2026 @ 6:00 PM	Iola, Kansas
Consecration of Alabama Court No. 20, MOAUSA	June 20-21, 2026	Birmingham, Alabama
Askelon Commandery No. 6 Official Visit	June 22, 2026	McPherson, Kansas
Great Plains Rendezvous	June 27, 2026	Russell, Kansas
Kansas KYCH Meeting	June 28, 2026	Baldwin City, Kansas