

**THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland**

Spiritual Director:
Rev. Fr. Edward J. Janoch

Chaplain:
Fr. Joseph Tuscan OFM Cap.

Group Leader:
Cindy Russo

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Jan 6 -

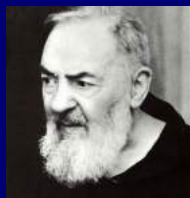
Pray for our pilgrims
returning from the
Holy Land

Feb 3 -

(NEW TIME)

Padre Pio Prayer
Group Gathering
beginning with the
Rosary at 8:00 AM
followed by Mass at
8:30 AM, St.
Barnabas Church,
9451 Brandywine
Rd., Northfield

Check the online
Community Bulletin
Board on our
website to view
upcoming events
in the area



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

The Star of Bethlehem Has Been Born!

The month of January is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, with January 3rd being the Feast of the Holy Name. After the Blessed Virgin Mary had conceived her Child by the Holy Spirit, the angel Gabriel appeared to St. Joseph and instructed him that the Child's name should be called Jesus, which means "God Saves".

Jesus is our hope. Encouragement and hope is something that belongs to you. You do not have to live in a world of hurt and doubt. You don't have to live alone and weep in solitude. You have the body of Christ to lift you up. You have the Word of God to teach you. You have the Holy Spirit indwelling in you who warms your soul. You have the God of encouragement waiting to show you His mercy and love. But you need to trust. You need to remember the Lord's blessing. You need to depend on Him. You need to keep your eyes on Jesus and Him alone. Throughout the day, just call out His name. "Jesus" is a simple but beautiful prayer.

If we have nothing to rely on, or we forget our blessing and look to our circumstances, then that is when discouragement begins to take hold. Instead, what we need is encouragement. We need hope and peace, and the knowledge that the Lord knows our troubles, has great concern and compassion for us, and is not leaving us unloved or uncared for.

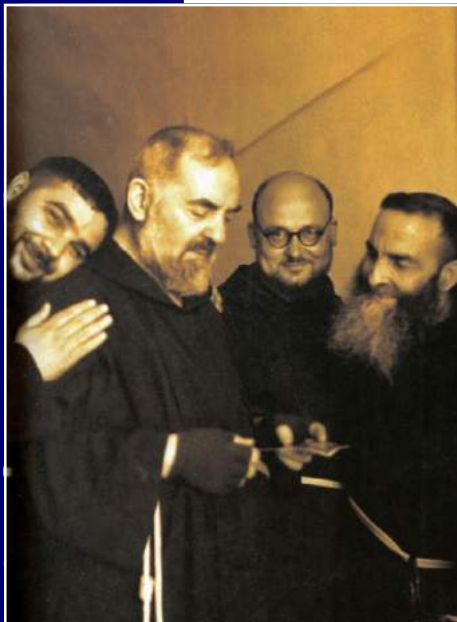
Following the star of Bethlehem, the magi traveled to Jerusalem to look for the Mes-

siah. Something in the heavens provided a brighter-than-normal light in the sky. You need to find the "Light", Jesus and His



Word, and by faith, rest in Him. The magi travelled from the East in search of the Christ child. Upon finding the baby Jesus, "they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, incense and of myrrh". The gift of gold to the Christ child was symbolic of His divinity—God in flesh. The gift of frankincense to the Christ child was symbolic of His willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving Himself up, analogous to a burnt offering. Myrrh symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction. The baby Jesus would grow to suffer greatly as a man and would pay the ultimate price when He gave His life on the cross for all who would believe in Him.

So as we begin this New Year, trust in Him. Surrender daily. Keeping your eyes on Jesus is the best way to have comfort, peace and hope, and remember: Wise Men still seek Him!



St. Irenaeus and Saint Athanasius in the early centuries of the church spoke about two Advents; the first being God coming to Earth in the form of an innocent child at Christmas, the second being Christ coming in judgment at the end of the world. In the 4th century Saint Augustine spoke about a third Advent and that is the way that Christ comes into our hearts principally through the sacraments, especially through the Holy Eucharist and holy confession of our sins. Another important way that God comes to us is through the example and intercession of the Saints. When we feel alone or scared at difficult moments in our lives we can reach out to them and they reach out to help us. What a consolation it is to have this great cloud of witnesses as advocates on our behalf. Here is a beautiful story of Saint Padre Pio:

"How many times you called out to me!"

Testimonies also show that Padre Pio listened to the voice of his spiritual children even when they were far from him.

Father Valentino was a capuchin friar from San Marco in Lamis who was a spiritual son of Padre Pio and was very devoted to him. During the second world war he was in Emilia Romagna while the Gothic line of the German Army was encamped on the Apennines, thereby dividing the region in two. Because of this separation, he hadn't heard from his family who lived in Puglia for a long time. So one day he finally decided to try to cross over and head for his family in the South. However, it was of course necessary to cross the military front, and to do so was very, very risky. He knew some people who were fighting against the Germans so he asked them for help and advice about what to do. They indicated a way through the mountains but warned that it was very dangerous. Additionally, it was in the middle of the winter and very cold. There were a few others also who longed to be united with their separated loved ones so together the group set a date. The day arrived and Fr. Valentino said to himself--"It's now or never".

So together with a few others he set off walking. He prayed to God for the group's safety and in prayer he also sought the intercession and help of Padre Pio. Eventually the group came to a very high place in the mountains where the path was narrow and covered with snow. At this point the path descended down a steep slope. When Fr. Valentino was about halfway down the slope, he placed one of his feet wrong and suddenly started to slide.

"Padre Pio help me; Padre Pio help" he cried as he was sliding down. Suddenly, a bush broke his fall.

The others helped him back up and he was able to continue his journey and eventually the group crossed the military line safely, without being discovered. When he reached San Marco in Lamis, after resting a few hours, he wished to go to San Giovanni Rotondo to see Padre Pio. As soon as Padre Pio saw him he said: **"How many times you called out to me the other night!..how many times!"**

The Saint then held him close to his heart and said: **"Let us together thank the Lord."**

(Testimony of Fr. Valentino from San Marco in Lamis. San Severo, Italy, April 8, 1992)

My dear brothers and sisters, as we enter into the joy of the Christmas season, let us begin this New Year with the advice of our spiritual father St. Pio:

For all that has been, thank you Lord. For all that will be, YES.

Being Beacons of Hope in a Challenging World

America is an addictive society. The advertisers are very psychologically astute. They know exactly what appeals to people, actually to our lower nature, our passions, or what scripture describes as “the flesh.” This has led to our being a pleasure-seeking, narcissistic culture. But the more we seek pleasure, the less it satisfies. The less it satisfies, the more we seek it, and hence we have become an addictive society.

Pleasure-seeking abhors suffering and so we also are becoming a culture of complaint. People on the left complain vehemently against the church because Jesus calls us to embrace and offer up our suffering in order to be transformed into victors, heroes and saints. We are not to “wimp out” “like the pagans who have no hope.”

A secular society loses sight of heaven and concentrates on this world. This world is limited by time and gravity. It is actually a “valley of tears” as the prayer states. No wonder people with a secular bent are depressed.

In light of all this, Jesus calls us to be people of hope. We trust that Jesus loves us. We come from Him and we are going back to Him. We know the “way” of life.



BEING PEOPLE OF HOPE

Many people, especially younger people, parade skulls and crossbones which are very unsettling and depressing. Halloween is big, concentrating on the dark side of things. To counteract this, we can hang rosaries from our rear-view mirrors, wear crosses and metals, and put statues in our yards as signs of faith and hope.

When a society loses hope and grumbles, it doesn't have the

energy and outlook to love adequately. Hence, we can be at each others' throats. Instead, we can be a people of love, doing random acts of kindness and thoughtfulness. People will notice and take heart. If some don't appreciate our efforts, we know that the Heart of Jesus always appreciates us.

When there is something that many people complain about like road rage, we can make reparation (which is a powerful virtue encouraged by Mary at Fatima and Jesus in His words to St. Faustina) for the offenders and counteract the sin with the virtue of thoughtfulness. We can “go the extra mile” by letting people go before us in traffic, etc. It can be contagious.

When we know people are having a difficult time or are even angry, we can gently reach out to them. After a young man had committed suicide, an entry was found in his diary the same day which said, “If someone shows me an act of kindness on the way to the bridge, I won't jump.” In contrast, a person new in the neighborhood was invited in by one of our Prayer Group members for a cup of coffee. It just so happened that the person had just been released from the mental ward of a hospital. She is now thriving spiritually. What medicine couldn't do, Jesus did through one of Padre Pio's disciples. Hope was restored.


Live with purpose. Viktor Frankl, who was in a concentration camp, noticed that people who had a purpose, like getting back to their families who needed them, survived. People without a purpose were much more likely to give up and die. Upon rising from sleep we can resolve to be people with the mission of being beacons of hope to others. We can ask our Guardian Angels to direct us to people who need to know God's love for them. It makes life interesting and meaningful.

What we focus on grows. If we focus on the secular news and all the evil in the world, we can be depressed. If we focus on the good news of Jesus, we will be uplifted and hopeful.

Be a “power of one” person. Years ago, social scientists were investigating the causes of crime in a big city. They found that most young men in a certain area had little success in life. However, they also found, after much investigation, that a significant number of men who had attended a certain school did remarkably well. Their success all boiled down to

(Continued on page 8)

Pro-Life Reflections for Everyday - January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Lord, I pray for all those who have had abortions. Through the compassion of others, may they turn to You for forgiveness, and may You grant them Your peace.</p> <p>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</p>	<p>1 Lord, enable me to devote more time, energy, and resources to the greatest human rights movement of our day, the pro-life movement.</p> <p>THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</p>	<p>2 Lord, increase my love for the children in the womb who cannot acknowledge or repay me. May You be my only reward.</p> <p>Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen</p>	<p>3 Lord, thank You for the grace of being pro-life and of standing strong when others ridicule or oppose me. May Your peace fill my soul, and may I become more like Your crucified and risen Son.</p> <p>Christmas Weekday <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i></p>	<p>4 Spirit of truth, keep us free from the powers of deception. Give us clear minds to know truth and courageous tongues to speak it.</p> <p>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</p>	<p>5 Lord Jesus, You conquered the power of death. May we seek freedom from its power only in You.</p> <p>St. John Neumann First Friday</p>	<p>6 Lord, thank You for my body, my life, and my freedom. May all of us understand the purpose of these gifts: to freely give ourselves away I love just as You did.</p> <p>Christmas Weekday <i>St. Andre Bessette</i> First Saturday</p>
<p>7 Lord, I pray for all those who have had abortions. Through the compassion of others, may they turn to You for forgiveness, and may You grant them Your peace.</p> <p>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</p>	<p>8 Lord, give us a consistent respect for every life and a proper understanding of every life issue.</p> <p>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</p>	<p>9 Lord, the kingdom belongs to children. Grant that we may trust them accordingly.</p> <p>[1st Week in Ordinary Time]</p>	<p>10 Have mercy on us, Lord, and save us from the idolatry of death.</p> <p>Christmas Weekday <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i></p>	<p>11 Lord, be with all those who are going through healing after abortion, and bring them quickly to Your peace.</p>	<p>12 Thank You Father of Life, for creating every human being, born and unborn, healthy and sick.</p>	<p>13 Lord, renew my confidence today that Your promise to us will continue to be fulfilled as Your Kingdom of Life grows in the world.</p> <p>St. Hilary BVM</p>
<p>14 Lord, Your teach us to see beyond appearances, prejudices, and false distinctions. Help us care for every human life, born and unborn.</p> <p>2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p>15 Lord, thank You for the privilege of defending human life through the pro-life movement.</p>	<p>16 Lord, we cannot know the plans You have for each unborn child. May all people respect the special call given to each of us.</p>	<p>17 Lord, may we imitate those who sacrifice their time, talent, and treasure for the pro-life movement.</p> <p>St. Anthony</p>	<p>18 Lord Jesus, may we be one as You and Your Father are one.</p>	<p>19 Lord, I thank You for Norma McConvey's conversion, as a sign of hope for our culture. May she rest in Your peace.</p>	<p>20 Lord, send Your blessings upon Sandra Cano, and upon all who work for the reversal of these disastrous decisions of our Supreme Court.</p> <p>St. Fabian St. Sebastian BVM</p>
<p>21 Lord, bless all those who will march this year for life, and the many more who labor for life in their own communities every day.</p> <p>3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p>22 Lord, I unite myself today with all my brothers and sisters in this great pro-life cause.</p> <p>Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children</p>	<p>23 Defend Your people, O God, and protect the rights You have given to us all.</p> <p>St. Marianne Cope St. Vincent</p>	<p>24 Holy Spirit, keep our minds and hearts focused on children, that we may learn from them.</p> <p>St. Francis de Sales</p>	<p>25 Lord, we praise You for the conversions taking place each day. Bring the world to unity in You.</p> <p>THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL</p>	<p>26 Lord, protect Your people in all of their rights, and help us to protect one another.</p> <p>Ss. Timothy & Titus</p>	<p>27 Lord, I pray for all those who are disabled, frail, and ill. Give them Your strength and peace, and give us the eyes to see their dignity and value.</p> <p>St. Angela Merici</p>
<p>28 Lord, may all people acknowledge You as the only master of human life. May those who defend life understand that they are not only defending their brothers and sisters, but are also defending You!</p> <p>4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p>29 Lord, free Your people from the deception of idolatry, witchcraft, and false worship. Preserve us in true worship and effective justice.</p>	<p>30 Lord, I pray today for the Society of Centurions who are former abortionists. Help them to find Your healing and peace.</p>	<p>31 Lord, instill in all fathers and mothers a deep sense of responsibility for their children, born and unborn.</p> <p>St. John Bosco</p>	<p>THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL</p>	<p>THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL</p>	<p>Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God and my Mother. Daughter of the Eternal Father, pray that we recognize our unity as children of the One Father. Mother of the Only-Begotten Son, pray that we accept each other as sisters and brothers in the same Jesus. Spouse of the Life-Giving Holy Spirit, pray that we be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, Who leads us to the fullness of life. Mary, Virgin Made Church, Mother of the Mystical Body of Christ, First Tabernacle, First Monstrance, be with us in life's journey, and help us see and follow Jesus. Following your example, may we bear the Lord hidden in our hearts as we receive Him in the Eucharist, and present Him to the world each day as we live the Eucharist we have received. Amen.</p>

Eight New Year's "Resolutions" from Padre Pio

(These "resolutions" are taken from the booklet "Buona Giornata" (Have a Good Day), which is a compilation of daily meditations and observations from St. Pio's writings and comments, published by his Friary in San Giovanni Rotondo.)



1. The palm of glory is reserved only for those who fight valiantly to the end. Therefore, let us begin our holy battle this year. God will help us and crown us with eternal triumph.
2. We are by Divine Grace at the dawn of a new year. Since only God knows whether we will finish this year, we should spend it in reparation for the past, and in preparation for the future. Good works go hand in hand with good intentions.
3. Let us say to ourselves, with the full conviction of telling the truth, "My soul: begin today to do the good works which to date you have not done." Let us be moved by the presence of God. "God sees me," let us often say to ourselves, "and by my actions will He judge me." Let us be sure that He will always see only goodness in us.
4. If you have time, do not wait for time. Let us not put off until tomorrow what we can do today. The graves are full of good intentions that never came to pass. Besides, what assurance do we have that we will be alive tomorrow? Let us listen to the voice of our conscience, as said the royal prophet: "Today, if you hear the voice of the Lord, do not turn a deaf ear." Let us come forth and treasure the fleeting moment which alone is ours. Let us not waste time, from one moment to another, because the latter is not yet ours.
5. When you waste time, you disdain God's gift - the

present - which He, in His infinite goodness, relinquishes to your love and to your generosity.

6. "Let us begin today, my brothers, to do good because until now we have done nothing." These words, which the Seraphic Father, St. Francis, in his humility, applied to himself, should be made ours at the beginning of the new year. We have lived thoughtlessly, as if the Eternal Judge were not going to call us to Him one day and ask us to account for our works, for how we have spent our time.
7. Love does not brook being delayed, and the Magi, immediately upon arrival, did everything in their power to make known Him who had conquered their hearts through an influx of grace. He filled them with the kind of charity which must overflow, because it cannot be contained in the small structure of the heart, and must therefore be communicated.
8. In your actions, seek neither the most nor the least merit, but rather the greatest honor and glory for God.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new.
 You bring hope alive in our hearts,
 And cause our Spirits to
 be born again.
 Thank you for this New Year,
 For all the potential it holds.
 Come and kindle in us a mighty
 flame of your love.
 So that in our time, many will see
 the wonders of God,
 And live forever to praise Your
 glorious holy name. Amen.

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE

**Next month, February 3, we will pray the
 Rosary at 8:00 AM followed by Mass at 8:30 AM.**

**We
thank
You for
choosing
them
from
among
us.**

Prayers for Priests, Seminarians and Vocations

A Prayer for Priests

By John Cardinal O'Connor

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy.

Lord Jesus, we your people pray to You for our priests.

You have given them to us for OUR needs.

We pray for them in THEIR needs.

We know that You have made them priests in the likeness of your own priesthood.

You have consecrated them, set them aside, anointed them, filled them with the Holy Spirit, appointed them to teach, to preach, to minister, to console, to forgive,

and to feed us with Your Body and Blood.

Yet we know, too, that they are one with us and share our human weaknesses.

We know too that they are tempted to sin and discouragement as are we, needing to be ministered to, as do we, to be consoled and forgiven, as do we.

Indeed, we thank You for choosing them from among us, so that they understand us as we understand them, suffer with us and rejoice with us, worry with us and trust with us, share our beings, our lives, our faith.

We ask that You give them this day the gift You gave Your chosen ones on the way to Emmaus: Your presence in their hearts, Your holiness in their souls, Your joy in their spirits. And let them see You face to face in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread.

We pray to You, O Lord, through Mary the mother of all priests, for Your priests and for ours. Amen.



Prayer for Seminarians

O Lord Jesus Christ, great High Priest, I pray that You call many worthy souls to Your holy priesthood.

Enlighten the Bishop in the choice of candidates, the Spiritual Director in molding them, and the professors in instructing them.

Lead the seminarians daily in Your unerring footsteps; so that they may become priests who are models of purity, possessors of wisdom and heroes of sacrifice; steeped in humility and aflame with love for God and man; apostles of Your glory and sanctifiers of souls.

Amen.

A Note From Fr. Terry

Cindy, I would like to thank you and the Padre Pio prayer group of Cleveland for making my stay most welcome recently. As I stressed, I have seen many prayer groups over the world dedicated to St Pio, but this was the most well run and organized I've ever seen. Well done, but your group is not only run by your good self, but also the core group and of course the members and spiritual children of St Pio.

Once again thank you and your group. May St Pio intercede for Us.

Fr Terry (O'Connell)



Prayers for Pro-Life Intentions

Prayer For Babies in Their Mothers' Wombs

O God of all creation,
Nurture and protect tiny children and keep them safe in the sanctuary of their mothers' wombs.
As You so wondrously form their hearts and minds, and lungs and souls, so strengthen our wills to lovingly nurture and protect them.



Give us the eyes to see them as our brothers and sisters, the minds to welcome them as our own, and the faith to defend them as Your children.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and the mother of all the little ones, through Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

— EWTN Family Newsletter, January 2018

Miracle

If you could see inside ~ like a looking glass, So far away, yet Oh, so near
If you could see this little miracle, If only you could hear
The beating of a little heart, See ten tiny little toes,
See the flutter of little eyelids, Hear the cry of a brand new soul.
It's a place we all have hidden, Deep within our hearts,
This place where God created us, Next to our Mother's Heart.

© 2006 by Diane Canavan, Holy Family Pro-Life Group member

Prayer for the Dignity of Human Life

Lord and giver of all life, help us to value each person, created in love by You. In Your mercy, guide and assist our efforts to promote dignity and value of all human life, born and unborn. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Call Helen Husky 440-232-3462 to add a member to the list.

Fr. Edward Janoch
Bishop Richard Lennon
Kyle O'Malley
Abbot C. Schwartz OSB

**FOR ALL THE INTENTIONS IN OUR
ONLINE PRAYER BASKET,
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**



Fr. Andrew Apostoli celebrating Mass with St. Pio's Chalice..

**We started a new Sick List
in January 2018.
Contact Helen Husky if
you need to place
someone on the list.**

† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Fr. Andrew Apostoli
Mathew Wisniewski, Son of Spiritual Children Marlene and Ron Wisniewski

(Continued from page 3)

one faith-filled, enthusiastic and encouraging unmarried teacher who considered the boys her "sons." She had always wanted to marry, but Jesus had a different type of family for her. She adopted a hopeful attitude toward her singleness and taught her sons who Jesus was. Jesus touched many lives through this beacon of hope, and they in turn raised hopeful children. She was a "power of one" person who was undaunted in an environment in which many young people were tempted to lose hope.

Meditating on the 14th to the 17th chapters of St. John's Gospel, in which Jesus looked square in the face his oncoming torture and crucifixion, is a powerful motivation for hope in times of temptation to "wimp out."

"He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world."



"In the world you will find tribulation. But fear not, I have overcome the world."

For those who suffer, that our Lord Jesus Christ will give them the grace and courage to accept their suffering, that they may experience the healing hands of our Lord Jesus Christ. *"Saint Pio intercede to Jesus for them"*

For those who are ill in my family and among my friends, that they may be restored to full health: physically, mentally and spiritually. *"Saint Pio intercede to Jesus for them"*

For the housebound, the bedridden, and those in wheelchairs, who have to rely on others for their needs. *"Saint Pio intercede to Jesus for them"*

For those who suffer serious diseases, that God's loving Spirit may radiate within them. *"Saint Pio intercede to Jesus for them"*

For those with disabling handicaps, that they reach out in faith to touch the hem of the Lord's garment and know his power. *"Saint Pio intercede to Jesus for them"*

For those who are mentally ill or seriously depressed, that the Lord give them both the desire to be healed and the courage to change. *"Saint Pio intercede to Jesus for them"*

For the peace of God's gift to see an illness as an opportunity to draw even closer to him. *"Saint Pio intercede to Jesus for them"*

BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of January!

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FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND TWITTER: [@PADREPIOCLEVELAND](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVELAND)**