



Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy

September 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

Anthony Rogers

JR Stanley *

Cory Claymon *

Reserve Chaplains

Steven Beck

TJ Gaia

Support Staff

Yvonne Losey

Renee Townsley

Marilyn Van Tassel

Kyle Knutsen

Karen Foster

* Currently Probationary staff in training

Support Your Chaplains

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

Chaplain Cory Claymon

Spiritual Formation and Prayer

I was recently asked to serve as Prayer Coordinator for the Spokane County Sheriff Chaplaincy team. I am not a prayer warrior by nature, but my prayer life is a daily work in progress. However, I jumped at the chance to take on this role for two reasons: One – I believe wholeheartedly in the power of prayer in our daily lives, and two – Accountability to you all. It will force me to keep prayer a daily priority, and for that I am grateful.

Back in July 2025, Pastor Josh (my lead pastor) challenged me to upend my 35-year routine of arriving early, staying late, and working my days off. He challenged me to intentionally focus on self-care – spiritual, physical, mental – all of it. – to be the best person and pastor (and now Chaplain) by actively staying connected to God.

He was teaching me about Spiritual Formation. In the book, Invitation to a Journey by Robert Mullholland, Mullholland defines Spiritual Formation as the process of being formed in the image of Christ for the sake of others. Matthew Chapter 22, verses 37-39 confirm Mullholland's definition. **“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’.”**

How do we know that we are loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind? How do we know that we are moving in the right direction? We can take a moment and look at the characteristics of our relationships with other people. Are we more loving? Are we more understanding? Compassionate? Patient? Giving? Forgiving? Are we kinder than we were a year ago?

Mullholland puts it this way – Our relationships with others are not only the testing grounds of our spiritual life but also the place where our growth toward wholeness in Christ happens.

Another way to discern our spiritual growth is the Prayer of Examen. It is a quick but effective way to evaluate our day by guiding us through the little and big moments in our spiritual journeys. Ultimately, the Examen helps us become better listeners for and discerners of God's presence in our lives. St. Ignatius of Loyola developed this in the 16th century. It's a 5-step process you can do in the evening before bed, or even midday and at the end of the day. Here are the 5 steps

- **What are you thankful for today?** Think of what is important and name specific things you are thankful for from your day.
- **Where did you notice God today?** Identify times during the day where you encountered God or saw God at work in others.
- **What stood out?** Look at the moments that stood out to you - both positive and not so positive and review your responses to them.
- **Seek Help.** Review the areas that were exposed during the day where you need help, and ask God for help and grace for tomorrow.
- **Looking Ahead.** Look ahead to the next hours or tomorrow with hope and a fresh start.

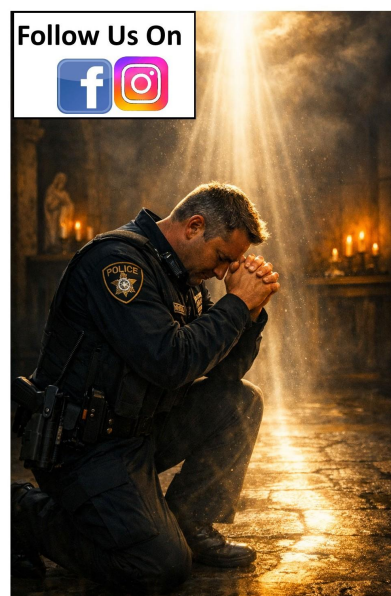
As I close, I offer this straightforward Scripture from 1 Chronicles 16:11

"Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually."

Prayer

Lord, you have asked this group of people to be calm in the storm. You have given us Isaiah 41:10 as a reminder that you are the true anchor – that our strength, our calm, our ability to comfort is from our connection to YOU. I pray that each of us will tuck the words of Isaiah 41:10 away and keep them in our hearts and minds for when we are called to duty.

"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely, I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." -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/>



Welcome, Chaplain Cory

My wife Holly and I recently celebrated 37 years of marriage. We met right here in Spokane 38 years ago as I was finishing my degree at Eastern Washington University. August of 1989 marked the official start of our adventure together: I graduated college one weekend, married Holly the following weekend, and stepped into a 34-year career in IT application testing that next Monday.

Life took us away from Spokane for 32 years. Over those decades, our journey brought us to Plano and McKinney, Texas; Aurora, Westminster, and Commerce City, Colorado; Bremerton, Silverdale, WA and Farmington, New York, before we finally made our way back home to Spokane in 2021. In 2024, Holly graciously stepped up to take a job that supported my dream of retiring from IT to answer my call to pastoral ministry. I left my corporate career, joined Turning Point Open Bible Church, and became a staff pastor in 2025.



My path to chaplaincy grew out of a lifelong respect for those who serve others and a deep desire to offer comfort to people in need. While I knew early on that I didn't have the physical attributes for law enforcement, fire service, or the military, I always looked for ways to support those who do. The seed for chaplaincy was planted through David Losey, a church member who shared his experiences with the SCSO Chaplains. Living out my faith alongside deputies in our church and through the break room we maintain for them made that calling even more clear. I am deeply humbled and look forward to serving for a long time to come.

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

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SCSO Chaplaincy Leading at the ...



The First Responder Chaplain Academy was founded as a partnership between several chaplaincy organizations that collectively recognized training matters. Too often, chaplains are appointed and thrown into the deep end of this mission-critical ministry without the tools and training to be successful and make a positive impact in the lives of those they serve. The First Responder Chaplain Academy has been designed to help each graduate be fully prepared to serve their communities and the first responders in their communities with confidence and competence.



FRCA Class of 2026





CSS Karen, Shelly, CSS Marilyn & Hank, CSS Yvonne,
Lead Chaplain Robert, Chaplain Tim



CSS Marilyn & CSS Yvonne



Sr. Chaplain Jake teaching a FRCA Class



Chaplain Cliff facilitating Role-Play exercises