



Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy

August 2026 Newsletter

Lead Chaplain

Robert Kinnune

Assistant Lead Chaplain

Ryan Stemkoski

Senior Chaplains

Jake Burkholder

Rochelle Renninger

Garry Losey

Chaplains

Joe Fruci

Jaylynn Lawrence

Marilyn Howard

Cliff Foster

Cade Clarke

JR Stanley *

Cory Claymon *

Reserve Chaplains

Steven Beck

Anthony Rogers

TJ Gaia

Support Staff

Yvonne Losey

Renee Townsley

Marilyn Van Tassel

Kyle Knutsen

Karen Foster

* Currently Probationary staff in training

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Because of generous supporters like you we're able to care for our law enforcement family and community.

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- Visit us at our Chaplain Office in the DEM Building



Sheriff Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Cade Clarke

The God Who Hides in Plain Sight

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." **Matthew 25:31–46**

Awhile back I was listening to a song called 'One of us', sung by Joan Osborne; which led me to Matthew 25:45. The song and verses in Matthew stirred my heart deeply to write a devotion and sermon which I shared with a local men's group. I wish to share a modified version to you as reminder for us who are First Responders, Chaplain, Christians, and men and women of God:

There's a haunting question in the song "*One of Us*": **What if God were one of us?** What if He walked the streets like an ordinary person? What if He sat next to you on the bus, stood behind you in line, or passed you on the sidewalk?

Most of us have wondered something similar. We want God to feel close. We want Him to be understandable, reachable, relatable. We want a God who knows what it's like to be human, and in Matthew 25, Jesus answers that longing in a way that is both comforting and unsettling.



Jesus describes the final judgment — a moment of glory, angels, and divine authority. But then He says something that breaks the pattern. The King identifies Himself with the hungry. The thirsty. The stranger. The naked. The sick. The imprisoned. Not symbolically. Not metaphorically. Not poetically. Literally. **"You did it to Me."**

Jesus is not saying, "I care about the poor." He is saying, "I *am* among the poor." He is not saying, "Serve them because I love them." He is saying, "Serve them because you are serving Me." This is the scandal of Matthew 25: **God hides in plain sight.**

Jesus already became “one of us” in the Incarnation. He walked dusty roads. He felt hunger. He knew exhaustion. He experienced rejection. He suffered injustice. But Matthew 25 reveals something deeper: Jesus continues to walk among us — not in glory, but in disguise. He is the God who chooses the low places. The God who stands with the overlooked. The God who identifies Himself with the least.

If you want to find Jesus, you don’t have to look up. You have to look around. We often miss Jesus because He doesn’t look like the Jesus we expect. We expect Him in worship services, not in welfare lines. We expect Him in Bible studies, not in broken neighborhoods. We expect Him in spiritual moments, not in messy ones. We want a God who is easy to recognize. But Jesus chooses to be found in the faces we’re tempted to ignore. Sometimes we walk right past Him. Not because we don’t love Him — but because we don’t recognize Him. This passage is not about guilt — it’s about awakening.

It’s about learning to see with Kingdom eyes. It’s about recognizing that every act of compassion is an act of worship. It’s about discovering that Jesus is closer than you think. Imagine this: You’re on a drive or a walk. You see someone sitting alone, tired, worn, invisible to the crowd. You feel that small nudge — the one you often ignore. You stop. You offer kindness. You listen. You help. And in that moment, heaven whispers: **“You just met Me.”**

That is Matthew 25. That is the gospel in motion. That is the God who hides in plain sight. Feed someone who is hungry. Encourage someone who is lonely. Welcome someone who feels out of place. Help someone who is struggling. Visit someone who feels forgotten. Do it slowly. Do it intentionally. Do it as if Jesus Himself were standing there. Because according to Matthew 25... He is.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Open my eyes to see You where I least expect You. Break my heart for the people who break Yours. Teach me to love not just in words, but in action. Help me recognize Your presence in the faces of the forgotten. Make me attentive, compassionate, and courageous. Amen.



Support the Chaplaincy with Payroll Deductions

Are you a Spokane County employee? Did you know you can support the chaplaincy and our mission? Learn more and sign-up online:

<https://scsochaplains.org/payroll-deduction/>





SCSO Chaplains Inter-agency Picnic



Annual Picnic: In July, the SCSO Chaplains hosted their annual inter-agency picnic. This year a special prayer was conducted for Chaplain John and therapy dog, Rocket, from Kootenai County Sheriff's Office. Both were instrumental to serve in the Spokane Fire Shelters later that month.



Adult & Teen Challenge PacWest

By Avery Jones, Development Coordinator

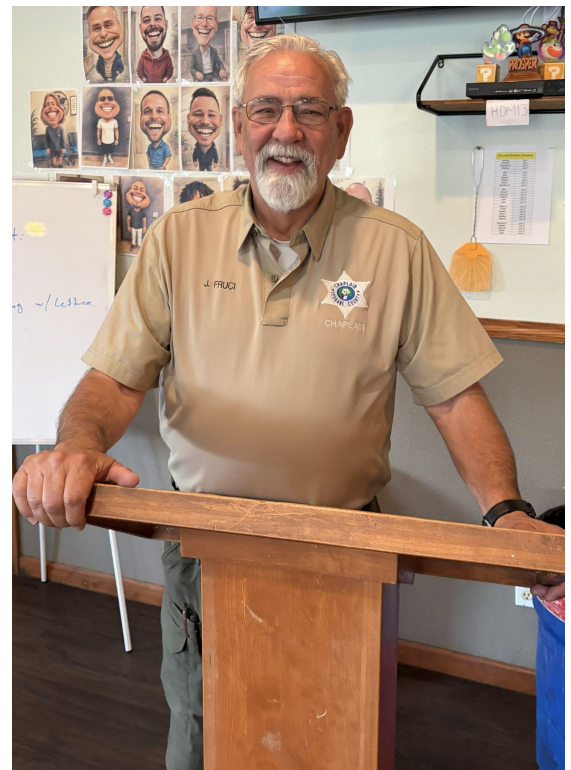
July 2026 Open House:

Thank you, SCSO Chaplains, so much for taking the time to join us for our recent open house at the Spokane Men's Campus. We are truly grateful for the SCSO Chaplains presence and for the meaningful partnership we are building together.

Our hope for the Open House event was to create a space of connection, food, and fun—while also pulling back the curtain on daily life here at the Spokane Men's campus. It was a joy to share a glimpse into what happens behind the scenes through our educational component as our men walk out in freedom from addiction, growth in character, faith, and hope for the future. The SCSO Chaplain's willingness to step into that space with us meant a great deal.

We deeply appreciate the work SCSO Chaplains do serving our community with compassion and care, and we are thankful for the opportunity to share a meal and strengthen relationships. We look forward to continuing this partnership and seeing how we can support one another in the important work ahead.

Written by Avery



Chaplain Joe spoke at the Open House

SCSO Explorers & SCSO Chaplains Christmas-in-July



SCSO Explorers & SCSO Chaplains at the 2025 H&H Fundraiser



SCSO Explorers at the
2026 H&H Fundraiser

Holiday & Heroes Fundraiser: In July 2026, the SCSO Chaplains and SCSO Explorers participated in the annual Red Robin fundraiser for the Holiday & Heroes event held in December.

Talk to a Chaplain

Whether you're an officer, county employee, community member, or just need someone to talk to, our chaplain team is here for you.

- 24x7 Support Spiritual
- Guidance & Referrals
- Pastoral Counseling
- Conversation
- Crisis Intervention
- Weddings & Funerals

Supporters of the Month



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Where's the Chaplain?



Lead Chaplain Robert meeting with Deputy Lorenz & family before their wedding in Hawaii



Asst Lead Chaplain Ryan, Chaplain Support Staff Marilyn, & Chaplain Cade at a Spokane Fire Shelter



Sr. Chaplain Jake giving the morning devotional at the First Responders Chaplain Academy



Asst Lead Chaplain Ryan meeting with the First Responders Chaplain Academy Instructors



<https://firstresponderchaplainacademy.org/>



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