

## 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.

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 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 had a conversation with someone who asked me to intercede for him regarding an issue with his boss. When I asked the officer 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!

Next time you're near **Resurrection Catholic Church** at Francisco and Nelson (in 014), stop by their new outdoor shrine of St. Michael honoring our 574 fallen Chicago Police Officers.

We remember our living and deceased 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.

**At the police Mass on Sunday, 11 SEP, we'll remember in a special way the over 400 first responders who died exactly 15 years prior.**



Also, planning ahead, please note that next month's Chicago Marathon route prohibits entry to Mercy Home. So our Mass on Marathon Sunday, 09 OCT, 11:00 a.m., will be celebrated at Queen of Peace High School, 7659 S. Linder in Burbank.

The annual Chicago Police Memorial Foundation **CANDLELIGHT VIGIL** will take place on Tuesday, 13 SEP. Please check out their link on our website for more information.

A **BLUE MASS** will be celebrated at **St. Mary of Perpetual Help Parish** (32nd Street between Morgan and Aberdeen in Bridgeport) on Wednesday, 28 SEP at 6:00 p.m. This is intentionally scheduled for the eve of St. Michael's feast. 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, here you'll see yet another church sign spotted, honoring the vital work you do... Thank God for the good people of Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on 95th Street.

Borrowing their prayer, God bless and protect you and your most noble work! May you enjoy the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel.

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