



MICHIGAN SUPPLEMENT

AUGUST 2026

Web Site: 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 August 2026 edition of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan update and Knights Templar Magazine Supplement.

Grand Commander Message



I can't believe it, but this is my last time writing the Michigan Supplement, the 15th or 16th edition I have prepared. That means my time as your Grand Commander is ending soon, 21 days but who is counting. It has been an honor and a gift to serve in your Grand Commandery line these past 5 years. The courtesies extended to myself and Lady Holli have been heartwarming. Our friendships are Templar Treasure. I am hoping to see a lot of you at our Grand Conclave, it should be a wonderful day. If you have not gotten your registration done, you are now late and should contact Sir Knight Cortland Rule – THIS WEEK. TODAY. It is also time to register for Bark River 2026 as well. See you in the UP eh!

God bless and keep you. God bless our Order of Christian Knights!

Michigan Templar Notable Shots



Michigan Grand Commandery had a good presence at the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Illinois Grand Conclave this month. Sir Knights Kennedy, Wygant, Rutherford, Hicks, Heise, and Monroe enjoyed the Land of Lincoln. In our spare time, we were able to enjoy visiting President Lincoln's home and also the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

OPC - While not exactly Templar related, the York Rite Sovereign College of North America annual assembly in Des Moines, Iowa was a special event this year. Michigan had 8 sir knights receiving their Order of the Purple Cross.



Missing from photo is Past Grand Commander SK Shawn Bashore. This class of new Michigan OPCs enjoyed a wonderful order and commoradery.



The 8 new OPCs were supported by Sir Knights Cooper (Grand Governor), Herlihy (Regent), Kennedy, Wygant, Waterman, and Sobran (Deputy Governor). A very proud day for Michigan York Rite.



Also supporting the new OPC candidates were several Michigan Ladies. The Saturday evening had some featured entertainment that included an singer who belted out Fiddler on the Roof favorites.



This month, Grand Commandery Officers and our Knights Templar Eye Foundation Chairman SK Jim Groat had the honor of visiting the University of Michigan, W. K. Kellogg Eye Center to follow up on a \$100,000 grant to Dr. Diana Gallego.

Dr. Gallego related that her project challenges the traditional view of childhood glaucoma. Glaucoma is usually thought of as a disease caused by high pressure in the eye, but some children keep losing vision even after that pressure is controlled. This research asks an exciting new question: Could the immune system also be driving damage to the optic nerve?

A rare disease may unlock answers for many more children. Singleton-Merten syndrome is very rare, but because it combines chronic immune activation with childhood glaucoma, it offers a powerful window into how inflammation and the immune system may harm the eye. Studying this rare condition could reveal mechanisms that apply to much more common causes of childhood vision loss.

The team has created a first-of-its-kind mouse model to watch the disease unfold. By developing a genetic mouse model that mimics Singleton-Merten syndrome, researchers can study when and where immune activity begins in the eye, which cells are most vulnerable, and how optic nerve damage progresses over time.

The work could point toward entirely new treatments, not just pressure-lowering therapies.

Current glaucoma treatments mainly focus on lowering eye pressure. This project could identify immune pathways that can be targeted to protect the optic nerve directly, opening the door to therapies that preserve vision in children who do not fully respond to existing treatments.

The broader impact could extend beyond childhood glaucoma. If immune activation is shown to contribute to optic nerve degeneration, the findings may reshape how scientists and clinicians think about many optic nerve diseases, including conditions beyond glaucoma where inflammation may play a hidden role.

Sir Knights, this visit to the University of Michigan was amazing, touring the W.K. Kellogg Center. During the visit, other researchers told us stories how the Knights Templar Eye Foundation grants helped them get their start and how much they appreciate our philanthropy. They were also interested in us, what drives us and what brought us to our journey. We were able to share how the eye foundation fits in our core believes to bind up the wounds of the afflicted, that our faith in Christ serves as inspiration to emulate him to heal the sick. Please continue to give liberally to the eye foundation, the money is needed and it is the spark to understanding eye disease and development of therepies and cures. We are giving sight to the blind, sir knights, just as Jesus did.

Prelates Pen

Welcome to August and our approaching 2026 York Rite Grand Sessions in Bay City at Hilton Doubletree Hotel! I hope to see y'all there. It has been an amazing year and I have enjoyed seeing my fellow Sir Knights at many different events throughout the State. I am very Grateful to our Right Eminent Grand Commander Adam for this appointment and I pray I served him, our Grand Commandery and the Sir Knights of Michigan favorably, more importantly, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When I was asked to fulfill this august duty, the words of our Lord as stated in Matthew 18:6 ran through my head: "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

I read Ephesians 6:10-18 and after much prayer (2 months) and a discussion with Lady Neely, I asked REGC Adam if he still considered me for Eminent Grand Prelate. I was very happy with his answer, then the nerves hit! I was very unworthy of the Office I just accepted and realized I needed God more than ever if I was going to be even the

slightest bit successful. Fortunately, it was by His Grace, Lady Neely and that of the good Sir Knights that I was able manage. Although, I still feel like a mule at the Kentucky Derby. I know I'm not going to win, but I'm in great company!

There are three scriptures that I leave you with, ones that I really enjoy:

Joshua 24:15

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Numbers 6: 24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

Greatfully – Sir Knight Matthew Kent, Eminent Grand Prelate 2025-2026

TEMPLAR FAITH

Worshipping God, telling Christ's story, looking to Scripture, and praying are activities we do together as a Commandery. ***While we are not a religion nor a specific denomination, we nevertheless encourage each Sir Knight to grow in his faith.*** As Knights Templar we understand that faith is a gift of God. Faith in Jesus is made possible by God's grace through the Holy Spirit. Faith is needed for our salvation, which we understand as forgiveness (justification) and living a holy life (sanctification). Even though we have been sinful, God pardons us because of our faith in his Son. Faith enables us to accept God's love for us and understand ourselves to be pardoned. It is essential to God's saving work. When we are forgiven, we are also set free to begin living a new life. Being forgiven allows for the opportunity to become better men, living for God, for family, and country as Sir Knights.

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



ON THE RADAR

There is three weeks left in the Templar Year before August 22, 2026 and there is much to accomplish:

- **Michigan DeMolay, August 14 to 16, 2026, Battle Creek, Michigan.** If you are able to come support our Masonic Youth, I know they would love to have us. Saturday evening is the big banquet and installation. Registration is due by July 24th. Please contact me if you are interested in registration information at miktskadam@gmail.com.
- ******Grand Conclave****** August 22nd is the 170th 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. Registration was due July 31st. Contact Sir Knight Cortland Rule NOW if you need to register.
- **Bark River Tour** – September 24-27th. Information at the end of this 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



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 20th 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	Informal Banquet Dress: Casual	No. _____ @ \$40.00= \$ _____

Grand Council R&SM – Friday, August 21st 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	JOINT YORK RITE GRAND BANQUET	
	Honey Lacquered Salmon	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 22nd , 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	Round Table Dinner	
	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

★ *Divine Service Program* ★



170th ANNUAL CONCLAVE
GRAND COMMANDERY of KNIGHTS
TEMPLAR of MICHIGAN

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON HOTEL
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48708
AUGUST 22, 2026

AS HE DIED, LET US LIVE

Pledge of Allegiance and The National Anthem: All

Opening Remarks: Grand Prelate S.K. Matthew G. Kent

Meditation: 2 Corinthians 5:15

Invocation: Grand Prelate S.K. Matthew G. Kent

Introduction and Remarks: Grand Prelate Elect S.K. Dean Barr

Welcome: Grand Commander S.K. Adam Wygant

Opening Prayer: Grand Prelate Elect S.K. Dean Barr

Homely: Grand Prelate S.K. Matthew G. Kent

Let us renew our love and dedication to the Lord: All who choose repeat the following:

Heavenly Father, I come to You in Jesus' Name. I believe You died on the cross, rose again, and You're seated on the throne.

Forgive me, for all that I have done wrong. And I choose to forgive all others. Come into my life. Today and forever, I am Yours, in Jesus' Name Amen.

Lord's Prayer: All

Offering: Holy Land Pilgrimage

Closing Remarks: Grand Commander S.K. Adam Wygant

Song Selection: Battle Hymn of the Republic

Closing Prayer: Grand Prelate Elect S. K. Dean Barr

Closing Song Selection: Onward Christian Soldier

September 24th – 27th

Manistique, Mi. 49854

(906) 341-6981

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 25th

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 Three Seasons Café Dinner Buffet

8:00PM – 11:00PM Hospitality

Saturday, September 26th

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 27th

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

Address:

3746 North Road

Clyde, MI 48049-3918

Or

Sir Knight David Hutton

Email: ddhutton@gmail.com

Address:

18887 Millard Road

Clinton Twp., MI 48036

Meal Reservations

Bark River Tour 2026

Thursday Evening Dinner at Hotel

Comfort Inn 617 E. Lakeshore Drive, Manistique, Mi. 49854

Time: 6:30PM

Menu: Buffet

Swedish Meatballs, Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Tossed Salad

Beverages at Hospitality Room

Cost per Person \$24.00 X _____ Total \$ _____

Friday Lunch at Hotel

Time: 12:00PM

Menu:

Chicken Noodle Soup and Various Pita Wrap Sandwiches

Beverages at Hospitality Room

Cost per Person \$23.00 X _____ Total \$ _____

Friday Night Dinner

Location: Three Seasons Cafe

6770 W US Highway 2, Manistique, Mi. 49854

Time: 6:30PM

Menu: Buffet

Soup, Salad Bar, Chicken, Meatballs, BBQ Ribs, Potatoes and Gravy, & Vegetable.

Coffee and Soft Drinks

Cost per Person \$30.50 X _____ Total \$ _____

Please Make Checks Payable To:

David Heise

3746 North Road

Clyde, Mi. 48049-3918

Reservations due no later than Tuesday, September 8th, 2026