

## **From Your Chaplain, Fr. Dan Brandt...**



I have been asked on more than one occasion recently, “What is the story behind our patron saint, Michael the Archangel?” Allow me to tell you about this historic figure...

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. This is why he is held as patron saint 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 of varying faith traditions 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.

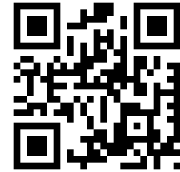
The name Michael means, “Who is like God.” St. Michael and his fellow archangels, Raphael and Gabriel, share a feast day later this month: 29 SEP. In many Christian churches, we mark saints’ feast days with celebrations of varying sorts. We esteem, revere and ask intercession of the saints. We *don’t* 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 a problem with his boss within the police department. 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!

**A heads up:** I received a call from a representative of the Gideons (the good folks who place Bibles in hotel rooms, jails, public high schools, hospitals and other secular locations). This gentleman, a friend and family member of our police family, advised me that the Gideons will be holding their annual “Bible Blitz” in the coming weeks. So...if you encounter someone from the Gideons in a police station or other secular spot trying to provide God’s Word (free of charge, for which they are known), please accept and thank them for their ministry. Trust me; they’re good folks.

Thank you, too, for the God-ordained ministry you perform every day! As you know, the devil is hard at work today as he has been since the beginning of time...but through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, may God continue to help you fight satan, and keep you safe in your most noble work.



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