



Issue #5 – July 2026

Thumb York Rite

Caro Royal Arch Chapter #96

Thumb Council #90 | St. George Commandery #52

Mount Moriah #226 | Hubbard Winsor #420

www.thumbbyorkrite.org

Upcoming Dates

Mount Moriah #226

1st Wednesday of the month | Fellowship 6:30 | Lodge 7:30 |

Hubbard-Winsor #420

3rd Monday of the month | Fellowship 6:30 | Lodge 7:30 |

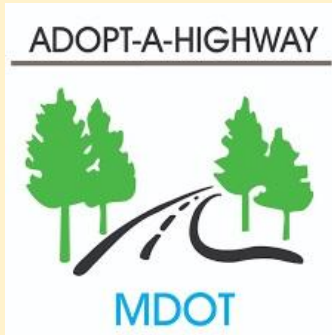
Thumb York Rite Bodies (RAM, Council, Commandery)

3rd Thursday of the month | Fellowship 5:30 | Gavel 6:30 |

Due to Grand York Rite Sessions – NO Thumb York Rite in August. We will resume September 17th at 6:30pm

Updates and Upgrades

Things are happening here at the Thumb York Rite! Please see the below snippets of the most recent happenings around the Lodge, State and Country.



Roadside Pickup

The 2nd Adopt-A-Highway roadside pickup is in the books for 2026. Our Brothers gathered at Mount Moriah for a quick round of donuts provided by WB Roger Morris. Supplies were then gathered and we set off for our adopted section of M-81. Due to a very successful initial cleanup we only managed to find roughly 4 or 5 bags of garbage from the roadside. We were blessed with good weather for this event as well!



Numbers Don't Lie!

We are happy to announce that we've had excellent attendance throughout the Thumb York Rite meetings. Our quorums have been met and with petitions steadily trickling in we are excited for our future growth. We thank all guests that have visited us during our meetings and appreciate them filling in for a few regulars that have not been attending their roles.

Auditing the Rolls

Caro Royal Arch Chapter #96 has been going through our books as well as MAYRIS to reach out to Companions that we haven't heard from in some time. If you haven't been to a Convocation in years or haven't been in contact with any members you are at risk of being removed from the rolls. Secretaries are reaching out - don't miss their calls and keep an eye on the mailbox.

Free Heroes Dinner

Save the date for **September 12th** as we host our Free Heroes Dinner!

Masonic Majesty Meals, Tripod Transformations Photography and the Thumb York Rite have gotten together to put on a dinner for our brave and steadfast local heroes. This dinner is free of charge and is open to any hometown hero and their family.

If you are a first responder, firefighter, nurse, doctor, active or retired service, or any profession that helps the general welfare of the community, please join us from 1 pm to 7 pm at the Caro Masonic Center.

Dinner will be a spaghetti and sides buffet as well as hot turkey sandwiches. Take-out and local delivery will be available for our heroes who are busy being heroes. We will also have a portrait studio setup for free patriotic photos for you.

Come let us celebrate your service!



Mark Master Mason

Ritual Practices

Save the dates for our upcoming ritual work practices. PLEASE attend if able so a select few don't carry the entire burden. It's your job.

Wednesday, Aug. 3rd

Caro Masonic Center
Post Mt. Moriah's Regular
Communication (8:30pm-ish)

Saturday, Aug. 8th

Caro Masonic Center
Practice starts at 1 PM

Keep Cool, Stay Hydrated!

As we continue to navigate this persistent heat wave, please remember that looking out for one another starts with taking care of ourselves. Whether you're working outdoors or traveling to meetings, make sure you are drinking plenty of water throughout the day—don't wait until you're already thirsty to hydrate.



The Plume and Sword

Grand York Rite Session

The Michigan Grand York Rite 2026 Session is right around the corner. The location for this year is at the Doubletree Hotel in Bay City and runs through the whole weekend.

Thursday, Aug. 20th

Grand Chapter of RAM of Michigan

Friday, Aug. 21st

Grand Council R&SM of Michigan

Saturday, Aug. 22nd

Grand Commandery KT of Michigan

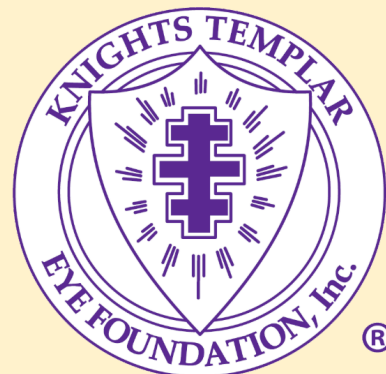
Seeing the Future: The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

Since 1956, the **Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (KTEF)** has been dedicated to a vital mission: saving sight and preventing blindness. What began as a direct care assistance initiative has grown

into a powerful force for scientific discovery, contributing over \$190 million toward research, medical education, and patient support.

Today, the Foundation puts a special emphasis on our youngest generations. By funding **Career-Starter Research Grants** for promising scientists and doctors, KTEF helps accelerate breakthroughs for childhood eye conditions like pediatric cataracts, glaucoma, and retinopathy.

Through strategic partnerships with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, KTEF also sponsors global education centers and clinical data registries—giving eye care professionals the tools and training needed to treat patients effectively. Whether funding cutting-edge lab work or supporting access to care for those in need, the Foundation continues its long-standing legacy of service to preserve the gift of sight.



Tales from the Crypt

The **Cryptic Rite**—commonly known as the **Royal and Select Masters**—is one of the most unique and philosophically rich branches of Freemasonry, sitting within the York Rite system. It serves as the historical bridge connecting the lessons of the Master Mason degree and the Royal Arch Chapter. While other bodies focus on the loss and subsequent recovery of sacred truths, the Cryptic Rite centers on the preservation of those secrets in a safe hiding place before they could be lost.

The system is anchored by two principal degrees—**Royal Master** and **Select Master**—alongside an optional, highly dramatic side degree called the **Super Excellent Master**. In the Royal Master degree, candidates explore the building of King Solomon's Temple and interact with master craftsmen, delving into themes of mortality and devotion. The Select Master degree takes place deep within the subterranean "Secret Vault" beneath the Temple, where companions uncover profound allegorical lessons about fidelity, the preservation of the law, and the ultimate destiny of humanity.

The Cryptic Rite fills in the narrative gaps of Masonic lore, explaining *how* the sacred treasures were hidden and *who* guarded them through times of turmoil. For York Rite Masons, completing the Council provides the missing pieces of the traditional legend, rounding out a journey that culminates before moving on to the chivalric orders of the Knights Templar.



Chips from the Chisel

Hubbard-Winsor Lodge No. 420



Greetings Brethren! We are continuing to meet throughout the Summer and were just blessed with a visit from our acting BGP WB John Cooper. As District 18 doesn't have its own BGP or DDI, WB John Cooper from Port Huron has been asked to work with our District, for now. We are so glad he has made the commitment and we were glad to have him visit for fellowship and our July Regular Communication. Our fellowship before the meeting was strong and we enjoyed a fine meal provided by WB Steve Kinde. There is a renewed focus on our building improvement project. Brothers Scaddan and Boyce applied some paint samples to the Lodge walls for further discussion, and have provided a digital rendering of the Lodge and flooring concepts. We applaud our Brother's ambition and drive to see this Lodge shine and to grow the Lodge on a community level. Speaking of which, we are planning on going to the Bayport Fish Sandwich Festival on 7/31 for a Masonic Meet-and-Fellowship event. If you have available time please try to attend and meet up with the Brothers on-site about 5pm. We plan to wear casual Masonic garb to highlight who we are while actively participating in the local community. Any Mason, along with family and friends, is welcome to join us for some entertainment and fish sandwiches Friday. We look forward to seeing you there.

Washington's Secret Weapon? A Borrowed Book

One of the most surprising facts about Freemasonry is that **George Washington was sworn in as the first President of the United States using a Masonic Bible**—and that exact same Bible is still used for presidential inaugurations today!

The Bible belonged to **St. John's Lodge No. 1** in New York City. On April 30, 1789, during the inauguration ceremony at Federal Hall, someone realized at the last minute that they had forgotten to bring a Bible for the oath of office. Robert R. Livingston, who was both the Chancellor of New York and the Grand Master of Masons in New York, quickly borrowed the altar Bible from his nearby lodge.

Since Washington took his oath on it, that exact 1767 King James Bible (now known as the **George Washington Inaugural Bible**) has been used to swear in several other U.S. Presidents, including:

- Warren G. Harding (1921)
- Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953)
- Jimmy Carter (1977)
- George H.W. Bush (1989)

When it's not being escorted under armed guard for official ceremonies, the historic Bible is still maintained and preserved by St. John's Lodge No. 1!



★ 2026 ★
 BAY PORT

FISH SANDWICH FESTIVAL

• A Classic Summer Tradition in BAY PORT, MICHIGAN •

Delicious Fish Sandwiches - Live Music - Family Fun

— **FRIDAY - JULY 31** —

12 PM - 8 PM

— **SATURDAY - AUGUST 1** —

11 AM - 7 PM

★ **FREE Live Entertainment** ★

Friday, July 31 • 6 PM - 9 PM

Saturday, August 1 • 7 PM - 10 PM

★ **Food ★ Fun ★ Community** ★



★ **Bring your lawn chairs & celebrate summer!** ★

FREE HEROES DINNER

Let Us Honor Your Service

Inviting all of our:

Law Enforcement

Fire & Rescue

EMS • Dispatchers • Nurses

Active Service & Veterans

Spaghetti

or

Hot Turkey Sandwich

Plus many sides!

Free Patriotic Portraits!

September 12th 1pm-7pm

Caro Masonic Center

156 N State St.

Caro, MI 48723



Hosted by the Thumb York Rite of Freemasonry

www.thumbbyorkrite.org

FRATERNAL EDUCATION & TRIVIA

MASONIC VOCABULARY MATCH



Test your knowledge of Lodge officer titles, traditional emblems, and Masonic terminology.

Instructions: Match each numbered Masonic term on the left with its correct lettered definition on the right. Write the letter of the correct definition in the box next to each number.

MASONIC TERMS

DEFINITIONS

☐ 1. Worshipful Master	A. An uninitiated person or eavesdropper who seeks unlawfully to gain access or secret knowledge.
☐ 2. Senior Warden	B. An emblem of innocence and purity, recognized globally as the primary badge of a Mason.
☐ 3. Junior Warden	C. The elected presiding officer of a Lodge, responsible for ruling and governing the brethren.
☐ 4. Tiler (or Tyler)	D. An emblem of morality, truth, and virtue, instructing Masons to square their actions by the square of virtue.
☐ 5. Masonic Apron	E. The second-ranking executive officer who assists the Master and presides over the Lodge in his absence.
☐ 6. Square	F. An emblem teaching equality among all men, reminding us that we meet upon one common level.
☐ 7. Compasses	G. The officer stationed outside the outer door of the Lodge to guard against unauthorized persons.
☐ 8. Plumb	H. An emblem reminding Masons to circumscribe their desires and keep their passions within due bounds.
☐ 9. Level	I. The third executive officer, responsible for supervising the craft during the hours of refreshment.
☐ 10. Gavel	J. An emblem of rectitude and uprightness, encouraging upright conduct in all walks of life.
☐ 11. Cowan	K. The sacred book or scriptures displayed open upon the central altar during Lodge proceedings.
☐ 12. Vol. of Sacred Law	L. A symbol of executive authority and order used by the presiding officer to govern the Lodge.

ANSWER KEY (TURN UPSIDE DOWN)

	3-I		4-G		5-B		6-D		7-H		8-J		9-F		10-L	
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