



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



The season of Advent began on 30 NOV. During this season, many people try to pray more intentionally. So, just a reminder: every Friday at 1:00 p.m. the Chaplains Section hosts a Bible study/prayer/faith-sharing group at the police academy. No matter your faith tradition, ALL are welcome to share and hear words of encouragement at these brief Christian-based gatherings.

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.

And a Muslim Jumma service is prayed every Friday at 1:00 p.m. in room 202 of the academy.



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.

In addition to our regular 2nd and 4th Sunday Masses at Mercy Home (11:00 a.m. at 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard), we'll gather for Christmas morning Mass at 10:00...note the difference in time for the holiday. More information can be found on the "Police Mass" link at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

For the 16th year in a row, I recently teamed up with FOP to send holiday care packages to our CPD members who are serving abroad in the military reserves. Let us keep in prayer our brothers and sisters (down to 50 in number this year) who still serve, just in a different uniform. In a special way we remember them (and their families who miss them) during the holidays.

Special thanks to the school kids at St. Francis Borgia Parish on the northwest side. They hand-created beautiful and thoughtful cards for the troops, and these will be included in our care packages. I picked up the cards after celebrating a school Mass there a few weeks ago.



Also last month, “Operation Hazelnut” was hosted at Hope Children’s Hospital, adjacent to Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn. Thanks to the generosity of Barraco’s Pizza, every nurse/staff member, patient (and their family), and others enjoyed free pizza in this annual outreach aimed to put smiles on faces. Kudos to those who organize and participate in this heartwarming experience! Below you will see some of them...



On December 4th, Police Chaplains Ministry hosted about 300 of our beloved Gold Star Family members at the annual pre-holiday dinner at Soldier Field. What a wonderful opportunity for us to thank these families for the sacrifice they endured, and to reiterate that their loved one who died in the line of duty will NEVER be forgotten! Thank you to all our supporters who make this annual event possible!

Thanks, also, to so many who made "Bears with Brandt" a great success!!! Bears vs. Packers is always a must-see match-up...but pair that with hanging out with south side friends and we have a touchdown! Special thanks to the folks at McNally's (11136 S. Western Avenue) for so generously hosting...and to Barraco's Pizza for donating the delicious food. Please be sure to patronize these police-friendly businesses.

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more (including some terrific pictures) at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

I close with this beautiful Christmas poem, provided by CopDevotional...

*'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the streets,
Not a person was stirring, 'cept an officer on the beat.
As he quietly patrolled the city with care,
Children and parents slept peacefully there.
The officer was clad in his blues and his vest,
Gun on his hip, always looking his best.
He'd just pulled aside for a quick bite to eat,
When all of the sudden, out on the street,
A bright light appeared from out of nowhere,
He shielded his eyes from the brilliant glare.
'Twas an angel of the Lord at the car's rear,
He smiled and spoke, "Dear Officer, don't fear."*

*"I've been sent by God with a message for you
Who faithfully serve while wearing the blue.
God wants you to know that He loves you all,
He's pleased with the way you've answered His call.*

*Protecting and serving, so selfless you've been,
Your bravery and kindness have known no end.*

*"Even in tragedy, when nights became long,
You've helped countless strangers by just being strong.
God sees your heart, the joy and the pain,
He knows your profession can often bring strain.
So he sent me down here to let you know,
That as you patrol, you are never alone."*

*"As you protect others, your Father protects you,
His angels go with you, His Spirit does, too.
No bullet's too fast, no bad guy too strong,
I'm sent to make sure that your life will be long.
So fear not the night, and fear not the day,
Fear not the threats that might come your way.
I'm sent to accompany you on your beat,
There's not one moment you're alone on the street."*

*The officer sat stunned by the love of his God,
He bowed his head, with a tear gave a nod.
As the officer said "Thank you," the angel took flight,*

Saying "God's got your back, carry on, and goodnight."

So...No matter what holiday you may or may not have the chance to celebrate this holy time of year, may God bless you and your family and keep you safe! If you're working on Christmas night or New Year's Eve, I may see you those nights with a care package for you and your partner. I'll be traveling through the districts to remind you—especially on holidays—that you're doing God's work!

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