

# Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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Robert D. McClarty, REGC 2022-2023

## Give Thanks

*Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer*

*The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked his subordinate officers to write articles for the insert, and this month's article was written by our Eminent Grand Standard Bearer.*

It is that time of the year again. The holidays are quickly approaching and we are scrambling to complete tasks we thought we would have completed before it was time for them. There are meals to be made, gifts to purchase and wrap, and gatherings with family and friends which we are attempting to plan. During this most active time of the year, we sometimes forget to do what is the most important thing for use as Christian Knights. That is to pray and give thanks. The word thankful comes from the Greek word, charis, and it is translated as grace. I remember my Pop telling us to say "grace" before our meal and I was uneducated at the time as to what exactly he meant other than a prayer of thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is the time we should remember to pause and thank our Lord and Savior for all the many blessings we have been given throughout the last year. We remember not only the blessings we have received, but the blessings we continue to receive. Bring a Knight of the Cross should continually remind is to give thanks for the sacrifice made at Calvary.

So what do we do, now that we are remembering exactly what the season brings for each of us? First, we can give thanks for what we have, what we have had, and for what we are able to do for others. Second, we should be looking for opportunities to not only give thanks, but to share our blessings with those who are less fortunate than we are. One way to do that is to volunteer. Give of your time at a Thanksgiving meal supplied by the community. Purchase some extra groceries while shopping and donate them to the local food pantry. Open our purses to the many charities we are fortunate to represent as Masons. We can make a difference with our time and our financial resources. It does not take a lot to make a difference. Every little bit helps and that includes your time. So let us go out this season and give thanks for the grace we have continually received. We are fortunate and we can share our good fortune with those we encounter in our communities.

## *Honor Guard Activities for November*

November is here and that means Veterans Day! Our Grand Commandery Honor Guard will be separating and providing service to our state in two separate places.

Sir Knight Gary Mason will be leading a contingency of our Honor Guard at a special Veterans Day event at one of the school districts. They will be presenting the colors and assisting the local district with their Veterans Day observance.

Sir Knights Justin Crippen and Patrick Carr will be in Leavenworth, Kansas, leading a large group of Sir Knights from across Kansas. This is the annual Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade which we have marched in for many years. The Sir Knights will be doing something a little different this at this year's parade. This year there will be a vehicle pulling a trailer. This is to accommodate our Sir Knights who are having difficulty marching throughout this long and hilly parade. Many of our Sir Knights want to continue to participate in the parade, and providing them with a trailer to ride in will help them to be recognized as members of the Grand Commandery of Kansas without having to worry about being injured or having to drop out of the parade. The remainder of the Honor Guard will be marching in formation throughout the parade and following the trailer.

If you, or your organization, is desirous of having the Honor Guard come and assist with presenting the colors or any other detail, please do not hesitate to contact Sir Knights Justin Crippen or Patrick Carr. They will be more than happy to assist you in forming the Guard to participate in your event.

