



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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ST. JUDE MEMORIAL MARCH

Every year on the first Sunday of May, the Chicago Police Department recognizes one of the oldest and proudest traditions, honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the march, and the St. Jude Police League will once again honor our fallen police officers. Members of the law enforcement community will gather and march at the Gold Star Families Memorial and Park.

As Superintendent, I am honored to share in this tradition and encourage all participants and their families to take a moment to reflect upon and remember the 561 heroes whose names are inscribed on the Memorial's sacred walls. It symbolizes the highest honor bestowed upon a police officer and reminds everyone that these police officers have not fallen in vain.

In 2011, our Chicago Police family lost two officers in the line of duty, and their deaths especially will cast sorrow over this year's St. Jude's March. But comfort will come in our solidarity on this special day, especially for Gold Star Families whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice. Just as last year's losses were a reminder to our City's residents about the difficult and dangerous job our men and women perform each day, this year's March is an important reminder to Gold Star Families that we laud their loved ones and honor their memories.

I invite all of you to join us Sunday, May 6th, at Solidarity and Museum Campus Drives, where Department members will assemble on Solidarity Drive in preparation for the March. Extended family members and friends are welcome to view the March from the west side of Museum Drive, across from the Park (see attached map).

The March will proceed south on Museum Campus Drive to Waldron Drive and step off promptly at 0800 hours. Department members are advised to arrive by 0700 hours. Immediately at the conclusion of the March, there will be a brief 15 minute interfaith service presented by the Chicago Police Department Chaplain's Unit. Department members and guests are invited to attend this service.

Complimentary parking for police personnel and families attending the St. Jude Memorial March will be available in the Waldron Deck Parking Garage, the South lot of Soldier Field, or the North Garage of Soldier Field. A traffic detail will be assigned to direct you to the parking.

All traffic will exit at 18th St. or McFetridge Drive for parking.

I encourage everyone to remember and support other police events during National Police Month. The Run to Remember 2011 supports the Mission Beyond the Memorial and kicks off at 0800 hours on Saturday, May 5th, at the Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. Illinois salutes its fallen officers on May 3rd in Springfield, and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. will have the 24th Annual Candlelight Vigil at the police memorial on May 13th, and on May 15th, the 31st Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Services will take place at the United States Capitol Building.

Let's honor these brave men and women and never forget their courage. I look forward to joining you and your families on Sunday morning to remember all of those who have served and sacrificed in making our city safer.

Garry F. McCarthy
Superintendent of Police

