



# MICHIGAN SUPPLEMENT

JUNE 2026

Web Site: [www.michigantemplar.org](http://www.michigantemplar.org)

SK Adam W. Wygant, REGC

## *“As He Died Let Us Live”*



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

Welcome to the June 2026 edition of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan update and Knights Templar Magazine Supplement.

#### **Grand Commander Message**



It has been a busy month and May is in the rear-view mirror. It is with sadness I let you know that Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight John Porrit passed into the realms of life and light eternal, on the morning of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Sir Knight John had been struggling but had hoped to join us in August at the Grand Conclave. He was a Vietnam Veteran and veteran of the United States Air Force. He was an interesting guy and I enjoyed chatting with him about Montana fishing. John was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton. He also was a member and past Master of the Linden Masonic Lodge #132 F.&A.M., the Flint Rapids Chapter #116 of Royal Arch Masons, Genesee Valley

Commandery #15, Elf Khurafeh Shrine Temple, the Order of Eastern Stars Chapter #175, Scottish Rite and Bay City Consistory, and the Linden American Legion Post #119. Please keep Lady Rachel in your thoughts and prayers along with the family as they grieve the loss of Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Sir Knight John.



Also keep Past Grand Commander Sir Knight Paul Roggow and his family in your prayers with the passing of First Lady Jean Roggow who passed away April 26<sup>th</sup>. We mourn with REPGC Paul over Jean's passing. Our Lord and Savior has conquered the grave and taken the sting out of death, but it is never easy losing loved ones even when there is hope eternal.

Until we meet again SK John and Lady Jean.

Please do your very best to look well to Bay City Michigan in August. The Grand York Rite sessions are a special time of business and fun. The fellowship is rich as we also do our business. The Grand Commandery earnestly solicits the involvement of all sir knights, but expects attendance and participation of each constituent commandery's leadership, dais officers and recorders.

Please keep up with the Grand Commandery website to see most current dates. Also, there is a special message from Sir Knight Darrell Brockway, information on the Grand York Rite Session, August 20<sup>th</sup> Fun Night, and 2026 Bark River Tour.

## Michigan Templar Notable Shots



Grand Captain General Sir Knight David Heise lead an impressive honor guard of Knights Templar and Knight Masons for the installation of Most Worshipful Grand Master Mike Roberts in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Thank you to all who supported this Grand Lodge installation and staffed the York Rite Information Tables.

Michigan Grand Commander SK Adam Wygant was shown great Oklahoma hospitality by the Right Eminent Grand Commander Sir Knight T.S. Akers and First Lady Aerial while in Oklahoma on business. REGC Akers and First Lady Aerial had invited Adam to a lecture on Victorian Art and more the Aesthetic Movement in England during the late 1800's. It was a great speaker and learning about 1800's art and music was a vivid change the science lectures Adam normally attends. After the lecture, the two Grand Commander's and First Lady got to know each other over awesome smash burgers at a local place within walking distance of the OKC Art Museum.



One of the best experiences of being active in the Masonic fraternity and especially joining a grand line is all of the many people you meet inside and outside of the state.

## Grace

Scripture teaches that our faith is enabled by grace. Through grace we are invited into a transforming relationship with God as we participate in the means of grace. These are practices that the Holy Spirit uses to either draw us to God, or enable us to know and grow in love for God and our neighbor. For Sir Knights, this may be participation in Templar observances, devotional reading of Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and acts of compassion and service to our neighbors. It is in this context that we encounter the presence of God in all its transforming and loving power. As we faithfully participate in the means of grace, God enables us to increasingly recover the divine image of love in which we were created.

**Sir Knight Darrell Brockway, EC , Pontiac Commandery No. 2**

## The Prelates Pen



**Greetings Sir Knight's All,**

### **PRAYERS OF OUR PRESIDENTS**

As we approach the 250th Anniversary of this Great Nation, I wanted to take a moment and share some of the prayers of the leaders that formed it.

“I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have the United States in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and

pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristicks of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation. Amen”

- George Washington <https://www.mountvernon.org>

John Adams attributed the War of Independence to “disobedience to tyrants is obedience to God.” citing Romans 13 as saying “those authorities are there for our good. When they cease to do good they cease to be in authority.” Speaking of King George III’s position toward the Colonies.

“If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”

- Ronald Reagan 1984 Prayer Breakfast

I submit to you regardless of the political party you subscribe to, God will raise up leaders and Nations and depose them as He wills (Job 12:23). It’s easy to see which leaders or Nations those are, they are the ones who follow the Word of God more closely in deed and action, as our Founding Fathers had done.

God willing, our future Presidents will humble themselves to the Divine Providence of our Lord and Savior.

**May Grace and Peace be multiplied to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gratefully - **Matthew G. Kent, PC, Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery KT of MI**



## **ON THE RADAR**

There are 4 months left in the Templar Year before August 22, 2026 and there is much to accomplish:

- June Instruction Season, our Instructor General, SK Ron Hessman and the Instruction Board instructors will be reaching out to schedule a time for school of instruction with each commandery. Please be proactive and discuss at an upcoming conclave to identify a date to ensure one is scheduled in 2026.
- **Rainbow Girls of Michigan Installation, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026** at 3:00 p.m. with a Templar Honor Guard. **PLEASE** plan to support the Honor Guard for their installation including the incoming Grand Worthy Advisor who is none other than the daughter of our own Sir Knight Steven Atkeson. Any questions please contact SK David Heise, Grand Captain General. Bring your Class A uniform and sword so you can participate. Location will be at the Doig Chapel, located on the campus of the Michigan Masonic Home, 1200 Wright Ave, Alma, MI 48801.
- Several Templar Orders throughout the state, please visit [Michigantemplar.org](http://Michigantemplar.org) for more details and the calendar. This includes June 6<sup>th</sup> in Reed City Michigan. Come on out to support these orders and new candidates.
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 170<sup>th</sup> Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan. This is important for all Sir Knights, but participation of dias officers from every commandery is expected. All past commanders should come and receive their Past Commander Association ritual. If you have any questions about grand conclave, please contact the Grand Commander SK Adam Wygant. The registration form for Grand York Rite session in Bay City Michigan August 20-22 has been included at the end of the Supplement.

**SIR KNIGHTS THIS SUPPLEMENT IS YOUR PLATFORM TOO, PLEASE SEND THE EDITOR CONTENT, PHOTOS, AND EVENTS TO SHARE WITH OUR GRAND COMMANDERY COMMUNITY. I KNOW SOME OF YOU HAVE INTERESTING CURRENT EVENTS AND TEMPLAR HISTORY TO SHARE. WE HAVE A PROUD HERITAGE SINCE 1850 AND GREAT THINGS HAPPENING TODAY – LETS TALK ABOUT IT.**

**SEND CONTENT TO THE EDITOR: [miktskadam@gmail.com](mailto:miktskadam@gmail.com)**

# AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY BARBEQUE

*Celebrate 250 Years of the USA!*

★ **Thursday, August 20th, 2026 • 7:00 PM** ★

★ **Barbeque Meal: \$40** ★

**Great Food ♥ Music ♥ Fun for All Ages!**

★ **A Night of Red, White & Blue Fun!** ★

**Register with your Joint York Rite Meal Registration Form**

**Bring your friends. Bring your appetite.  
Bring your patriotic spirit!**

2026 Grand York Rite Session  
Guest Meal Reservation Form  
August 20th – 22th, 2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ladies Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary requests \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your meal reservations from the following selections:

Grand Chapter RAM – Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2026

6:30 AM	Chapter Breakfast Buffet	No. _____ @ \$20.00= \$ _____
11:30AM	Ladies Welcome Luncheon	No. _____ @ \$25.00= \$ _____
12:00 noon	Companions Luncheon Buffet	No. _____ @ \$25.00= \$ _____
7:00 PM	<b>Informal Banquet</b> Dress: Casual	No. _____ @ \$40.00= \$ _____

Grand Council R&SM – Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 2026

7:00 AM	Companions and Ladies Breakfast Buffet	No. _____ @ \$20.00= \$ _____
12:00 noon	Ladies Luncheon	No. _____ @ \$25.00= \$ _____
12:00 noon	Companions Luncheon Buffet	No. _____ @ \$25.00= \$ _____
7:00 PM	<b>JOINT YORK RITE GRAND BANQUET</b>	
	Honey Lacquered Samon	No. _____ @ \$50.00= \$ _____
	8 oz. Filet Mignon	No. _____ @ \$50.00= \$ _____
	Grilled Portabella Mushroom	No. _____ @ \$50.00= \$ _____

Recommended Dress for the Joint York Rite Grand Banquet is:  
Grand Officers – Tuxedo/White Dinner Jacket with Collars. Ladies: Evening Attire.  
General Membership – Business Suits. Ladies – Sunday Best.

Grand Commandery K.T., - Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2026

7:00 AM	Commandery General Membership Breakfast Buffet	No. _____ @ \$20.00= \$ _____
10:30 AM	Encourage One Another Ladies Brunch	No. _____ @ \$25.00= \$ _____
12:00 noon	Sir Knights Luncheon	No. _____ @ \$25.00= \$ _____
7:00 PM	<b>Round Table Dinner</b>	
	Grilled Chicken Madiera	No. _____ @ \$50.00= \$ _____
	Crusted Whitefish	No. _____ @ \$50.00= \$ _____
	Cheese Ravioli	No. _____ @ \$50.00= \$ _____

Recommended Dress for the Round Table Dinner is:

Grand Commandery Officers: Full Dress Uniform w/o Sword and Chapeau.

Grand Officers of other Bodies: Tuxedos/White Dinner Jackets with Collars, Ladies, Evening Attire

Sir Knights – Full Dress Uniform w/o Sword and Chapeau. Ladies – Sunday Best.

Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration Fee (Per Companion) \$ **10.00**  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Michigan Grand York Rite Committee**

**NOTICE: Meal reservations must be postmarked by July 31, 2026.  
All Meal reservations postmarked after July 31, 2026, are  
subject to a Late Fee of \$25.00.**

Meal reservation cancellations will be honored prior to July 31, 2025.

**REMITTANCE MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATIONS!**

Please forward all meal reservations with remittance to:

MICHIGAN GRAND YORK RITE COMMITTEE  
c/o Cortland C. Rule  
4725 E. Gorman Road  
Palmyra, MI 49268

# Knights Templar Bark River Tour

September 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>



## **Lodging Accommodations**

Comfort Inn 617 E. Lakeshore Drive

Manistique, Mi. 49854

(906) 341-6981

## **Room Rates**

Standard Room two queen beds \$109.00 per night

King bed \$109.00 per night

Plus, Taxes (Limited Occupancy, Book Early)

# **2026 ANNUAL BARK RIVER TOUR & INSPECTION**

## **Thursday, September 24th**

Check-In at Comfort Inn Manistique (4:00PM)

6:30PM Dinner Buffet

7:30PM – 11:00PM Hospitality

## **Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:00AM – 12:00PM REGC James Rutherford Officers Meeting

12:00PM – 1:00PM Lunch

1:00PM – 3:00PM VEDGC Michael Hicks Forward Planning Meeting

1:00PM – 3:00PM Ladies Program

6:30PM Indian Lake Golf Course Dinner Buffet

8:00PM – 11:00PM Hospitality

## **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Bark River Inspection (2 hour drive from Comfort Inn)

Location:

Sunrise Commandery No.34

809 Carpenter Ave. Suite 3

Iron Mountain, MI 49801

9:30AM CST – 10:30AM EST Chamber of Reflection

10:00AM CST – 11:00AM EST Order of the Temple

12:30PM CST – 1:00PM EST Lunch (Cost to be determined)

Dinner on your own

7:00PM – 11:00PM Hospitality

8:00PM Bark River Ceremony

## **Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Check-Out & Drive Home

# Bark River Commandery No. 1313 Induction Ceremony

Are you a Member of Bark River Commandery No. 1313?

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_

Lady Knightie Knight \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join the largest Commandery in Michigan?

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_

Lady \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly send to:

Sir Knight David Heise

Email: [djheise@comcast.net](mailto:djheise@comcast.net)

Address:

3746 North Road

Clyde, MI 48049-3918

Or

Sir Knight David Hutton

Email: [ddhutton@gmail.com](mailto:ddhutton@gmail.com)

Address:

18887 Millard Road

Clinton Twp., MI 48036

## On a Hillside in Galilee

**(A message of faith presented to the Sir Knights of Pontiac Commandery No.2, and the Central Battalion, KT, by Sir Knight Darrell Brockway, PC, Prelate).**

Over two thousand years ago on a quiet hillside in Galilee something happened that would ripple throughout the ancient world. As the breeze stirred, a crowd gathered restless all drawn by a man unlike any other. He was not a king, not a cleric, not a soldier, or a zealot calling for war, but a carpenter. He was a man who would speak and the world would quietly begin to turn, and then he sat down. There was no throne, no platform, just a rock and a voice, and with his first spoken word “Blessed,” the ground began to break. What followed came to be known as the “Sermon on the Mount,” but it was never meant to be just a sermon. It was a revolution of the heart, a collision between heaven’s values and earth’s assumptions, and if we really hear what Jesus said that day, it will challenge our ideas about strength, justice, even what it means to follow God. So why does this message still matter? Because in a world filled with anxiety, division, violence and war, Jesus didn’t just teach us how to live, he revealed the kind of people God calls “Blessed.” And it’s not the rich and powerful, but the poor in spirit, the peace makers, the ones who mourn, the merciful, and the forgotten. Jesus said the meek, not the dominant, will inherit the earth, and in speaking so, he would break every rule the world believes about power. Because what he said on that hillside wasn’t meant only for his audience that day. It was meant for you and me.

Jesus spoke and began to teach them saying, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). With that one sentence Jesus overturned everything the world thought it knew about blessing. In that moment Jesus wasn’t giving comfort, he was redefining reality because the crowd that gathered before him had lived under Roman oppression. They had been taught that blessing looked like wealth, status, and religious perfection. However, Jesus looked at the broken, the outcasts, and the humble and called them “blessed,” not because of what they possessed, but because of who they were becoming. Blessed are the poor in spirit, not the proud, but those who recognize their deep need for God, the marginalized, the ones who come to the throne, not with accolades, but with empty hands. Jesus says that is where the kingdom begins.

Then he continues, “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4). This isn’t just sentiment, it’s an invitation to feel, to weep over brokenness, sin, and injustice, to know our tears are not wasted. Jesus promises comfort not by removing sorrow, but by walking beside us.

“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). Now this is where the crowd likely took pause because weakness was not a virtue in that world, or in ours. It sounded like weakness, but in Jesus’ kingdom meekness is having the ability to retaliate but choosing instead to love.

Now here comes the verse that drives the rest of his sermon. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). Jesus is speaking to those who feel an ache, those who long not just for justice in this world, but for holiness in themselves. Jesus is showing the life God created for us to live. And then he begins to describe the kind of people who receive God’s grace. They are the faithful, the merciful and the pure of heart. He paints a portrait of a believer, not defined by outward power, but by inward purity.

Now just when it seems that blessing means comfort and reward Jesus delivers the next line. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake” (Matthew 5:10). “Blessed,” not despite persecution but because of it, because when you live like this, you will not easily fit into the existing world view.

What Jesus said next must have shocked even his closest followers. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17). The crowd likely held its breath because these were people shaped by centuries of tradition, raised on the Law of Moses, and now Jesus was speaking as if he had authority not only to interpret the Law, but to complete it. But Jesus wasn’t discarding the Commandments, he was reaching deeper, into the soul of his listeners.

Jesus continued, “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:20). That would have landed like thunder

because the Pharisees were seen as the gold standard of righteousness. However, Jesus is pointing to something higher, not more rules, but more depth, not stricter performance, but deeper surrender.

Jesus continued his discourse. “You have heard that it was said ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy,’ but I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:43-44). This isn’t a metaphor. He means it. In a culture built on honor and revenge, where Roman soldiers could strike you with impunity and Hebrew zealots dreamed of revolution, Jesus wasn’t challenging personal grudges, he was undermining the very system of retaliation that defined their world, and ours. Because if we are honest, loving our enemies is still the command we avoid. It sounds beautiful until it costs something, until the adversary has a name, a face, a memory, until blessing the one who hurt you feels like betrayal. However, listen to what Jesus says next: “that you may be like children of our Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:45). This isn’t about being nice. It’s about becoming more like God the Father.

Jesus spoke about much more, but I will close with Matthew 7:12. Jesus tells us, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” This is the heart of Jesus’ teaching. It’s called the “Golden Rule,” but we rarely grasp how extraordinary it really is. Jesus isn’t just saying be passive, avoid harm. He is calling us to be proactive in love and mercy. This means taking the first

step. It means choosing kindness before it is earned, compassion before it is convenient. This is not emotional sentiment. It's spiritual warfare, the kind that pushes back against a world of indifference and self-interest. And what's even more stunning is what Jesus attaches to it. "This sums up the Law and the Prophets," said Jesus. In other words, all the Commandments, all the covenants, and all the ancient scrolls find their fulfillment in this one posture, "Treat others the way you would want God to treat you." The more we live with open arms toward people, the more we begin to trust that God is holding us in his. The "Golden Rule" isn't soft. It's bold and when it's practiced by Spirit-led people, it can only mean good things for the Kingdom of God, and its people.