# St. John's Lodge No. 9, F. & A. M.

November 2023

Gim Russell, editor





Serving Seattle since 1860

meets: 7910 Greenwood Ave. N. Lodge phone: (206) 623-0261 jimrussell58@frontier.com web: www.seattlemasons.org

#### FROM THE EAST

Eric Koteles, Master





Eric Koteles Master

Brethren.

It is with profound gratitude and humility that I address you today as we embark on a new chapter in the illustrious history of our Lodge. I am deeply honored to have been reelected as your Worshipful Master for the year 2024, and I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for your trust and confidence in me and profoundly gratitude to all the officers and Brothers that actively help on making this Lodge better. This honor is a testament to the unwavering dedication and commitment of each and every member of our Lodge,

and I am fully aware of the responsibility that it carries.

As we look to the future of St. John's Lodge Number 9, let us do so with enthusiasm, optimism, and a sense of purpose. Our Lodge has been a beacon of light in the Seattle Masonic community for over a century and a half. We have

light in the Seattle Masonic community for over a century and a half. We have seen generations of Masons pass through our doors, leaving their indelible mark on the legacy of our beloved fraternity. Together, we are the custodians of this legacy, entrusted with preserving and nurturing it for the generations to come.

In the year ahead, let us focus on fostering unity and brotherhood within our Lodge. By working together, supporting one another, and adhering to the timeless principles of Freemasonry, we can continue to strengthen the bonds that make our fraternity so extraordinary. Through our rituals and philanthropic endeavors, we can extend a helping hand to our local community, further cementing our Lodge's reputation as a force for good.

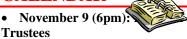
I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Our Lodge has weathered the test of time, and I have every confidence that we will not only endure but thrive. Let us continue to encourage the participation of new members and engage with the broader community. Let us explore new ways to connect and interact, keeping our traditions alive while adapting to the needs of the modern world.

In closing, I am excited about the journey that awaits us in 2024. With your unwavering support and dedication, I am confident that we will build upon the rich history of St. John's Lodge Number 9 and create a future that is as bright and promising as our past. Together, we will forge ahead, bound by the principles of Masonry, and lead our Lodge into a new era of success and prosperity.

Thank you for your trust in me and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless our endeavors.

Fraternally, Worshipful Master Eric Koteles. St. John's Lodge Number 9

#### **CALENDAR**



- November 10 (7pm): Officers meeting *Zoom*
- November 15 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 Stated meeting and Installation of Officers
- November 18 (6pm): Master Mason degree team rehearsal [Saturday]
- November 23: Thanksgiving Day
- December 1 (6pm): Master Mason Rehearsal [Friday]
- December 8 (6pm): Master Mason Degree
- December 20 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: <u>St.</u> John's 9 (dinner) Stated meeting
- December 27: Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist
- December 31: Deadline to pay 2024 Lodge dues
- January 1: Happy New Year
- January 3 (7pm): Education & Fellowship Night Zoom
- January 3 (7:30pm): Greenwood Lodge 253
- January 5 (7:30pm): University Lodge 141
- January 8 (7:30pm): Eureka Lodge 20
- January 11 (7pm): Officers meeting *Zoom*
- January 17 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: <u>St.</u> <u>John's 9 (dinner) Stated meeting</u>
- January 20: Martin Luther King Day
- February 6 (7pm): Education & Fellowship Night Zoom
- February 11: Super Bowl LVIII
- February 14 (6pm): Board of Trustees
- February 15 (6pm): Officers meeting *Zoom*
- February 15 (10am): Daylight Lodge 232
- February 21 (6:15pm) 7:30pm: St. John's 9 (dinner) Stated meeting

# ST. JOHN'S INSTALLS OFFICERS FOR 2024 AT NOVEMBER STATED

St. John's brothers are encouraged to invite their friends and family to our 164<sup>th</sup> annual installation of officers as we approach the end of our Masonic year. Members of our leadership team will be installed into their stations and places at

the November 15<sup>th</sup> stated communication *and* open installation of officers. This grand ceremony will be held Wednesday evening, following a (hopefully) short business session. The ceremony will be "off-session" to permit our ladies and guests to enjoy the evening.

Past Grand Master MWBro. Gale Kenney, assisted by MWBro. Al Jorgensen, will install our Master-elect Eric Koteles and his officer corps. WBro. Koteles has demonstrated an unwavering resolve for Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth and will lead an array of talented officers as we continue our efforts to promote Masonic Enlightenment and steps to aid and assist brethren and neighbors in our community. WBro. Koteles will be entering his second consecutive term as Master of St. John's and previously served in that capacity in 2014.

Assisting Bro. Koteles this year will be WBro. John Murray Louderback as Senior Warden and WBro. David Flood as Junior Warden. VWBro. Jim Russell will be returning as Secretary, while VWBro. Jim Maher will begin his fifteenth year as Treasurer and WBro. Adam Creighton enters his seventeenth as Musician! Other officers are WBro. Kemalcán Jimmerson, Senior Deacon; VWBro. John Adamson, Senior Steward; VWBro. Chuck Brockway, Marshal; and WBro. Terry Grove, Tyler.



Past Grand Master (2009-2010) Gale Kenney will be principal installing officer for Master Eric Koteles

WBro. Blair Neumann will join WBro. Hans Wehl and MWBro. Al Jorgensen as a newly elected member of the Board of Trustees, replacing VWBro. Chuck Brockway. VWBro. Brockway has served as a Trustee for St. John's since 1999. Senior Warden WBro. Louderback also serves on the Board of Trustees along with the Worshipful Master and Secretary and Treasurer in their ex-officio capacities.

Please make your dinner reservations *with the secretary at 206 623-0261 by Friday, November 9*, prior to the meeting. If you need a ride, the secretary will be happy to find one for you. Do you know of

a brother who has not attended Lodge in a while? Call him and ask if you can pick him up and bring him to Lodge.

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#### Master Mason Degree Scheduled for December 8

Fellowcraft Bro. Louis Turner will be Raised a Master Mason Friday, December 8, at the Greenwood Masonic Center. Rehearsal dates for the degree, each starting at 6pm, are

Thursday, November 2 (read through)

Saturday, November 18

Friday, December 1

Every active member of St. John's is expected to take a role in performance of this degree. Those who have not yet volunteered for a part in the degree should contact WBro. Russ Johnson, Master of Ceremonies.

Currently, there are still five available roles, – all minor parts.

Bro. Louis Turner has dedicated a substantial effort to his Masonic studies, and it's only fitting that we put forth the same level of commitment to make his degree ceremony truly special.



#### FROM THE WEST

WBro. John Murray Louderback



The concerns of our past Masonic Brothers was most likely many of the same concerns we have today. Securing food and water, shelter, security and safety, clothing, health concerns were all as important then as they are now. I do believe that most everyone shared the belief that what was good for the community would most likely be beneficial to the individual. The interconnected society of friends, family, and Brothers was found essential for survival.

Being a Mason set a man apart from others, in that he could be trusted.

Fashion and trends change but our core values have and must remain the same. We should not be concerned with fashion or trends that do not reflect our Masonic core values. Society does not remain the same and we should be willing to accept social changes that do not reflect on a man's character. There was a time in our Lodge when most Brothers had long beards and may have worn muddy pants and boots—doing so did not make them less Masonic.

As Senior Warden of this Lodge let me remind the Brethren that we all meet upon the level.

We must understand that which makes us Masons and that the important precepts of Masonry are firmly rooted. Our duty then is to find ways to anchor Masonry into society today and to build bridges.

By compassionate acceptance of others we can build those bridges from the past to the present and into the future.

Wednesday, November 15

# INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ladies, family, and guests more than welcome!

Dinner will be served at 6:15pm (please make reservations)

**Master-elect: Eric Koteles** 

#### **His Officers**

John Murray Louderback – Senior Warden
David Flood – Junior Warden
Jim Maher – Treasurer
Jim Russell – Secretary

Chaplain

Charles Brockway – Marshal Kemalcán Jimmerson – Senior Deacon

Junior Deacon

John Adamson – Senior Steward

- Junior Steward

Adam Creighton - Musician Terry Grove - Tyler

#### FROM THE SOUTH

WBro. David Flood

# H

# How many more times will you watch the full moon rise?

The autumn leaves fall and the days darken. We have just made our farewells for a distinguished brother. We will soon confer the Master Mason degree. The profound message of that degree is always a cause for reflection.

As the end of the year draws near let us take this opportunity to examine where we stand as men and as Masons. We can ask ourselves - who and what is important in our lives; and what might we do to enrich those experiences? There is a real urgency in not leaving undone those things which we ought to have done. Likewise, as the Lodge enters a period of transition, let us contemplate and act on the things we can do right now to ensure its health and prosperity, not only in the months to come but also in the long years of our Lodge's future.

#### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Day

11 Brent A. Braun

- 14 Charles B. Claus, Jr.
- 14 George H. Bechtel, Jr.
- 14 Eugene V. Kashpureff
- 19 Raymond L. Gehrig
- 22 Jeff R. Hawley
- 25 Marcos J. Policar
- 25 Kemalcán Jimmerson
- 26 Terry S. Zittlau
- 27 Mark W. Shropshire





#### PAST MASTERS HONORED

Past Masters of St. John's Lodge were honored with special recognition and small gifts during our stated communication in October. Past Masters present for the ceremony were (as pictured left to right) VWBro. Ashley Brinkley, WBro. Blair Neumann, WBro. John Louderback, WBro. Russ Johnson, WBro. Eric Koteles, WBro. David Flood, WBro. Joe Oates, MWBro. Al Jorgensen, WBro. Terry Grove, VWBro. Jim Russell, and WBro. Hans Wehl.

Eleven Affiliated Past Masters (those members of the Lodge who have served as Masters of other Lodges) also were given special recognition and awarded public Grand Honors.

# 2024 Annual Membership Fees Due

Notices for annual dues were mailed to all dues-owing members of St. John's in October. Don't forget that we no longer issue plastic cards. The new electronic dues cards will not work unless you have paid your dues for the current year. You can access your own dues card on Grand View to



print or use electronically on your phone. A quick scan by the Tyler of your printed QR Code will show whether or not you are current for the year.

2024 dues structure for membership in St. John's:

- 1. Past Masters, Life Members, 50-year members = \$0
- 2. Age 65 + = \$75 + \$28 = \$103\*
- 3. Residence 50+ miles from Lodge = \$75 + \$28 = \$103\*
  - 4. Other Raised Master Masons = \$200+\$28=\$228\*
- 5. Future Plural Members (local residence) *prorated quarterly at joining*:
  - a. Jan. March 2024 = \$228
  - b. Apr. June = \$171
  - c. July Sept. = \$114
  - d. Oct. Dec. = \$57

\*These fees increase by \$5 each month for overdue payment beginning January 2024.

Members may pay their dues by cash, check, Certificates of Masonic Labor, or a combination of these. Certificates of Labor (now valued at \$30 each) are issued at each stated or special communication (degree or officer installation).

Payment by PayPal is available, <u>though not</u> <u>encouraged</u>. St. John's does not have a PayPal account. If you can pay no other way, you can do so through our Treasurer's personal account (his email is <u>irmaher@comcast.net</u>).

#### For PayPal:

From your computer, here's how to send money:

- 1. Click Send & Request at the top of the page.
- 2. Enter Jim Maher's email address and click Next.
- 3. Enter the amount, choose the currency, add a note (if needed), and click **Continue**.
- 4. Select either "Paying for an item or service" or "Sending to a friend."
- 5. Select how you want to pay and click **Next**.
- 6. Review the information and click **Send Payment Now**.

"He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness..."

-- Benjamin Franklin, Freemason

The following St. John's bylaw addresses our current dues structure as adopted at our June 2023 stated communication.

#### ARTICLE III - Fees and Dues

Section 3. The annual dues for each member shall be Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00 USD) except (6/21/23)

- a) that all members who shall have paid dues to the Fraternity, as verified by the records of the Grand Lodge of Washington, for a period of fifty (50) years shall be relieved from the payment of dues and assessments for life. (6/18/14)
- b) That all Past Masters of the Lodge (except Affiliated Past Masters) shall be relieved from the payment of dues and assessments for life.
- c) That all future assessment increases levied by Grand Lodge will automatically raise our dues by an equivalent amount. (9/29/90)
- d) That those who have attained the age of 65 by January 1 shall pay dues of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) per year plus any and all assessments levied by Grand Lodge as stated in paragraph (c) of this Section. (6/18/14)
- e) That those who reside over fifty miles from the site of our regular stated communication shall pay dues of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) per year plus any and all assessments levied by Grand Lodge as stated in paragraph (c) of this Section. (6/18/14)
- f) Members may pay for annual dues using St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor. Each St John's Certificate of Masonic Labor will have a value that is set annually by the Lodge when applied to the annual dues for payment. Members may use multiple St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor to pay for annual dues up to the total amount of the annual dues. St. John's Certificates of Masonic Labor must be used in the year that they are valid and may not be carried over for any following year's annual dues payments. (10/16/19)

Section 4. The annual dues of members of the Lodge shall be payable in advance of the first day of January of each year for the calendar year.

- a) Any member who has not paid his dues by the first day of January shall be assessed an additional \$5 for each month beyond that date. (6/18/14)
- b) Any member who has not paid his dues for the current year before December 31 thereof shall cease to be a member of this Lodge and his name must be dropped from the roll, unless on or before that date the Lodge remits his dues or grants him an extension for a definite period in which to pay his dues.

### Let's LOOK AT THAT A LITTLE CLOSER

There are many guides to learning Masonic ritual, most of which look at it from the viewpoint of learning the words. Of course, we need to learn the words, we cannot deliver ritual without having done so. However just learning the words leaves the candidate rather short. Just as important as the words are the feeling and emotion that help to communicate the meaning of those words. It is the ability to bring these in that marks the difference between a good ritualist and a really great one. Who seems to be able to conjure up an electric atmosphere in the Lodge room, that holds the candidate and others listening, spellbound until the end.

# How to Deliver an Unforgettable Masonic Ritual (Mastering the Mindset)

by Masonic Find

If you're a Freemason, you know that delivering a Masonic ritual is a significant part of the experience.

Whether you're performing a degree ceremony or giving a lecture, the way you deliver the ritual can make a significant impact on the audience.

The goal is to create an unforgettable experience that resonates with the attendees long after the event is over.

However, delivering a memorable Masonic ritual requires <u>more than just memorizing the words</u>.

It requires a specific mindset that enables you to connect with the audience, convey the meaning behind the ritual, and make it a truly meaningful experience.

This mindset involves a combination of preparation, focus, and intention that allows you to deliver the ritual with confidence and authenticity.

In this article, we'll explore the mindset required to deliver an extraordinary Masonic ritual.

We'll discuss the importance of preparation, the role of focus and intention, and practical tips for delivering a powerful ritual.

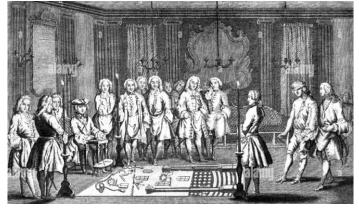
Whether you're a seasoned Masonic veteran or a newly initiated member, this article will provide you with valuable insights and techniques that will help you take your ritual performance to the next level.

#### Understanding the Importance of Mindset

When it comes to delivering a Masonic ritual, having the right mindset is <u>crucial</u>.

Your mindset is the set of beliefs and attitudes that shape how you approach challenges, interact with others, and perform your duties.

It influences your thoughts, feelings, and actions and can have a significant impact on your ability to succeed.



Having a growth mindset is especially important for Masonic ritualists.

A growth mindset is the belief that your abilities and talents can be developed through hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

It means that you see challenges and setbacks as opportunities for learning and growth, rather than as evidence of your limitations.

With a growth mindset, you are more likely to take on new challenges, seek out feedback, and persist in the face of obstacles.

You are also more likely to be open to new ideas and perspectives, and to collaborate effectively with others.

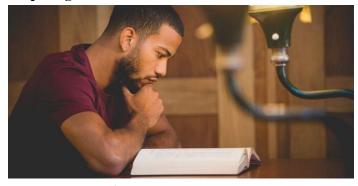
On the other hand, a fixed mindset is the belief that your abilities and talents are fixed and cannot be changed.

This mindset can lead to a fear of failure, a reluctance to take on new challenges, and a tendency to avoid feedback and criticism.

Therefore, to deliver an amazing Masonic ritual, it is important to cultivate a growth mindset.

This means embracing challenges, seeking out feedback, and persisting in the face of setbacks. It also means being open to new ideas and perspectives and working collaboratively with others to achieve your goals.

#### **Preparing for the Ritual**



#### **Mental Preparation**

Preparing for a Masonic ritual requires a strong and focused mindset.

It's important to take the time to mentally prepare yourself before the ritual. This means clearing your mind of any distractions or negative thoughts that may affect your performance.

Take a few moments to meditate or practice deep breathing exercises to help calm your nerves and center your mind.

Visualizing the ritual beforehand can also be helpful in mentally preparing yourself. continue next page

This can involve imagining yourself performing the ritual flawlessly, with confidence and precision.

This mental rehearsal can help build your confidence and reduce any anxiety you may be feeling.

#### **Physical Preparation**

In addition to mental preparation, physical preparation is also crucial for delivering an impressive Masonic ritual.

This involves taking care of your body in the days leading up to the ritual. Make sure to get enough rest, eat a healthy diet, and stay hydrated.

It's also important to practice the physical movements and gestures required for the ritual.

This can involve rehearsing the steps and movements in front of a mirror or with a fellow Mason.

Practicing these movements can help you feel more comfortable and confident during the actual ritual.

Finally, make sure to dress appropriately for the ritual.

Wear clean and well-pressed Masonic attire, and make sure your regalia is in good condition.

This will not only help you look your best but will also help you feel more confident and prepared for the ritual.

#### **Executing the Ritual**

In this section, we'll explore each of these elements in detail, so you can be sure to execute the ritual flawlessly.

#### **Focus and Presence**

When delivering a Masonic ritual, it's essential to be fully present and focused on the task at hand.

This means letting go of any distractions or worries and being fully in the moment.

Take a few deep breaths before beginning the ritual to calm your nerves and clear your mind.

Once you begin, stay focused on the words and movements, and let the ritual guide you.

#### **Emotional Connection**

A powerful Masonic ritual requires an emotional connection with the audience.

This means delivering the words with conviction and feeling and making eye contact with the attendees.

Take the time to connect with each member of the audience, and let the emotion of the ritual flow through you.

This will help create a powerful and memorable experience for everyone involved.

#### **Precision and Timing**

Precision and timing are critical elements of a successful Masonic ritual.

Each movement and word must be executed with precision, and the timing must be perfect.

This requires practice and preparation, so you're confident in your ability to deliver the ritual flawlessly.

Take the time to rehearse the ritual, so you know exactly when to move and speak and can do so with confidence.

By focusing on these elements – focus, emotional connection, precision, and timing – you can execute a powerful and memorable Masonic ritual.

Remember to stay present and connected with the audience, and let the ritual guide you.

It's easier said than done, I know, but with practice and preparation, you will be able to deliver a part that will be remembered for years to come.

#### Reflecting on the Experience



After you're done, it is important to take some time to reflect on the experience.

Reflecting allows you to learn from your mistakes, celebrate your successes, and identify areas for improvement.

#### MASTER MASONS RAISED IN NOVEMBER

#### Date Raised:

11/13/1959 Hans U. Wehl Richard "Dick" Loeb 11/18/1959 11/18/1959 Jerome N. Alhadeff 11/18/1965 Joseph H. Oates, Jr. 11/7/1970 Martin L. Burgess Craig L. Catli 11/27/1971 11/19/1976 Robert E. Reed 11/10/1988 Richard P. Wellenberger

11/18/1988 Terry S. Zittlau

11/17/1990 Charles R. "Dick" Grimm

11/19/1998 James R. Odom 11/24/2001 Scott A. Pence



Lodge opening ceremonies are the most frequently practiced of all our rituals. One might think that since they are used at every meeting, this frequent repetition would make them one of the more stable and uniform parts of Masonic ritual. And in many ways they are. All Masonic Lodge opening rituals contain certain key elements, namely the addressing of security matters, the rehearsal of officers' duties, and the formal opening itself. But within this broad framework there exists an enormous range of variation from place to place in the order, method, and wording of the various elements which compose this general outline. The variations exhibited in contemporary opening rituals speak to the traditional diversity of Masonic ritual practices from the fraternity's earliest days.



Veterans Day 2023: November 11

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 making it an annual observance, and it became a national holiday in 1938. Sixteen years later, then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name to Veterans Day to honor all those who served their country during war or peacetime. On this day, the nation honors military veterans — living and dead — with parades and other observances across the country and a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Veterans Day – November 11, 2023 – will be on Saturday. Banks and Post Offices and other federal and state agencies, however, will be closed Friday, as well as Saturday.

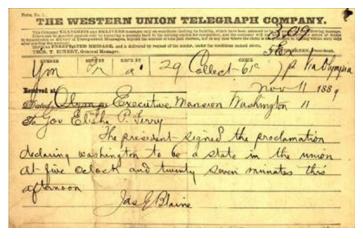
Veteran Population: 16.2 million

The number of military veterans in the United States in 2022, representing 6.2% of the total civilian population age 18 and over.

#### 1.7 million

The number of female veterans in the United States in 2022, representing 10.3% of the total veteran population. **0.8%** 

The percentage of veterans in 2022 who served in World War II. Additionally, 4.1% of veterans served in the Korean War, 33.6% in the Vietnam War, 24.4% in the first Gulf War (August 1990 to August 2001), and 26.3% in the second Gulf War (September 2001 or later).



# Blessing Bag Assembly IOIN Ruth and Fred Saturday, November 25, 2023 anytime between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Macrina Bakery pastries at 9 a.m. lunch provided at noon We will assemble 280 hygiene/sock/apparel kits for distribution to 5 shelters - 3 Drivers Needed at 4 p.m. Normandy Park United Church of Christ FELLOWSHIP HALL 19247 1st Avenue South Normandy Park, Washington 98148 The Christmas People making a difference one meal, one cookie, one pair of socks at a time. pialley@jps.net 206-719-4979

#### "AND GIVE THEM PROPER INSTRUCTION"

Excerpt from Alphonse Cerza

The aim of Freemasonry is to teach men to live uprightly, do good in the community, and by their work to set a good example. Since the word "mason" implies work and Freemasonry glorifies the dignity of work, we can reasonably assume that the Craft should devote its attention to the kind of work which will help fulfill this aim.

There is no question that the Masonic ritual is the foundation of the Craft. In it we find the message that Freemasonry has for the candidate, its philosophy, and its moral teachings.

If one knows these lessons fully and completely, he is indeed a wise man. Too many of us are concerned more with perfection of the words rather than securing a full understanding of the spirit and the meaning of the ritual.

Let us not make the mistake of believing that the ceremony of initiation makes a man a Mason. True, this ceremony is vital and necessary, but unless the lessons of the ceremony and the spirit of the ritual is understood it is nothing.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

# **COME SAIL, SING AND ENJOY ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS SHIP FAMILY NIGHT**



St John's Lodge #9 is planning another family night onboard the ARGOSY CHRISTMAS ship but this time on Lake Washington. Some details are attached, including pricing, but the purpose of this flier is to determine if there is enough interest TO PROCEED WITH BOOKING.

Depart from Kirkland City Dock in downtown Kirkland and hop aboard the official Christmas Ship<sup>TM</sup>, the Spirit of Seattle<sup>TM</sup>, as we cruise to various waterfront communities. Enjoy an onboard choir performance and sailing with Santa!

Snack food and drinks are available for purchase onboard

Indication of Interest, Questions and Preferences to

Tom Lamb, 425 742 2348, nalamb@umich.edu

# Price is \$30 per person. Children with family \$10

This price includes a significant subsidy from St. John's Lodge.

Please indicate your firm commitment to attend and answer the other preferences below ASAP as bookings are filling up:

#### **ATTENDANCE**

I will attend if on suitable date and time: Adults Sen	iors Youth	Children
PREFERENCES		
Date preference: December 13th, 14th, 18th, 19th, other		
Time preference: 5:00 to 6:30 pmor 8 to 9:30 pm		
Would you be interested in having group dinner at a Kirkl (depends on selected boat time) boat trip? YES		r or before
CONTACT		