

Fr. Dan Brandt's Corner...



I have often been asked, “What is the story behind our patron saint, **Michael the Archangel?**”

In art form, St. Michael is typically seen, sword in hand, crushing the head of Satan (the *small “s”* is intentional!). According to Scripture and Tradition, Michael fought the devil head-on, as do we on a daily basis...hence his patronage of police officers and soldiers.

St. Michael is mentioned in the Old Testament (AKA the Jewish Scriptures—see Daniel chapters 10 and 12), as well as the New Testament (AKA the Christian Scriptures—see St. Jude’s epistle and Revelation, chapter 12). He is likewise found in sacred writings of Islam, Mormon/Latter-Day Saints, Jehovah’s Witness, Seventh-Day Adventist, and other non-Judeo/Christian faith traditions. For references, visit the Police Chaplains’ website and click the St. Michael link.

Many police officers wear a St. Michael medal or carry in the plastic pocket of their uniform crown cap a St. Michael prayer card. **If you would like a St. Michael prayer card fitted for your uniform cap, please click the appropriate link on our website.** We will gladly mail you one, free of charge. You can also find the beautiful prayer of St. Michael on that link.

The name Michael means, “Who is like God.” St. Michael and his fellow archangels, Raphael and Gabriel, share a feast day later this month: **29 SEP**. In many Christian churches, we mark saints’ feast days with celebrations of varying sorts. We esteem, revere and ask intercession of the saints. We *don’t* deify or worship them, as they are not God; rather, they are our heavenly connection to God.

I liken the saints to “our guy,” whether “our guy” is someone to fix our leaky roof, repair our garage door or car muffler, or to put a good word in for us with our boss. In fact, I recently had a conversation with someone who asked me to intercede for him regarding an issue with his boss. When I asked the individual why he doesn’t go right to the source, he replied, “You have a good rapport with him; can you please be my go-between?” While I admit this example may be a weak analogy, I hope it sheds some light on the important place many folks of various faith traditions place on the Communion of Saints. Of course, we can go directly to God (however you happen to call that Deity) with our particular needs, but some find it easier to have a “guy.” Remember, there is **no** wrong time, place, or way to pray. So KEEP PRAYING, please!

Last month during a beautiful ceremony, three officers’ names were added to the wall at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. They are **Lt. Charles Stine, Det. Loubet Zaccard, and PO John T. Lynch.** Join us for the **Candlelight Vigil** on Wednesday, 16 SEP, at 7:00 p.m. to honor these officers and the 572 others who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Next time you’re near **Resurrection Catholic Church** at Francisco and Nelson (in 014), stop by their newly-dedicated outdoor shrine of St. Michael honoring these same heroes. At their regular daily and Sunday Masses, Resurrection Parish remembers them by name.

We also remember these fallen officers at our regular **police Mass** every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls: 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard. No matter your faith tradition, you are **most** welcome to attend. On-duty worshippers, you'll be out as usual in less than 30 minutes. Planning ahead, please note that next month's Chicago Marathon route prohibits entry to Mercy Home. So our Mass on Marathon Sunday, 11 OCT, 11:00 a.m., will be celebrated at Queen of Peace High School, 7659 S. Linder in Burbank.

A south-side **BLUE MASS will be celebrated at St. Cajetan Parish** (112th and Artesian) on Sunday, 20 SEP at 11:00 a.m. Active or retired, please join us! Often before Blue Masses I get phone calls and emails asking, "Do I have to show up in uniform?" The answer is NO (though of course you're welcome to do so).

Finally, we return to the **Laugh Factory** up north on Tuesday, 22 SEP, for the third-annual "**Funniest Cop in Chicago**" competition, benefiting the 100 Club of Chicago. For more information on this very fun (and funny!) evening, see the link on our homepage. You can also see video footage of previous years' shows at that same site.

God bless you and your most noble work!

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