



MICHIGAN SUPPLEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2026

Web Site: www.michigantemplar.org

SK James DeGuise Rutheford, REGC

EDITOR/AUTHOR James DeGuise Rutherford

norruth0123@yahoo.com

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies, Companions and Brothers All!

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



Grand Commander Message

Welcome to the Michigan supplement for 2026-27, I am James E.J. DeGuise Rutherford, KCT the newly installed 171st Grand Commander of the great state of Michigan. My theme for this year is "Let Your Light Shine" this is taken from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5, verse 16, I encourage you to read it. My whole theme this year is built around the Commissioned Templar Chaplin program offered by the Grand Encampment. This program teaches us the gift of Empathy and how to listen to others who are struggling with burdens or just need someone who will listen and not judge. This is where the Chaplains are trained to work. I encourage everyone to look at this program and consider taking it, the cost is \$80.00 however the benefits you get out of this program outweighs the cost. I look forward to seeing you at your upcoming inspections. Let us all work together to make this a successful year for everyone.

Let your light
SHINE



Prelates Pen TEMPLAR FAITH

Introducing Our New Right Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knight Dean Barr, KT – Champion of the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program

The Sir Knights of the Michigan Grand Commandery are pleased to welcome **Sir Knight Dean Barr**, as our new **Right Eminent Grand Prelate**. A devoted servant-leader throughout Michigan Masonry, Sir Knight Dean brings decades of experience in pastoral support, Masonic education, and compassionate leadership to this honored role.

Sir Knight Dean has long been a guiding presence in his Blue Lodge as Chaplain, and he extended that commitment statewide while serving as **Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Michigan** and **Grand Chaplain of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Michigan**. Within the Commandery, he served faithfully as **Prelate of Detroit Commandery No. 1** for two years and now leads the Commandery as its **Eminent Commander**.

Among his many distinctions, Sir Knight Dean was the **first Prelate in the state of Michigan to become a Commissioned Templar Chaplain**—a milestone that underscores his dedication to spiritual leadership within our Order.

The **Commissioned Templar Chaplain program** is a profound opportunity for Sir Knights who seek to deepen their capacity for service. This program teaches us that true chaplaincy is rooted not in speaking, but in *listening*. Through training, reflection, and practice, Commissioned Chaplains learn to empathize more fully with our brothers, companions, and fellow Sir Knights, offering support that is both meaningful and sincere.

Sir Knight Dean's commitment to promoting and expanding this program will help strengthen the spiritual heartbeat of our Commandery. His vision is rooted in the belief that every Sir Knight deserves to be heard, understood, and encouraged; values that lie at the very core of Templary.

We congratulate our new Right Eminent Grand Prelate and look forward to the continued growth of the Commissioned Templar Chaplain program under his leadership.

2026 Grand Session:

We had a great weekend on August 20-22, 2026, several awards were given out, we congratulate the new Knight Commanders of the Temple and MSA recipients. SK Stephen Striggow was presented the Knight Templar Cross of Honor. We had one new Companion of the Temple; Lady Dawn Hutton received this honor for all she does in supporting our Order.

SK Adam Wygant served this Grand Commandry for five years and held the office of Grand Commander for almost eighteen months, we congratulate him on leading with honor and distinction. SK Adam has made a huge difference in Michigan, and he is to be commended for all the hard work he has done to make Templary stronger through out the East Central Department. Congratulations Adam!



ON THE RADAR

- **Bark River Tour** – September 24-27th. Information at the end of this Supplement.
- **Commandry Inspections start after Bark River**

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 norruth0123@yahoo.com

September 24th – 27th



(906) 341-6981

Plus, Taxes (Limited Occupancy, Book Early)

2026 ANNUAL BARK RIVER TOUR & INSPECTION

Thursday, September 24th

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

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

