

**THE PADRE PIO  
PRAYER GROUP  
of Cleveland**

**Spiritual Director:**  
Rev. Fr. Edward J. Janoch

**Group Leader:**  
Cindy Russo

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS:**

**Feb 3 -**

Welcome to the recipients of the Padre Pio Award from St. Barnabas!

**Feb 5 -**

Group Leader Presentation at 6:30 PM, Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Rd., Broadview Hts.

**Feb 14 -**

Group Leader Presentation at 12:00 PM luncheon, St. Noel Church, 35200 Char-don Rd., Willoughby Hills. Call 440-946-6932 to RSVP.

**Mar 3 -**

**\*\* NEW TIME \*\***

Padre Pio Prayer Group Gathering beginning with Rosary at 8:00 AM and 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

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

## Happy Fifth Anniversary!

Can you believe it has been five glorious years since we received the approval of Abbot Christopher Schwartz to move the existing prayer group to St. Barnabas Church? In his letter he stated we need to bring "new life" into the group and, boy, have we! We total 499 members and devotees as of today.



Our prayer group started in 1969 at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Euclid, OH. Sr. Jeanne Marie Glorioso (1938-2016) was our foundress. The Prayer Group has been thriving for 49 years, although it has moved throughout the Diocese of Cleveland with St. Padre Pio's intercession and with many Spiritual Directors and Group Leaders leading along the way. (Please keep prayers of gratitude for their fiat.)

We have obtained relics of St. Pio and countless "God favors" from the intercession of our Beloved Saint. We have traveled on pilgrimages to Italy three times, including an invitation from Pope Francis when St. Pio's body was brought to Rome in the Year of Mercy. We also had the honor to attend the Canonization of St. Teresa of Calcutta and the Beatification of Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey. We attended many Marian shrines including Fatima, Lourdes and Medjugorje. The last pilgrimage took us to the Holy Land where we walked in the same holy sites where Jesus walked and died.

Padre Pio organized Prayer Groups so that they would be a source of constant prayer embracing all those around the world who were needy in either body or soul. He felt the need for them to gather at least once a month, to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and to be a source of charity for all, especially the homeless, poor and unborn. Holy Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Prayers to St. Pio, and Confession cleanse our souls and Guest Speakers nourish his spiritual children. We have had the best "festa meals" to nourish our bodies.

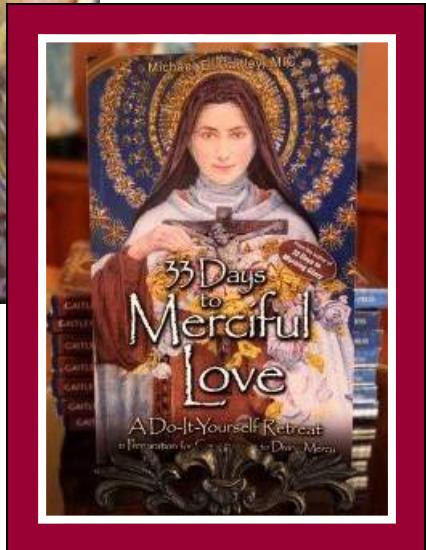
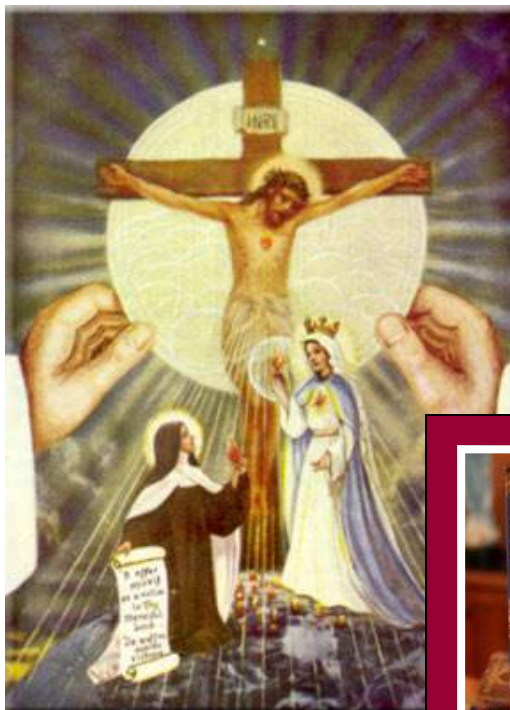
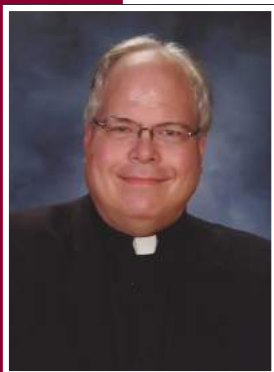
Padre Pio started Prayer Groups to bring people closer to God as though a fraternity of brothers and sisters, to increase our knowledge of our Catholic faith, and pray for vocations. We are blessed to have two fine young members from our Group in the seminary and perhaps two more for next year.



There are endless hours of volunteers to make this happen every month, including newsletter writers and editor, prayer leaders, hospitality coordinators and help, website masters, rosary scapular and rosary makers, photographer, religious goods purchaser, sunshine correspondent, bereavement chairperson, and prayer warriors. We have grown to one of the largest Padre Pio Prayer Groups in the world. We receive online prayer intentions from all around the globe, and our Group Leader has been appointed a U.S. Ambassador of the Disciples of Padre Pio by Vatican leaders. Most recently, we received a Certificate of Appreciation from St. Barnabas School.

Happy Fifth Anniversary, Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland!





REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

30 December 2017

Cindy Russo  
St. Padre Pio Prayer Group  
St. Barnabas Church  
9451 Brandywine Road  
Northfield, Ohio 44067

Dear Cindy:

May the Glory of the Christ Child be with you. I pray that all is well with you. I was thinking about you and the prayer group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. I ask for prayers as I continue my treatment for my health issues. All is going well. I am also finishing my preparation for my Consecration to Divine Mercy which will take place on 1 January 2018, on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. I still remember our lunch conversation and how God is asking you to be an example of St. Therese's Little Way and offering yourself to the Merciful Love of Divine Mercy. Pray that I will also offer myself to this Merciful Love.

If you or members of the Group would like to write letters or send cards to me, the address is:

Fr. Edward J. Janoch  
Secretariat for Clergy and Religious  
Cathedral Square  
1404 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1722

It does the spirit good to know that others are praying and thinking of me.

May the New Year be one filled with Jesus' Merciful Love.

Yours in Christ,

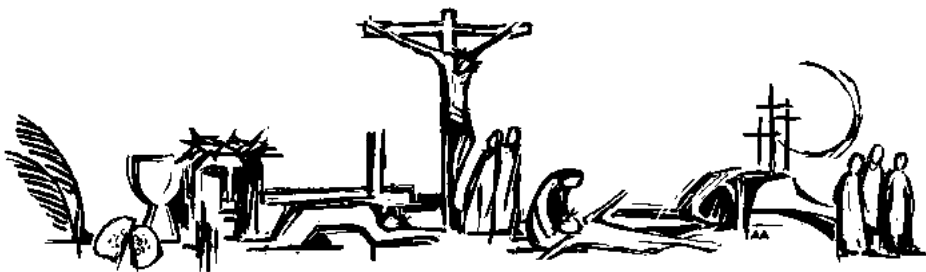
Fr. Edward J. Janoch

THANK YOU, FR. ED, FOR FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR GROUP!

## Lent - A Time for Reparation

We live in a society in which there is much accusing of others for their supposed faults. One of the titles of Satan is “accuser.” It is a way in which he divides people and promotes friction, political malaise, religious wars, family divisions, etc. A good question to ask is: “Do I make an issue of the faults of others and hold it against them? Do I lose my peace of soul in reaction to the faults of others?” The antidote to this is to take on the mind and heart of Jesus who came “not to condemn the world but to save it” (John 3:16). Lent is the perfect time to do this – to join our efforts with the heart of Jesus to repair the damage done by sin (reparation for sins) and to save the world.

On earth, Jesus was not helpless in confronting evil. He had power to cast out devils and change hearts. This is our call here on earth – to be powerful with the power of Jesus. The three Fatima children actually shortened World War I because of their intense prayer and acts of reparation for sins. We can stem the tide of evil. It takes a decision. Lent is a great time to do it. Motivation is the key. In the past, we may have been lukewarm in our Lenten penance because we focused on the sacrifices more than on Jesus for whom we were doing the sacrifices. Let's focus on Jesus!



Some suggestions:

- **Console the Heart of Jesus.**

Most people believe that Jesus suffered here on earth and now he is totally happy in heaven. The mystics tell us otherwise. Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1675: “Behold the Heart which has so much loved people that it has spared nothing, even exhausting and consuming itself in testimony of its love. Instead of gratitude, I receive from most only indifference by irreverence and sacrilege and the coldness and scorn that people have for me in the sacrament of love.” In Heaven, Jesus feels pain much like the pain we feel when we are betrayed by others. Reparation is two-fold. First we make reparation to Jesus by consoling Him, secondly, we make reparation for the punishment due to the sins of others. We can set the context to console the Heart of Jesus by watching Mel Gibson's movie “The Passion of the Christ.” We can be with Mary at the foot of the cross and

simply unite our heart with the suffering Heart of Jesus in this way. St. Margaret Mary also won many graces for souls. So can we.

- **Stop the pain being inflicted on Jesus.**

Jesus said to Saul on the road to Damascus: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” Parents instinctively come to the defense of their children when they are being bullied. Paul loved Jesus so much that instead of being the persecutor or bully he became the persecuted, gladly suffering so much and offering it all to Jesus for his brothers and sisters in Christ. So, instead of being resentful when others offend us, we can turn it into an opportunity of grace for the offender by forgiving them and asking Jesus to bless them. This brings great joy to Jesus because the members of his body negate the impact of sin.

- **Take responsibility for the souls of others.**

Imagine Jesus asking you the question when you stand in judgment at the gates of Heaven: “How many souls did you bring with you?” How many people will be in Heaven because of your prayers and sacrifices for them? 10, 20, 100, 1000? “The one to whom much has been given, much will be expected.” Like the Fatima children, we know that Jesus wants us to pray and sacrifice for others. Part of our judgment will be based on the question: “Did you not know that you are your brother's keeper?”

- **Save people from Hell.**

Mary said at Fatima: “Many souls go to hell because they have no one to pray for them.” Just think of all the people who have brought you to this point in your journey of faith. Some children are born to atheistic parents, are never baptized and never prayed for. Take some time to think of the people around you such as coworkers, neighbors, friends, etc. who probably have no one to pray for them. If you pray for them, you may save them for all eternity.


- **Enjoy the 40 day journey.**

There was a son who has a very loving father who was a farmer. There were many difficult tasks on the farm, but the son enjoyed being at his father's side helping him. The father always showed appreciation. For the son, it was not so much work, but rather precious time spent with his dad. This is what Lent can be like for us – precious time spent with Jesus. Love makes sacrifice possible. Perfect love makes it a joy.

***Padre Pio, who made reparation for sinners,  
brought much consolation to the Heart of Jesus,  
and saved so many souls, pray for us!***

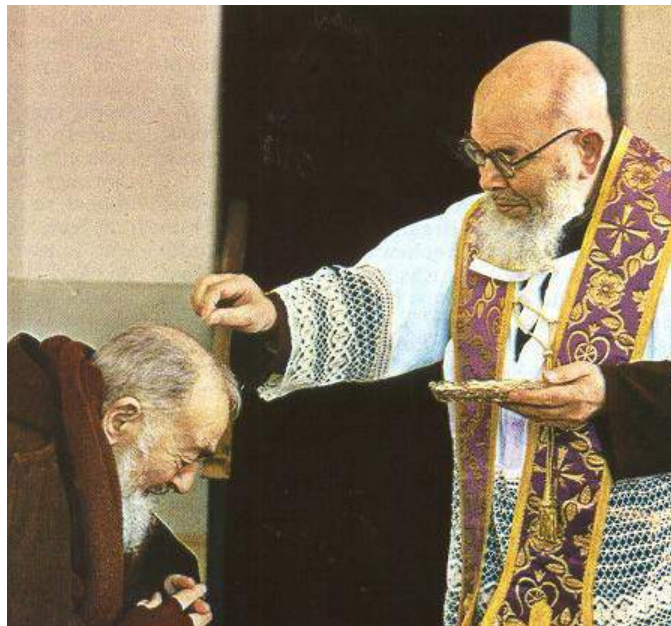


## Reflections from St. Padre Pio February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Prayer to St. Pio of Pietrelcina and God's Will</b>						
<i>Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, loving spiritual father and guide of souls, pray that we may seek always and only to live the Will of the Father. Like Jesus, may we always say: Father, Your will, not mine, be done. Pray for us that we, your Spiritual Children, like you, may abandon ourselves to the love of the Father, Whose love is everlasting, and in that eternal Love, find the fullness of Life. Present our prayer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.</i>						
4 All the followers of the Nazarene ... are all exposed to the trials and tribulations of life.	5 God, the author of all grace and every gift ... has decreed that glory will be ours on condition that we endure suffering with a Christian spirit.	6 Let us lift up our hearts full of confidence in God alone.	7 Let us humble ourselves beneath His powerful hand.	8 Let us cheerfully accept the trials to which the mercy of the heavenly Father subjects us, so that He may raise us up at the time of His visitation.	9 Let all our concern be to love God and be pleasing to Him'.	10 God will always take more care of us than we can say or imagine.
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>St. Agatha</b>	<b>St. Paul Miki and Companions</b>		<b>St. Jerome Emiliani</b> <b>St. Josephine Bakhita</b>	<b>THE LORD</b> <b>First Friday</b>	<b>St. Blasé</b> <b>St. Ansgar</b> <b>BVM</b> <b>First Saturday</b>
11 Let us follow the divine Master up the steep slope of Calvary loaded with our cross.	12 To be on the cross with Jesus is infinitely more perfect than merely contemplating Jesus Himself on the Cross.	13 Peace, mercy, and grace be with you always and with all who sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ.	14 Souls cost too much to God, and one can never do too much to save them.	15 I beseech you by the meekness of Jesus and by the mercy of the heavenly Father, never to slacken on the path of virtue.	16 To stand still on this path (of virtue) is equivalent to retracing one's steps.	17 Don't neglect the grace which was bestowed on you at baptism and has been increased in great measure by means of the other sacraments.
<b>6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Fast &amp; Abstinence</b>	<b>Thursday after Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday after Ash</b> <b>Abstinence</b>	<b>Saturday after Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <i>St. Servite Order</i>
18 Be watchful ... and never place too much trust in yourself or count excessively on your own strength.	19 Practice charity more and more.	20 Charity is the bond of Christian perfection.	21 Throw yourself confidently into the arms of the heavenly Father with childlike trust.	22 Open wide your heart to the charism of the only Spirit who is only waiting for a sign from you in order to enrich you.	23 Let us do good. Now is the time for sowing (goodness).	24 It is not necessary to sow a lot of seed as to scatter it in good ground.
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday <b>St. Peter Damian</b>	<b>THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER</b> <b>THE APOSTLE</b>	Lenten Weekday <b>Abstinence</b> <b>St. Polycarp</b>	Lenten Weekday
25 How good our God is who lavished so many graces upon us and loves us so dearly although we do not deserve it.	26 Let us draw near to (Jesus) with hearts free from sin, that we may discover how sweet and delightful it is to love Him.	27 Never undertake any work or any action without first raising your mind to God and directing to Him with a pure intention (what) you are about to perform.	28 You must not be discouraged or let yourself become dejected if your actions have not succeeded as perfectly as you intended.			
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday			
						 <b>PRAY FAST GIVE</b>

## Ten Lessons from Padre Pio for Lent

1. First of all—the need for spiritual warfare: Let us always keep before our eyes the fact that here on earth we are on a battlefield and that in paradise we shall receive the crown of victory; that this is a testing-ground and the prize will be awarded up above; that we are now in a land of exile while our true homeland is Heaven to which we must continually aspire.
2. The rosary is the recommended weapon for battle. – Hold on tightly to the Rosary. Be very grateful to the Madonna because it was she who gave us Jesus. Love our Lady and make her loved; always recite the Rosary and recite it as often as possible.
3. Don't be afraid of humility. Humility is endless. Purity is power. Envision purity and pursue it. These also are weapons in the battle – Humility and purity are the wings which carry us to God and make us almost divine.
4. Don't expect instant success. The spiritual life is a long journey. It is the work of a lifetime. Take one day at a time and one step at a time. If you stumble and fall, get up immediately and keep going. Never give up. – In the spiritual life, you must take one step forward each day in a vertical line, from the bottom up.
5. Your unhappiness is not everything. Your happiness is not everything. Don't allow your feelings to determine whether you think you are making spiritual progress or not. The world's standards of happiness and "success" are completely different from spiritual progress. Keep your eyes fixed on Him who is your guide to the heavenly country, where He is leading you. What does it matter to you whether Jesus wishes to guide you to Heaven by way of the desert or by the meadow, so long as He is always with you and you arrive at the possession of a blessed eternity?
6. Turn off the screens for Lent.



Padre Pio receives ashes at the beginning of Lent. He said, "I am seeking the amendment of my life, my spiritual resurrection, true and substantial love, the sincere conversion of my whole self to Him."

- Stop the TV. Cut back on Facebook and computer stuff. Read some good books. Feed the soul – Don't consider me too demanding if I ask you once again to set great store by holy books and read them as much as you can. This spiritual reading is as necessary to you as the air you breathe.
7. Pay attention to Mass. The Lord is present. It is not just a "family meal" or a pep talk where we decide how we're going to make the world a better place. It is the threshold of heaven and the one full, final sacrifice brought into the present moment with its benefits applied to our needs. – Renew your faith by attending Holy Mass. Keep your mind focused on the mystery that is unfolding before your eyes. In your mind's eye transport yourself to Calvary and meditate on the Victim who offers Himself to Divine Justice, paying the price of your redemption...If we only knew how God regards this Sacrifice, we would risk our lives to be present at a single Mass.
  8. Your discipline during Lent is a step towards proper detachment from the distorted love of created things so that you can love properly the things that are eternal. Therefore don't be discouraged. Make little sacrifices, but make them matter. He who attaches himself to the earth remains attached to it. It is by violence that we must leave it. It is better to detach oneself a little at a time, rather than all at once. Let us always think of Heaven.

9. Don't be discouraged. You think you are doing a good work, but God is doing it within you. When you realize this you will strive even harder to cooperate with God's will and this will take you further on the path with speed. – Let us humble ourselves and confess that if God were not our armor and shield, we would be pierced by all kinds of sins. That is why we must live in God by persevering in our practices, and learn to serve Him at our own expense.

10. Be totally committed to the Lord and he will not fail you. Remember the Bible verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path." Let us try to serve the Lord with all our heart and will. He will always give us more than we deserve.

## Prayers for Priests, Seminarians and Vocations

In this month of February, we pray with heartfelt love for our priests, seminarians and vocations.



### Prayer for Priests

*Our Father who art in heaven,  
Give us priests according to Your Heart.  
That Thy name may be hallowed,  
Give us priests according to Your Heart.  
That Thy kingdom may come,  
Give us priests according to Your Heart.  
That Thy will may be done on earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us priests according to Your Heart.  
So as to give us the bread of life,  
Give us priests according to Your Heart.  
So as to forgive us our sins,  
Give us priests according to Your Heart.  
That they may help us to overcome temptations,  
Give us priests according to Your Heart.  
And deliver them and us from every evil. Amen.*

SOURCE: totus2us.com

**Give us  
priests  
according  
to Your  
Heart.**

### A Prayer for a Seminarian

God our Father, Thank you for calling [name] to prepare for the priesthood. Grant him the grace to grow closer to You through daily prayer. Help him form his personality as a credible witness to others. Bless him while he studies Your word and the teachings of the Church, and give him a generous heart to serve Your people. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our great High Priest. Amen.

### Prayer for Vocations

Father, we're your people, the work of your hands.  
So precious are we in your sight that you sent your Son, Jesus.  
Jesus calls us to heal the broken hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn,  
to give hope to those who despair.  
We, the baptized, realize our call to serve. Help us to know how.  
Call forth from among us priests, deacons, sisters and brothers to have open  
hearts to love and serve all your people.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.



## Why Do We Receive Ashes On Ash Wednesday?

The obligation of ashes is a solemn ritual that signals the beginning of the holy season of Lent. The ceremony is distinctive; there is no liturgical action like it throughout the entire church year. The ashes come from a previous Palm Sunday. The palms are burned, the ashes collected and then crushed into a fine, sooty powder and placed into bowls. The ashes are blessed by the priest during the Ash Wednesday Mass after the homily. Then we are invited to come forward, and the ashes are applied to our forehead in the shape of a cross as the priest says either, "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15), the usual prayer, or "Remember



that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19), the more traditional invocation. Ashes are a plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness. Moreover, they are a public admission of guilt, an expression of sorrow for sins that have been committed, a promise to reform and a pledge to resist temptation in the future. We, too, are sinners. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.



### **PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE**

**All future Monthly Prayer Group meetings will begin with the Rosary at 8:00 AM followed by Mass at 8:30 AM.**

## Suggested Reading for Lent

Join us as we reflect on the Gospel during Lent with "Lenten Gospel Reflections". These sold out booklets will be available at our Prayer Group meeting. You can also sign up at <http://www.lentreflections.com/> for a daily email meditation for Lent from Bishop Robert Barron based on this booklet.

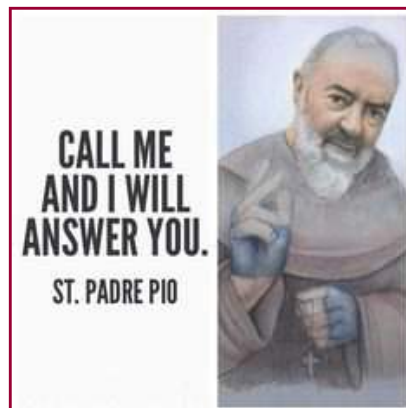


## KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Mark DiFranko  
Katherine Graham  
Helen Husky  
Fr. Edward Janoch  
Larry Janowicz  
Bishop Richard Lennon

Kyle O'Malley  
Abbot C. Schwartz OSB  
Bernadette Suich  
Yoli Wright



### † OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Edward Costello  
Mary DiDonato  
Barbara Weisinger

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

### WE'RE BUILDING A BETTER WEBSITE!



Check out these  
new features:

- **Daily Reflection**
- **Testimonials**
- **Monthly Meeting Prayer Book**

*Some content moved.  
Some links changed.*

## Anniversary Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that we are celebrating this Fifth Anniversary. We thank You that we are all One in Christ, and we pray that as members of Your body, Your Holy Spirit would knit us together in the bond of unity and love. Lord, we ask that You continue to equip each of us, both individually and as a prayer family, with the talents and gifts that may be



used to praise and glorify Your name. Let us not be motivated by selfishness, but in humility, may we seek to regard the needs and necessities of others before our own. Keep our deceased leaders and members in our hearts. We pray through the intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. Amen.

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

WEBSITE: [WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG](http://WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG) CONTACT US: [INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG](mailto:INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG)  
FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND) TWITTER: [@PADREPIOCLEVELAND](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVELAND)