

**THE PADRE PIO  
PRAYER GROUP  
of Cleveland**

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

**Chaplains:**  
Fr. William E. Browne  
Fr. Michael Petkosek  
Fr. Kevin C. Shemuga

**Group Leader:**  
Cindy Russo TOF

**MISSION &  
VISION:**

To carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls.

Our vision is to create more Spiritual Children and lead souls to heaven.

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS:**

**Feb 15 -**  
Start 33 Day Novena for Consecration to St. Joseph

**Mar 6 -**  
Padre Pio Prayer Group Gathering beginning with Rosary at 8:00 AM and Mass at 8:30 AM, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 9080 Shepard Rd, Macedonia

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



# St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

## Model the Holy Family

The Month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. The Holy Family models for us what family life should exemplify. It is a school of virtue for both parents and children. This is where we find God, and learn how to connect with God and with others. The family is where love is freely given without self-interest. It is where we learn to love, to pray and to practice the gift of charity. Pope John Paul II has said, "The family, more than any other human reality, is the place in which the person is loved for himself and in which he learns to live the sincere gift of self" (Nov. 27, 2002).

We should ask ourselves if our own families model that of the Holy Family. We need to be open to God's grace to value the positive and to accept our mistakes — and to be willing to rectify them. Parenting is a very challenging responsibility and at times errors are made despite the best intentions. Recognizing this, children should trust their parents and never forget that parents want only what is best for them. Which leads us to what may be the most important family virtue — forgiveness. Living so intimately within the family nucleus naturally gives rise to unpleasant situations where someone is apt to be offended. St. Paul knew this when he told us

to "bear with and forgive one another." The health of our family may depend on how quickly we learn to forgive without harboring feelings of resentment.



No family can thrive and grow without constant work. Even the material details that take time and effort are essential to keeping the family strong. Everyone has to pull together for the good of the family — even to the point of putting ahead of our own needs and ambitions the happiness of other family members, setting aside our own selfish desires.

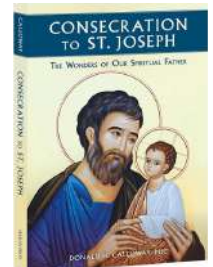
It is also important to pray as a family, especially the holy rosary. Prayer will help us to intensify our closeness with

each other and to learn to forgive. The Eucharist is essential to nurture the relationship between the Eucharist and family life. Pope John Paul II wrote, "In the Eucharistic gift of charity the Christian family finds the foundation and soul of its communion and its mission." It's not surprising that February is designated as the month of love.

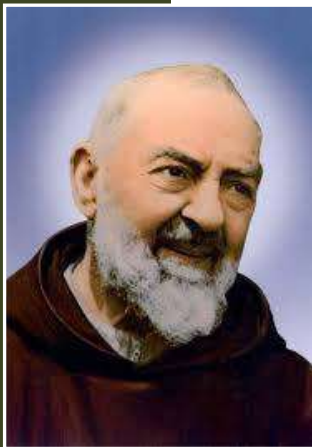
**O dear Jesus, I humbly implore you to grant your special graces to our family. May our home be the shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith. Amen.**

## Walk With St. Joseph This Lent

Do you want to experience a deep, powerful and unforgettable Lent? You never become who you hope to become; you only become what you do. This Lent does not have to be about what you give up, but it can be about who you become. You can walk through Lent 2021 with St. Joseph. You can draw close to God during this special season and have a greater sense of His purpose for your life. Experience Lent like never before! The Padre Pio Prayer Group will be consecrating, or re consecrating, ourselves to St. Joseph. Do you see how attacks on our families have been elevated? We need St. Joseph to guide and protect us. In the most troubling situation in which the Church finds herself today, the fatherly protection of St. Joseph first exercised in the Holy Family, and then in the Universal Church, is needed ever more. Fr. Donald Calloway's *Consecration to St. Joseph* will have a similar impact in the spiritual lives of people around the world. We will begin on February 15<sup>th</sup> and end on March 19<sup>th</sup> (the Feast of St. Joseph). Books will be available at the February prayer gathering.



**“Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.” — Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)**



As your Spiritual Director, I have been sensing that the world is in great need to heed these words of Padre Pio. The events of the past number of years (some say it goes back over sixty years), our world has been spiraling downward into the abyss of sin. There is so much fear, worry, strife, confusion, discouragement, despair, angst, hate, *etc.* that just seems to ooze out of the very ground we walk on. Opinions, thoughts, ideas, concepts, *etc.*, that we never would have imagined sixty years ago are now a commonplace in our world. The destruction of societal standards and mores are continuing to fall every day. When we think that we have heard just about everything, we hear of something even more outlandish and evil than we heard earlier. These concepts have affected our world, our nation, and our Church. Nothing seems to be immune to this great evil that has come over the whole world. The COVID-19 virus did not help, but I believe, pushed the world over the proverbial cliff. This is where Saint Pio's words and belief comes in to help us.

Padre Pio did not just say this quote above to get attention and praise, but he lived it out. How? Why? It all stems from Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and his holy and faithful servant, Saint Francis of Assisi, that Padre Pio imitated. He believed in Christ, the Word of God, and accepted all of Christ Jesus, even to the point of sharing in His passion by possessing the Sacred Wounds (the Stigmata) of Christ's Passion, also shared by his earthly founder, Saint Francis. So to Pray, to Hope, and not to Worry (to have Faith) will help us in this time that God has placed us in. A time to stand-up for the faith. Prayer is good, but we need to do more now. We need to enter back into our cities, states, country, and world, boldly acclaiming JESUS CHRIST and proclaiming the GOOD NEWS that Christ brings. Like what Padre Pio says: “PRAY, HOPE and don't WORRY.”

As a spiritual child of Saint Pio, we need to be people who will boldly and faithfully express our faith in our homes and churches so that the cities, states, country and world will be converted to GOD. Sadly, many baptized Christians (even spiritual sons and daughters) have not lived out their baptismal call to be Priests, Prophets, and Kings. The evil one has persuaded many baptized Christians to not praise God, especially not out in the public for all to see. They do not go to Church/Mass any more. How can 75% to 80% of Catholics stay away from Mass and the Church. Where is our commitment to praise God (Pray)? As I said above, there is so much despair/fear in the world that the evil one prevents the baptized to proclaim Christ, as a prophet would do. A prophet is someone who has the hope that what they are proclaiming about God will be fulfilled. Our God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has kept His promise. All that He said He would do to save us has come true. Where are the prophets for our world today (Hope)? Finally, through Baptism, we have become a king. A king is someone who does not let fear/worry take over. He is someone who does not worry about how to promote the kingdom (for us that is the Kingdom of God), but has faith in those who are a part of his realm to carry on the mission he has in vision for himself and his kingdom. We are called to promote the Kingdom of God that Jesus Christ preached about through the establishment of His Bride, the Church. We walk by Faith, according to Saint Paul and we live our life to be able to experience glimpses of the Kingdom of God here on earth so that we can share in it, as a whole, in Heaven. Where are the kings of God (no Worry/Faith)?

As a spiritual child, our Prayer Group has gone beyond ourselves to perform the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy so that we can live out Saint Pio's quote for these past eight years. We need to reconstruct our Church, both the Bride of Christ and our Domestic Church (home and family). In instilling the character of our baptismal identity as priests, prophets, and kings, we will then be able to change our cities, country and world to be a place of peace, joy, justice, harmony, splendor, good-will, life, liberty, love, *etc.* In prayer we place our trust in God that through His Mercy He will hear our prayers. In being hopeful, we will be able to put into action the call to proclaim the Good News, and in not worrying (having faith) we will be able to bring God's Kingdom into our world.

Pray, Hope, and don't Worry my fellow brothers and sisters of Saint Pio. Do not let the evil one kill our bodies and souls, but that we overcome the evil in this world by being imitators of Christ's love and action. God is so good and He loves us.

Pray, Hope, and don't Worry, Let this Season of Lent that we are about to enter be a time to Pray, to Hope and not to Worry, and be the priest, prophet and king of Jesus Christ.

# Saint Joseph: Our Example

At a time in our current history when the very foundations of our country seem to be undermined, it's good to pause, take a deep breath, and look to Jesus, Mary and Joseph for guidance. What would they be doing if they were living in the USA in February 2021? They would be doing the same things they did in Israel 2000 years ago. Let's take a look at the life of St. Joseph in order to learn the lessons they lived by.

- Jesus was born of simple parents in a stable. Lesson: God specializes in doing great things with very meager resources.
- When Joseph didn't know what in the world to do, he relied not on his own intelligence but on the providence of God to take care of himself and his little family. He received and acted on dreams given to him by God: To take Mary as his wife, to flee to Egypt, and return to Nazareth. Lesson: Our mere human reason cannot solve the problems which confront us. We need to ask God for, and be open to, his guidance regarding both the content and the timing of his guidance.
- When Jesus was presented in the temple, Mary was told by Simeon that seven swords of sorrow would pierce her heart. Joseph patiently and lovingly supported Mary. Lesson: Do I try to support others in their challenges and be a good Samaritan?
- When Jesus was found in the temple, it seemed that He didn't take into account His parents' concern as Jesus said, "Did you not know that I had to be about my Father's business?" Saint Joseph accepted the situation even though he was perplexed



by the confusion of it. Lesson: Can I live with ambiguity and complex situations putting my trust in God's providence rather than in circumstances?

- God had promised his people that he would always be with them, however, they were living under Roman domination. When the Romans said "jump", the Jews had to comply. Making the journey to Bethlehem when Mary was heavy with child for the census was very inconvenient. Joseph didn't like it, but he accepted it. Lesson: Do I accept unjust treatment from others like superiors and offer it up for the glory of God and salvation of souls?
- The carpenter Joseph had what could have been considered a lowly or ordinary job in a lowly village (can anything good come from Nazareth?). He saw it as a call from God and as an act of service for his little family. Lesson: Do I offer up what may be a job I don't really care for, or living in a difficult or boring situation, as an act of sacrifice to God knowing that God has put me in a particular position to perform an act of service for Him and to be a positive influence for those I come into contact with, to sustain me with a sense of purpose?
- Joseph did not have much in terms of power, prestige or possessions. He counted his blessings, like the presence of Mary and Jesus in his life, the ability to practice his Jewish faith, Mary's good cooking, and playing and working with Jesus. Lesson: Living in a society which puts a great premium on entertainment and possessions, do I take delight in the simple things of life?

St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family, help us to do in our time and place what you did in your time and place.

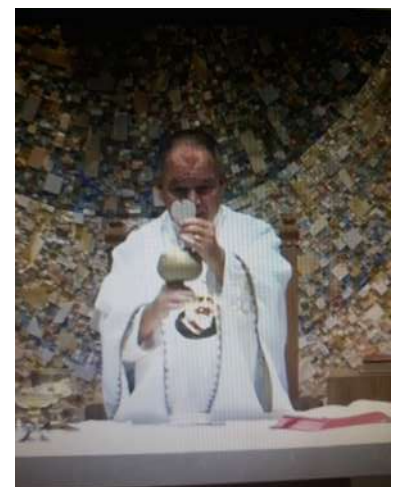
## A Note from Fr. William Browne

Dear Friends of Padre Pio:




As the Lenten Season draws near, we ready ourselves to walk with Christ. Lent is a season of grace, revelation, and encounter. I pray that it is both a season of sacrifice, but also of abundant good works.

The lengthening of days, as St. Augustine says, continues to bring more light into our lives through our "Journey to Eternity" as Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalene, O.S.B., says in his spiritual gem, *Divine Intimacy*.

As I think back on a lifetime of Lenten Seasons, I can't remember a Lent that I didn't spiritually benefit greatly from. Sometimes it amazes me the things that Jesus enables me to do as I try to prepare a gift for Him whose gift to me is the promise of eternal life. Help us to remember that our individual crosses are gifts to us if they keep us in close contact with Him.



# Quotes from Saint Padre Pio/February, the month of the Passion of the Lord, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Holy Trinity	The Holy Angels	The Apostles	Saint Joseph	The Holy Eucharist	The Passion	Our Lady
1 Let us humble ourselves beneath His powerful hand.	2 Renew your faith in the truths of Christian doctrine, especially at times of conflict.	3 Renew your faith in the promises of eternal life which our most sweet Jesus makes to those who fight energetically and courageously.	4 Be encouraged and comforted that we are not alone in our sufferings.	5 All the followers of the Nazarene ...are all exposed to the trials and tribulations of life.	6 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.	7 Let us lift up our hearts full of confidence in God alone.
8 Let us humble ourselves beneath His powerful hand.	9 Let all our concern be "to love God and be pleasing to Him".	10 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.	11 God will always take more care of us than we can say or imagine.	12 Practice charity more and more.	13 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.	14 Peace, mercy and grace be with you always and with all who sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ.
<b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>Weekday</b> St. Jerome Emiliani St. Josephine Bakhita	<b>Weekday</b> THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	<b>Weekday</b> St. Blaise St. Ansgar	<b>Weekday</b> Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Weekday</b> St. Agatha First Friday	<b>Weekday</b> St. Paul Miki and Companions First Saturday
15 Souls cost too much to God and one can never do too much to save them.	16 I beseech you by the meekness of Jesus and by the mercy of the heavenly Father, never to slacken on the path of virtue.	17 To stand still on this path (of virtue) is equivalent to retracing one's steps.	18 To be on the cross with Jesus is infinitely more perfect than merely contemplating Jesus Himself on the Cross.	19 Be watchful ... and never place too much trust in yourself or count excessively on your own strength.	20 Let us follow the divine Master up the steep slope of Calvary loaded with our cross ...	21 Charity is the bond of Christian perfection.
<b>6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>Weekday</b> Presidents' Day	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Fast and Abstinence	<b>Thursday after Ash</b> Wednesday	<b>Friday after Ash</b> Wednesday Abstinence	<b>Saturday after Ash</b> Wednesday
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.	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.
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE	Lenten Weekday St. Polycarp	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday Abstinence	Lenten Weekday
28 You must not be discouraged or let yourself become dejected if your actions have not succeeded as perfectly as you intended.	 PRAY FAST GIVE			"Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as Saint Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, that is, the Church, of which the Virgin Mary is the exemplar and model."		
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b>						Saint John Paul II

## A Miracle for Canonization

Matteo Pio Colella was just 7 years old when he contracted a deadly disease. Doctors believed there was no hope for the boy, but he made a full recovery. His cure was the miracle that paved the way for the canonization of St. Padre Pio by Pope John Paul II in June 2002.

"I wasn't feeling well," he recalled. "I told my mother that I didn't want to go to school, but she made me go because at that time I didn't like school. That same night, when my mother came to say goodnight, I didn't recognize her, and so they immediately took me to the hospital."

On January 20, 2000, Colella was diagnosed with acute fulminant meningitis, caused by bacteria. The disease had affected his kidneys, his respiratory system and blood clotting. He was immediately admitted to the hospital founded by Padre Pio, the "Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza" (Home for the Relief of Suffering), located in San Giovanni Rotondo where the saint's monastery is. The following day, Colella went into a coma. His health deteriorated drastically, and doctors considered him a lost cause, thinking he would die within a few hours. While Colella was



in this critical condition, his mother Maria Lucia went to pray over the tomb of Padre Pio to ask for her son's healing. "During the coma," Colella recounted, "I saw Padre Pio in a dream on my right and three angels on the left. One angel with golden wings and a white tunic and the two others with white wings and a red tunic. Padre Pio, on my right, told me not to worry because I would soon be cured. In fact, my cure was like the resurrection of Lazarus."

And that's exactly what happened. The doctors considered Colella to be clinically dead, but he came back to life. The young man is grateful to Padre Pio for his intercession. He said he considers the saint to be like a grandfather in whom he can confide. "I have always thought that I have received an enormous grace for which I must be thankful. When I talk to someone who doesn't believe, I tell him I'm here. For science it's inexplicable, but there is another explanation that we can't understand."

Matteo Pio Colella is now 29 years old.

## Are You Ready?

Have you ever asked yourself whether your love, care and concern for others extends to their eternal salvation? I'm sure your answer would be a resounding YES!!!

Supporting that affirmation are words and clear directives from past Popes and Saints:

- "By our baptism we have been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to fulfill the mission of saving souls." (Pope Benedict XVI)
- "Know that the greatest service that a man can offer to God is to help convert souls." (St. Rose of Lima)
- "Our business is to attain heaven; everything else is a sheer waste of time." (St. Vincent De Paul)
- "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the world." (Pope Saint John Paul II)

Let us be inspired by Jesus's words to St Faustina when he said to her "Fight like a knight, so that I can reward you. Do not be unduly fearful, because you are not alone."



Our Lord Jesus Christ provided further directive to St. Faustina which was outlined in her personal diary (742). The Lord said to her "I am giving you 3 ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbors: the first—by deed, the second—by word, the third—by prayer. The three degrees contain the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of love of me."

Our Lord's directive to St. Faustina can be accomplished by our use of the Rosary Scapular. By Deed, we can provide the Rosary Scapular to others. By Word, we can explain the meaning of wearing/using this Sacramental on a regular, daily basis. Finally, by Prayer we can consecrate ourselves to Mary's Immaculate Heart by praying the rosary daily (<https://tinyurl.com/History-of-the-Rosary-Scapular>).

Based on the above, we would like to propose a challenge to all Padre Pio Prayer Group members for 2021: the "Pray It Forward" 2021 Challenge. The methods of meeting this challenge are simple:

1. Continue purchasing Rosary Scapulars and set a personal goal for the year by committing to purchase at least a rosary per month to share with others (benefits evangelization and fund-raising efforts).
2. Reap the benefits of your actions by transforming this disordered world to one of Peace (benefits tranquility of soul).

Let our battle cry be the following: "From today on, I do the Will of God everywhere, always and in everything!" Are you ready?

# Lenten Novena of Prayer for Priests



*This beautiful Novena reflection was created for the Knights of Columbus by the Handmaids of the Precious Blood (New Market, Tennessee).*

## INTRODUCTORY

**PRAYER:** Come, Holy Spirit, fill me with your gifts and fruits so that I may better accompany my priests as they lead me to Calvary en route to Resurrection. In this trek into the desert, they will be attacked on all sides, both from within themselves, and from within and outside the Church, as the devil and his

minions seek to rob my priests of all that enables them to be the "other Christs" I need them to be. This Lent may I find creative and practical ways to help carve out for my priests the time, space, and energy they need to allow them to best deepen their appreciation of their priesthood and better enable them to live it fully for Christ's sake and for their flocks.

**DAY ONE:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, this Lent grant me the grace to accompany priests into the desert in preparation for the battle for souls, for my soul. May I be a watchman and guard to help prepare them for the conflicts ahead so they can lead their flocks, and me, through death into life. As another Simon of Cyrene, enable me to truly be with my priests on the march to Calvary. Like Simon, I may begin fearfully, but turn any reluctance into courage and make me ever attentive to how I may assist my priests on this lifelong Way of the Cross.

**DAY TWO:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, your Cross was heavy, hard, bloody, and rough, but Simon picked it up regardless. Help me realize concretely that splinters, meaning pains, are inevitable if I choose to follow my priests on this journey. Everything that happens to them I will, in some way, be exposed to. If I want to serve you by serving your priests, don't let me fear the splinters. I am not expecting a perfect and smooth Cross fit to my liking but one that will force me to die to self and live for others, especially your priests.

**DAY THREE:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, Simon bore the load both with initial reluctance and real ignorance of the reality of what was happening. By journey's end he would know better what you had in mind for him, but he still would not see the concrete fruit of his labors immediately. Strengthen my trust that whatever aid I give my priests will help them whether or not I or anyone else can see it. I want to show them they don't travel to Calvary alone.

**DAY FOUR:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, Simon carried the weight of the Cross neither willingly nor perfectly at first. You fell again even after he was forced to assist you. Make me able to learn from my mistakes in whatever ways I have failed to support my priests in the past. Help me resolve to redouble my efforts, especially when it is most difficult and unpopular. May my priests have confidence that I will keep trying to help and assist them.

**DAY FIVE:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, Simon supported you as well as your burden. As your body weakened with each step and the Cross felt correspondingly heavier, he had to hold both you and the wood up. This had to be more than he bargained for when pressed into service. It

would have taxed his energies giving him reason to quit. After all, he wasn't the condemned man, just an innocent bystander. But he didn't give up. When it gets very hard, and there is real personal risk involved, to support my priests, Lord, do not allow me to abandon them in their greatest need.

**DAY SIX:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, Simon also absorbed some of the blows and lashes of whips that assailed you en route to Calvary. Perhaps he contended with rocks and dirt tossed at you as well. He used his body however he could to shield you. In order to protect and shield my priests, I will need to be willing to experience how badly they are treated at times. I need to risk being close to them when others, feeling an unjust condemnation permits open persecution, feel free to attack.

**DAY SEVEN:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, Simon, with his ear close to yours as you struggled to carry the Cross, would have heard and felt all the calumny, slander and insults hurled at you. Allow me not to fear a common malady in the Church these days: guilt-by-association. If I am to seriously be of service to my priests this Lent, I must place first in my mind that I am serving other Christs not other potential criminals. The world is out to destroy you and the Church you founded. Since that is ultimately not possible, the world will seek to destroy individual priests of the Church. That is entirely possible. Help me fight that.

**DAY EIGHT:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, for all his initial reluctance when pressed into service, Simon of Cyrene, did, in fact, stay the course and went with you all the way. Grant me the strength and steadfastness to do this. Help me be with and support my priests all the way. I will proactively decide at the parish level, physically and spiritually, to walk closely with my priests this Lent, and ever after. The earthly scandal will not end this Easter, this year, or in my lifetime. But Easter and Paschal tide will remind me that the goal is still indeed Eternal Life. I need your priests if I am to have Eternal Life. Increase my gratitude for them.

**DAY NINE:** O Gracious Captain, my Savior, this Lent, I want to be as close to you as Simon was. In the Passion narrative and the devotion of the Stations of the Cross, Simon is the one physically closest to Jesus. Even his Mother, Mary, though completely united with him spiritually as no one else could be, could not be arm in arm with him beneath the weight of that wood like Simon. Simon's labor and anguish were being changed by divine illumination as he carried the weight without rebelling. Help me to move beyond human logic, if necessary, being faithful to God's call to see where I can help my priests best.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER:** Holy Spirit, this Lent show me how to follow and accompany Jesus Christ, the High Priest, to Calvary and what I can learn from his first priests. Help me remember that my priests - like those very first priests - are also merely human like me. Like me, they can fall. Grant me the strength and courage to help them back up. The Apostles were uncertain, afraid, and unsure but they followed as you set your face toward Jerusalem. They were overcome by events: they betrayed, denied, and fled you, their Master. But, save one, they returned. They could not comprehend the victory hidden in the defeat of the

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio



Happy 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Eight years ago I had the honor and pleasure of becoming the Group Leader of our Prayer Group. I asked Fr. Ed if he would be our Spiritual Director! I really did not have a clue what to do. I remember him saying to me “What have you gotten me into?” But with the goodness of St. Padre Pio spiritual-

ly directing from above, we have grown by leaps and bounds. We are now 750+ members. We started many prayer groups throughout the world, we donated a shrine in Limerick, Ireland, and we have been blessed with 3 chaplains. Please pray for our clergy every day. God brought me an awesome computer tech person in Laura Lang. She probably says “What did you get me into?” very often too! We have a wonderful core of volunteers who help in so many ways! They never say “no” when we need help. I call on them often. I want to say “thank you” for their unending help! We have been blessed with various holy pilgrimages abroad to Italy, Holy Land, France, Portugal, Ireland and Croatia. We also had many domestic pilgrimages as well. And I cannot forget to mention our FUNdraiser for the Padre Pio Shrine highlighting Sister Act. I am thankful for our guest speakers sharing teachings and experiences. I can’t thank everyone enough for the prayers from all of our Padre Pio Prayer Group devotees.



It has been an amazing spiritual adventure. We have been blessed with the Holy Spirit guiding us, and Jesus, Mary and Joseph holding our hands. Many blessings and graces have been bestowed on our Padre Pio Prayer Group. Thank you! Thank You! Thank you!

Fr. Ed Janoch was our main celebrant in January. He donated to our group a portrait of St. Joseph for this special year. Fr. Bill Browne and Fr. Michael Petkosek assisted in the celebration of Mass and confession. Without their assistance, we would not have our group. Afterwards, having Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction was the best and only way to start our New Year. It will always be the way we start off every year.



We distributed more Padre Pio quilts to the sick this month, and see the side note on the

Police Rosary Project update.

God answered my prayer for help with our Newsletter. Since March, when COVID came, we have not been able to print our Newsletter. I know there are some members who do not have the capability to receive the newsletter online or watch our prayer gathering on livestream. With the grace of God, my prayer has been answered.



A devoted Spiritual Son of Padre Pio has donated a commercial printer and paper. Production of our newsletter will now be available at our meeting. I am so full of gratitude. God is so good! All the time!

“The Bible in a Year” program by Fr. Mike Schmitz has been great. If you did not sign up, it is not too late. Here is the website: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>.

And last but not least, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you. It has been overwhelming and a blessing.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Russo TOF, Group Leader

**Rosaries for Police Update:** We have delivered over 400 Police Prayer Protection Packages. As a refresher, the package contains a blue and white rosary with the words “Pray, Hope and Don’t Worry”. The rosary is adorned with a St. Michael the Archangel medal (he is the patron saint of Police). Also included in the Ziploc bag is a holy card with the prayer to St. Michael and a pocket sheet on How to Pray the Rosary. We have over 300 rosary protection packages that are ready for delivery. A huge thank you to all the people who help in this ministry, especially to our rosary makers for their dedication and cherished work for Our Lady and for law enforcement officers. Do you know a Police Officer that needs a rosary? Please pick it up after the meeting. Sue Hofstetter and Leslie Magda will be available after Mass at the back of the church. If you cannot make it to the meeting, give us a call and we will make arrangements. We are always looking for rosary makers. If you are interested in making rosaries or need to learn how to make rosaries, contact Sue Hofstetter by calling or texting to 330-998-2071 Blessings & Gratitude, Leslie Magda 440-503-7760.

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

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

Bernie Antonino	Marty Franck	Mark Magda
Barbara Bilinovich	Bob Garcar	Fr. Cory Mayer
Mario Bruschi	Kathy Hlad	Joe Morici
Sarojini Bruschi	Kyle Hrabusa	Molly O'Leary
Gia Cefaratti	Michael Hurley	Eleanor Phillips
Virginia DeJesus	Tony Kazmierczak	Judy Purdy
Roy Evans	Al Komar	Anthony Rossi
Margie Ferfolia	Irene Kovar	Abbot C. Schwartz OSB
Michele Ferrara	Jonathan Lipreads	Joseph Wojtyla

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



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

Denise Basch  
Rev. Richard Burchell  
Rev. Joseph Mecir  
Frank Speno

## Jake's Corner

For February, I am writing about Saint Claude de la Colombière, S.J. He was the confessor and spiritual



director of Saint Margret Mary Alacoque, to whom Our Lord appeared to reveal the Sacred Heart devotion. Saint Claude de la Colombière was born on February 2, 1641 in southeastern France. Once the family moved to Vienne, he began his education and completed his education in rhetoric and philosophy in Lyon. At the age of 17, Claude entered the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, in Avignon, France. In 1660, he moved from the Jesuit Novitiate in Avignon to the Jesuit college in Avignon where he completed his education in philosophy and professed his first vows. After Claude finished his theological studies, he was ordained a priest. He became well known for his gift of preaching.

Saint Margret Mary Alacoque in spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He later became the confessor to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque.

In 1676, after being in Paray-le-Monial for about a year and a half, he was sent to London. Saint Claude de la Colombière was appointed preacher to the Duchess of York. This was a very difficult assignment, but he took it up with humility and trust in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Besides, being a preacher and spiritual director at the palace, many came to Saint Claude de la Colombière for advice and confession. He brought many souls back to Christ. During the summer of 1681, he returned to Paray-le-Monial in extremely poor health, and on February 15, 1682, Saint Claude de la Colombière died. He was Beatified on June 16, 1929, by Pope Pius XI and Canonized a Saint on May 31, 1992 by Pope Saint John Paul II.

Saint Claude de la Colombière is a great example of holiness for us. Saint Claude was a priest on true fire with love of God. Furthermore, he is a great example of trusting in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He brought the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with him wherever he went. During this month of February, may we draw closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

SOURCE: [https://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_19920531\\_la-colombiere\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_19920531_la-colombiere_en.html)

Written by: Jake Snyder

On February 2, 1675, Claude professed solemn vows as a Jesuit and was named rector of the College of Paray-le-Monial. He soon came in contact with one of the Nuns of the Monastery of the Visitation, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, to whom Our Lord was revealing the devotion to His Sacred Heart. Saint Margaret Mary was assured that he believed in the authenticity of the apparitions and told her to write down what Our Lord was telling her. He did all in his power to assist

(Continued from page 6)

Cross. But with and through Mary, they would learn to forever see in it the sign of conquered death and evil. She demonstrated how to stand beneath it as you opened your pierced Heart to heal all mankind and see, viscerally, defeat turned to victory. In the anxieties and unknowns of life, teach me, no matter what, to follow you, my Master, my Lord, my God and my King, especially when you lead me to Golgotha. Give me hope, even without sensing it, that this is the only road to Resurrection.

**BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of February, especially our Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland celebrating its 8th Anniversary!**

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