

# GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MICHIGAN

State News for May, 2025

Web Site: [www.kt-mi.org](http://www.kt-mi.org)

SK Donald E. Murphy, KCT, REGC

*"Grow Michigan For The Future!"*

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## Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies, Companions and Brothers All!

Welcome to the May 2025 edition of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan update and Knights Templar Magazine Supplement.

The Captain General's Workshop was a success – great instruction, fellowship, and lunch. Thank you to Lansing Commandery No 25 for hosting. Detroit No. 1 provided



exhibition of Full Form Opening. Honor Guard and tactics instruction was also given. 17 of our constituent commanderies were present. A great benchmark and floor as we plan for next year and seek 100 percent representation at our primary annual spring event.

Easter observances and installation of officers are dominating the month as we move from April to May.

To the left here is our Eminent Grand Senior Warden and Sir Knights of the Central Battalion and Detroit Commandery No 1, at the Great Lakes National Cemetery for a service officiated by our Grand Prelate Sir Knight Darrell Brockway. Complete with processional marching to bell tower playing, singing of

Old Rugged Cross, Battle Hymn of the Republic, and Onward Christian Soldiers during march out!

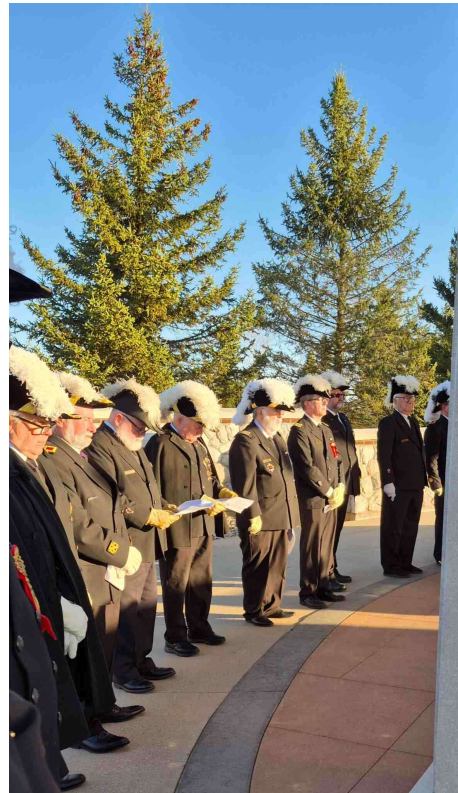


**Easter Sunrise Service – Fort Custer National Cemetery  
Sir Knights of Southwestern Battalion Enjoying an Easter Message**



Grand Prelate Darrell Brockway and Sir Knights

Detroit EC Alan McKay looks on!





Sir Knights, please contact our Grand Captain General if you plan to have an exhibition drill team at Bay City on August 16<sup>th</sup>. No drill is too big or small to enjoy with our annual pass and review. I have seen some nice smaller drills by Lexington No. 27 that present our beloved U.S. Flag, and Detroit No. 1 never disappoints under the command of Drill Captain Jack (Captain Jack....did you see what I did there? Could be Detroit 1, rum, or pirate).

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commandery Adam Wygant has had honor of installing officers at Adrian No 4, Jackson No 9, and Lansing No 25 this year. It is a joy to see new lines of officers forming and stations filled at our commanderies.



2025-2026 Officers of Adrian Commandery No. 4, Duly Installed

Sir Knights, get out there in the world that it can see our good works, the impacts of our philanthropies, that we light this world, and our Father in Heaven be glorified. Have a blessed May and please contact your Grand Commandery if you have Sir Knights that would like to be knighted at your commandery. We can help or just be there to see their special day. The Grand Commandery is happy to assist pulling together any Orders.

## **Simon of Cyrene**

### **S.K. James E. Rutherford, Grand Generalissimo**

I am going to tell you a story about a man we briefly see in the crucifixion story. Whose part feels even more important because we only get a glimpse of him. He's there for a moment then disappears, but seeing what he did and understanding the background tells us something very powerful.

His name is Simon of Cyrene. Simon had two sons, Rufus, and Alexander, they are with Simon coming into Jerusalem from the country for the Passover. Simon was from Cyrene in Africa, modern day Liberia. Simon of Cyrene is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. We also have Jesus this story, who Pilate had condemned to death by crucifixion. Now just for a moment, put yourself in Simon's shoes (you are Simon) as Jesus was walking out of Jerusalem escorted by the Romans, carrying his cross to Golgotha. You notice all kinds of commotion in the city, you push your way forward, and notice three men carrying their crosses to be crucified, as they were walking toward Golgotha. The crucifixion was a public event where Jesus and the two thieves, who were also condemned, were walking down the streets with people watching their progress. You are watching this, and you see Jesus fall for the first time, when Jesus fell, he did so near you. He looks up at you, and the Romans stop you, and they make you carry Jesus's cross. Back then some say it was just the cross beam which was made from the dogwood tree, it weighed 100 pounds, other theologians say that what Jesus was carrying was the full cross, if this is the case the weight would be 500 pounds. You are very faithful, and you carry this cross behind Jesus for an unspecified amount of time, possibly all the way to Golgotha. Public punishments were meant to be shameful events—victims had to be made into objects of ridicule, sending the community a message about what happened when you broke the law.

However, some people have talked about the medical side of crucifixion, which may give us a clue, it was common for crucifixion victims to be flogged beforehand, which we know happened to Jesus. This would partly be for humiliation, and because crucifixion kills people via cardiac arrest—so, losing blood beforehand prepped people to die quicker. Roman whips in that period were brutal, with multiple leather strips that had bits of glass or metal embedded in them. All these factors meant that when Jesus was carrying the cross, he was feeling very weak. The psychological stress of carrying his own execution instrument would have been too much for some people, his wounds and blood loss would have made it even harder.

So, it's very likely that the Romans noticed Jesus was having a hard time carrying the cross. Crucifixion was a well-practiced process for the Romans. Romans had to make

sure carrying the cross didn't kill Jesus from exhaustion. Getting someone off the street to carry the cross for Jesus was a simple solution to their "problem."

The reason why the Romans singled out Simon is hard to say. The Bible doesn't mention Simon of Cyrene before the Crucifixion, Simon's sons Alexander and Rufus were involved in the early Roman church according to the book of Acts. Why is his story important? While Simon of Cyrene isn't a major biblical character, he has a very potent role in the story of Jesus' death.

The fact that someone else was brought in to carry the cross reminds us that this was a public event. Jesus wasn't dying for our sins with just a few onlookers—like all crucifixion victims, his death was made into a public spectacle. Simon saw that Jesus needed help carrying his cross, and it emphasizes in this moment, Jesus was fully God, but also fully human.

Simon and you are walking behind Jesus, and you see the walk to Golgotha from almost the same perspective. He was seeing righteous people weep, the vicious people taunt, and you are close enough to Jesus that it felt like all this attention was directed on you and Simon as well. He got a secondhand taste of the burdens Jesus was carrying. As you take this walk with Jesus, you witness Him fall for a second time, and again a third time, you witness along this road His mother weeping with other women. At one point after the third fall a woman with a scarf wipes His face and you notice the imprint of his bloody face left on that scarf, what could possibly be going through your head at this moment, your name, Simon literally means "He who hears. Nobody, including Simon could have imagine the events that would unfold that day. Simon's role in carrying the cross behind Jesus reminds us of the posture God asks us to have as Christ-followers. We are commanded to take up our crosses and follow Jesus, knowing that we may be humiliated and broken in the process. The image of Simon struggling to carry a heavy cross, being pulled into the event's shame and pain, walking behind a man who was God incarnate, is a potent metaphor for what following Jesus looks like. You can see Jesus's face, it's bloody and bruised, and you can feel the weight that he was carrying. When you get to Calvary, you witness the nails being placed in his hands and feet, and His mother there weeping with a man who is called Her son by Jesus, you witness people passing by taunting Him, you hear people say to Him, save yourself, He has above His head the "King of the Jews". You witness a Roman soldier piercing His side with His spear and you watch as blood and water flowed. Finally, you Hear Jesus cry out saying, "Eli Eli lema sabachthani", My God, My God, why has though forsaken me. You then Hear it's finished. You are instantly touched, and you believe. Your conviction is so deep that you stay in Jerusalem until after Pentecost. We don't always choose the moment of our suffering. They come upon us in unexpected ways,

frightening ways, heavy ways, painful ways, seemingly random ways. In other words, the fact that Simon and you are chosen seemingly randomly — I mean, it just says he was coming in from the country — that little added note seems to say, “This is random — you think.”

This could be a lesson that every moment of our lives, we should be ready to be snatched into the service of Jesus in a painful way. And we just don’t know when. Simon was a real historical person, and he was there at a real historical moment. He was a foreigner, an African, who served Jesus in his final hour. Carrying the cross behind Jesus is a beautiful and painful picture of our calling as disciples, according to Luke 9.

Whether Luke intended us to see that or not, it’s true. The call to suffer for Jesus is often sudden and costly and seemingly random. Simon’s help proved to be both a relief temporarily, but also added suffering because it sustained Jesus to get to the cross and have the horrible experience of crucifixion for us. We know that when Jesus cried out to his heavenly Father in Gethsemane, he was given help. He needed help so that his obedience would not falter. God answered his prayers. These were the hardest hours of Jesus’s life.

As we meditate on all these details, oh, what love and thankfulness should rise in our hearts, from the events of this day, let it live in your hearts each day. Amen



## **ON THE RADAR**

Grand Lodge Installation – May 20<sup>th</sup> (Incoming Most Worshipful Master has requested a Templar Honor Guard, we should have good turn out from Detroit No. 1, Grand Commandery and other Constituent Commanderies, and perhaps DeMolay – Last year we had over 60!)

There should be several opportunities to march together in 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parades (please let me know if your commandery is hosting one so we can pass the word). There will not be a Cherry Royale Parade this year as we would like to focus energy on supporting parades that have an active Commandery presence in that town if possible.

If your commandery has candidates, your Grand Commandery is here to help give them a special day in your asylum. We are here to fill gaps as needed or organize traveling team. Don’t wait, we can help.

Grand Conclave Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan, August 16, 2025  
Bay City Double Tree. Request presence of dais officers and all sir knights who can  
attend this wonderful day which includes morning business session, drills and pass and  
review, Past Commanders Association, Installation, Divine Service, and Round Table  
Dinner.