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# What is the *Blue Mass Celebration*?

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***Blue Mass*** celebrations are held throughout the United States, usually in a cathedral setting, to honor and pray for the men and women who serve our communities as Police, Fire and Safety personnel. The homily/sermon contains a message of appreciation, encouragement and solidarity with the safety personnel as keepers of order in our civil society and honors them for their value to all the people. **Names of deceased personnel from the previous year are read aloud during the liturgy.**

The ***Blue Mass*** occurs annually in September (since 2005 in Cincinnati) because Catholic tradition looks upon St. Michael the Archangel as the patron of Safety Personnel and his feast is celebrated each year on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The ***Blue Mass*** is, as the name indicates, a Mass, the typical Catholic worship service. Others who are not Catholic are cordially welcome to join with the Catholic community in this honoring of and praying for all of our safety personnel regardless of faith or denomination. Many safety agencies send representatives and their safety vehicles are positioned in front of the cathedral for a blessing prior to the Mass. Bagpipers play and honor guards from Police, Fire and Sheriffs' Departments lead participants into the cathedral for the service.

Refreshments and fellowship follow the service and are open to the whole community.

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