

From Your Directing Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...

Happy New Year! **GOODBYE 2021!!!**

If your New Year's resolution is to enrich your prayer life, then please take note:



Despite current circumstances, every Friday at 12:05 p.m. the Chaplains Section continues to facilitate a Bible study/prayer/faith-sharing group at the police academy. No matter your faith tradition, ALL are welcome to these brief Christian-based gatherings. As with our other offerings, we practice social distancing, etc.

A similar (though more intimate in size) non-denominational Christian prayer opportunity is offered every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Public Safety Headquarters.

Muslim (Jumma) prayers are offered every Friday at 12:00 p.m. in room 202 of the academy.

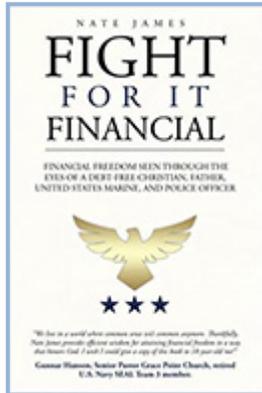


And the regular police Mass is held every second and fourth Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls (1140 W. Jackson Boulevard).

To confirm times, or if you'd like more information, please email Joseph.Jackson@ChicagoPolice.org, Kimberly.LewisDavis@ChicagoPolice.org, or Hysni.Selenica@ChicagoPolice.org.

While these past two years have been marked by anxiety, illness and separation, there is (I pray!) light at the end of the tunnel. As we begin the new year, we bank on HOPE. Some years back, during a Primetime Christmas special, Mr. Rogers focused NOT on gifts or even the birth of Christ (even though he served for many years as a Christian minister)...but on the importance of COMMUNITY. "I suppose the thing I'd like most to be able to give you is HOPE," he told viewers. "And that gift comes when we realize we are part of a bigger family...a community."

The CPD family is just that. Please continue to keep your brothers and sisters, active and retired, in your thoughts and prayers as we embark on this new year.



A new year may also find us budgeting and (hopefully) reducing debt (and the stress related to debt). Nate James wrote a book about financial freedom...seen through the eyes of a debt-free Christian, husband, father, U.S Marine, and police officer. It's a great read and available on kindle or in book form. I have a few copies, as well, and would be happy to share...just let me know. You can also find a link to Nate's website through our site's "Links" page.

Some of our brothers and sisters are serving in the military reserves right now. They were away from us for the holidays, but they certainly weren't forgotten. As is our long-standing tradition, we partnered with FOP to send high-quality care packages to all forward-deployed members. One of them has already sent a thank-you email. Our brother Miguel, a US Army communications specialist, writes:

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the team who put together my care package. Receiving a Christmas gift from my brothers and sisters in blue means a LOT. Special thanks to Police Chaplains Ministry for sending the religious items. It's good that you're looking out for us. Be safe out there, and God bless you all!

On 05 DEC, the Edison Park Chamber of Commerce hosted a Christmas tree blessing and lighting ceremony. At the event, Chamber director Amanda Harres, Santa Claus and I witnessed PO Peter Palka (016 CAPS) "Pinch The Grinch." Here you'll see Officer Palka placing The Grinch into custody. Good work, Peter...you saved Christmas!



Finally, some sad news... as I write this column, I am preparing to celebrate the funeral Mass for my dear friend Rudy Malnati. Whether you knew Rudy or not, you likely benefitted from his generous spirit. Rudy was one of CPD's biggest cheerleaders, always donating his delicious Pizano's Pizza to our events. He was a huge supporter of all CPD charities/organizations. May he rest in peace, and may his wife Annette and kids, Holly and Rudy Jr., be assured of our prayerful support.

Next month (13 FEB), we mark the four-year anniversary of **Commander Paul Bauer's** murder. As I stated at his funeral Mass (and since), Paul's life wasn't "given," as so many outlets stated. It was TAKEN. It was STOLEN from his family and us by a four-time convicted felon who should have NEVER been on the street.

The name of Paul's murderer has already been forgotten...and this coward will spend the rest of his miserable life in prison with no chance for parole. But Paul Bauer's name and legacy, along with his wife Erin and daughter Grace, will ALWAYS be remembered.



Memorial cards from Paul's funeral (and many of our LOD funerals) are available for download from our website (ChicagoPCM.org). If you'd like one mailed to you, just let me know...my contact info is below.

Keep up with all of our happenings on our FaceBook page or website (www.ChicagoPCM.org).

God bless you as you continue to do God's work. Please stay safe and healthy! Know that active or retired, you're in our daily prayers.

Happy-holy-healthy new year,

Fr. Dan Brandt, *Directing CPD Chaplain*

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