

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma



Mark K. McFadden
Right Eminent Grand Commander

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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Sunday, November 30, 2025

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 7, SERIES 2025-2026

To: The Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
The Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
The Officers and Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, and to whom
it may concern.

This General Order consists of the Christmas Observance Messages, which include the Toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment's Response, the Toast to the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma, and the Grand Commander's Response.

This General Order shall be read at the head of the lines in each Constituent Commandery during your Commandery's Christmas Observance or at the first Stated Conclave after its receipt.

Attest:

Mark K. McFadden
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Jon B. Greene, KTCH
Grand Recorder

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE and THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2025 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple,
wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom

~

Salutations and Knightly Greetings

A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER CHRISTMAS 2025

Most Eminent Grand Master Kussman as we near the season where we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is also that time where we celebrate and acknowledge your accomplishments for this past year, and to that end we, your Sir Knights, gather to offer a toast in your honor.

Prior to Jesus' birth, both Mary and Joseph, because of a census ordered by Caesar Augustus, were required to travel from Galilee in the city of Nazareth to Judea a trip of roughly 70 miles. I can only imagine how painful it must have been for Mary, near her due date, to make that journey, and grateful we are that Jesus, our Savior, came into the world for us.

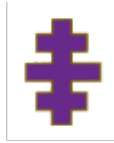
It has been my pleasure to, on several occasions, travel with you and watch your interactions with our fellow Sir Knights. You are always happy and cheerful to greet those you haven't seen for some time, fellowshiping with them, and renewing old acquaintances. When asked, you willingly set aside what you are doing to offer a prayer no matter whether in public or in private. Yours is an office well lead, and we are well served by you.

Our toast for you is to give thanks for the way in which you serve us, your Sir Knights, the way you represent our Grand Encampment, both here in the United States and elsewhere around the world, and the humility in which you do it. Our prayer for you is blessings of safe travels for you, and when she is traveling with you, your Lady Kim as well, and our Lord's protection of good health too.

So now we raise our glasses with a shout of joy and say well done Sir Knight, well done Most Eminent Grand Master!

In Jesus' Holy Name,

The Reverend Paul D. Erickson, KGC, Chairman
The Committee on Religious Activities
The Reverend Robert J.F. Elsner, KGC
The Reverend Terry L. Plemons, KGC



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

CHRISTMAS 2025

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, the members of the Committee on Religious Activities, and all Knight of the Order wheresoever dispersed:

Knightly Greetings!

The sentiment offered is such that I am deeply impressed by its affirmation on our efforts of spiritual service to our Order of Knights Templar.

Today I make a noble appeal for Christian Knights to renew with vigor their efforts to affect the ideals of our Order.

At no time within the memory of our Sir Knights has the world and even our own country swayed as much as now and lamentably there appears to be a letting down in matters spiritual. It is a season when we are inspired by the birth of the New Light, the New Life, the New Law from which comes the New Commandment – “That we love one another”.

I trust there is cheer in your hearts as you are gathered on this Christmas Day 2025 to offer your devotions to Him who died that we may live.

Lady Kim and I reciprocate heartily your salutation and to each of you and to those in whom you are most concerned, we return our sincerest and heartiest best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

In His Service...

Courteously,

⚔ *David J. Kussman*

David J. Kussman, GCT
Grand Master



The foregoing toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2025.

*Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in the State of Oklahoma
From the Apartments of the Grand Prelate
And the Religious Activities Committee
On behalf of all Sir Knights in Oklahoma*

A Toast to Our Grand Commander

Christmas 2025

Christmas is the time we celebrate the birth of our blessed Savior. Let's look at Matthew chapter 1. *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* – Matthew 1:20-21. As Joseph was not afraid to follow God's will, we should not be afraid to follow God's will.

Your passage this year is 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God." Sir Knights, as the Lord blesses us, let us share these blessings with others.

Right Eminent Grand Commander Mark McFadden, we pray that the Lord will continue to guide you in leading this Grand Commandery. That we may all serve the Lord our God to our fullest ability. On behalf of myself and all the Sir Knights in Oklahoma, we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas. It will be a continuous honor and pleasure to serve in this Commandery under your Leadership.

Blessings to you

Sir Knight Micah Foreman, Grand Prelate

Religious Activities Committee:

Justin McGee

Jon B. Greene

Grand Commander's Response

To the Excellent Grand Prelate, and Sir Knights:

Lady Donna and I want to thank the Excellent Grand Prelate for his most gracious toast this Christmas Season. As I reflected on his words, I asked myself how his message reflected on our lives as members of this Christian Order. During my tenure on Oklahoma's Grand Commandery line, it has been my honor and privilege on many occasions to travel to many Triennials, Conferences, and meetings throughout the United States and Oklahoma in particular.

One thing that always stands out in my mind is that no matter where we travel to, we are met by equally Christian-minded Sir Knights and Ladies who share our passion for Templary and the message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The joy of fellowshiping with friends, new and old, is indescribable, and the memories made will last a lifetime.

While the journeys to some of these locations can often be a trial of our patience, none can compare to the challenges Joseph and Mary must have experienced near the completion of her term. We have all grown so accustomed to the conveniences of everyday life that it is hard to truly relate to the struggles they must have faced as they made their way to Bethlehem. Need to be across the country tomorrow? Just grab your phone, and with a few clicks of your favorite travel app and airline, you are there. Need groceries, medication, clothes, etc? You can buy it online and have it delivered to your door tomorrow. What would the people of the Holy City think of such conveniences?

The message I have tried to convey this year is that of Servant Leadership. Something Jesus himself gave us the most perfect example of. And I pray that I have served His and our craft well. Sir Knights, this is our mission. To serve our fellow man, to live each day in His image, and to pay the homage due to the Grand Captain of Our Salvation.

Lady Donna and I pray that you and your families have a wonderful and blessed Christmas season. And May Peace, Love, and Joy follow you throughout the year to come.

In His Service,
Mark K. McFadden
R.:E.: Grand Commander