

**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

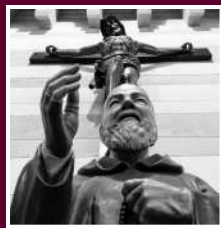
Group Leader:
Cindy Russo TOF

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Mar 19 -
Consecration to St.
Joseph Mass at
6:30 PM, Our Lady of
Guadalupe Church,
9080 Shepard Rd,
Macedonia

Apr 10 -
*NOTE: This is the 2nd
Saturday of the
month.*
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

MARCH 2021

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

Forty Days in the Desert

Lent is the time we go to the desert. How is your prayer life going? Is it dry as if you are in the desert? Are you thirsting for Jesus? As Catholics, we know that we are called to be people who pray. As young children, we can remember repeating prayers our parents taught us at the edge of our bed at night. We may not know what exactly we were saying but soon we comprehended that we were talking to God. We learned formal prayers as we got older, especially as we prepared for our first Holy Communion. We sang hymns in church, which in fact were offered prayers of faith, love and adoration of the Lord. We learned to pray the act of contrition when we approached the sacrament of Reconciliation. We prayed before meals and for our deceased when we went to funerals. And we probably all remember praying fervently, no matter what age we were or are, when faced with a crisis. In a word, prayer is part of our lives as believers. Even those who drift away from our faith will occasionally still pray at times.

We have at one time or another, though, experienced the feeling that we no longer seem to be able to pray or that our prayers don't really seem to mean much. We have had spiritual dryness. Perhaps it's because we, for some reason, feel distant from God. Perhaps we struggle with old sins that make us feel unworthy of the Lord. It is unfortunate that we often feel we must move away from God before we sit down and have a good talk with Him. That is prayer. Prayer is not determined by grammar or vocabulary; it is not measured in terms of length and creativity. It is simply speaking to God no matter what condition we are in! It may be a simple word of thanks and gratitude for something good that has happened; it may be an awareness of some

blessing we have forgotten. It may be an expression of gratitude such as "God, you are so good to me." All those simple expressions come from the heart, can be spontaneous, and are indeed prayers.

Remember, God has made us for himself. He knew we need Him. We cannot be happy without Him. Wealth, fame, pleasure or power can never satisfy us. Prayer is necessary for salvation. Prayer is the principal way to receive grace. You need to ask for grace when you pray.

At Mass, or even in private times when we sit and talk with the Lord, we can find our minds filled with distraction. We can be discouraged because even though we intend to pray, we seem weak in our effort. Remember, prayer is in the heart, not in the head. When we find ourselves distracted, we don't fight it, we simply drop away and try again to be conscious of



God's presence in us. The times we are distracted does not mean that our prayer time is wasted. God is always looking at our hearts. Perhaps you have felt unable to pray because

you can't do it perfectly or your efforts aren't pleasing to God. God can read and understand your heart perfectly. That is love. "For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:10)

Ite ad Joseph ["Go to Joseph"]

During this year dedicated to Saint Joseph, I would like to expound on how Saint Joseph is a perfect example of a person who we can imitate during this season of Lent. I will be reflecting upon the Litany to Saint Joseph, for in this litany, the attributes given about Saint Joseph are the attributes to help us have a joyful and peace-filled Lent.



Image © St. Joseph, Terror of Demons by Bernadette Cartensen (2020). Commissioned by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The Litany of Saint Joseph is a powerful prayer, like many prayers of our Catholic Faith. I am not going to go through every one of the attributes of Saint Joseph in the Litany, but will mention those attributes that can help us during Lent.

The first one is: "*Zealous Defender of Christ.*" How do we defend Christ in our world today? Do we help to correct errors in other peoples' vision or understanding of Christ and His Bride, the Church? Do we uphold our Catholic Faith and the Moral Teachings that He and His Bride have proclaimed since the beginnings in 33 A.D.? Saint Joseph, help us to be a zealous defender of Christ.

Another attribute is: "*Joseph, most Just.*" How just are we to others? Do we make judgments on another person's state of his or her soul or the reason why someone is doing what he or she is doing? How just are we in showing God's mercy to others? Saint Joseph, help us to be just.

A third attribute is: "*Joseph most Chaste.*" How faithful are we in the unitive and procreative aspect of sexual relations with our spouse? How do we have "custody of the eyes" when we see something that arouses our sexual senses? Saint Joseph, help us to be chaste.

What about the attribute of Saint Joseph as: "*Mirror of Patience.*" How patient are we with others? Do we think about ourselves when something is bothering us or do we think about the other person? Is our response to the lack of patience anger and distrust? Saint Joseph, help us to be a mirror of patience.

The attributes of "*Comfort of the Afflicted*" and "*Hope of the Sick*" help us to have a joyful Lent. Do we sacrifice our time, and/or talents, and/or treasure to help the afflicted and the sick? How well do we persevere in being present to our loved ones who need comfort and hope in dire situations? Saint Joseph, help us to be a comfort to the afflicted and hope for the sick.

A final attribute, but not the last is: "*Terror of Demons.*" How well do we cause the demons to tremble in our religious practices and obligations? When we are in trouble, do we ask for the help of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to ward off the demons or do we give in to the temptations the demons placed before us? Saint Joseph, help us to be terrors to the demons.

Other of the attributes may touch us and be helpful for us to "*Repent and believe in the Gospel.*" Whatever ones touch us, may Saint Joseph who protected Jesus and Mary from the evils of this world, protect us from these same evils. As we are protected from the evils of the demons, we can become Just, Chaste, Prudent, Courageous, Obedient and Faithful as Saint Joseph is.

I pray that all of us will have the most joyful and peaceful Lent during this most challenging of times that our country, world and Church are experiencing. All of Heaven rejoices in the return of a sinner. May we, and those whose lives we touch, experience the immense love of our God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Saint Joseph, Pray for Us!

Respectfully yours,

FR. EDWARD J. JANOCH, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Forgive Us as We Forgive

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” (Luke 6:37)

Psychologists generally define forgiveness as a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness. When you forgive, you do not gloss over or deny the seriousness of an offense against you. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting, nor does it mean condoning or excusing offenses. Forgiveness can help repair a damaged relationship. Forgiveness brings the forgiver peace of mind and frees him or her from corrosive anger. While there is some debate over whether true forgiveness requires positive feelings toward the offender, experts agree that it at least involves letting go of deeply held negative feelings. In that way, it empowers you to recognize the pain you suffered without letting that pain define you, enabling you to heal and move on with your life.

When you are in a situation where it is going to be really hard to forgive someone, ask God to help you realize that no matter what anyone has done to you, Our God has forgiven us for much more. So if you are in some kind of agony and you can't muster up the courage to forgive just yet, ask God to help you recall the depth and extent of His mercy He personally has bestowed upon you. When someone has insulted you, made you a fool, deceived you, or have taken advantage of you, it is not standard behavior to smile and think, “Oh well, I've done worse in my day and God has forgiven me.” On the contrary we are burning in rage, shame or distress.

At these moments we need to recite the Lord's Prayer: “And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” When you pray this prayer do you really mean it? When we forgive

others, we must enlist the attitude of compassion. Make sure to have a good confession as well. If you don't here on earth, you will be paying that penance in purgatory. Can you imagine what it must have been like for Jesus, who after teaching and loving Peter, after being so close to him, Peter denied Him three times?

Is this a challenge this Lent? Yes, but you don't have to do it alone. Ask Jesus to help you and you will have peace in your heart. Life is too short for you. Jesus does not want you to bear a self-imposed cross. Your own cross is heavy enough without you adding misunderstandings and self-inflicted wounds to it. The angels rejoice when they see someone trying to be like Jesus in a difficult situation. Make this Lent your best Lent ever!



Prayer: O God, help me to forgive. I want to be like you but I find it so difficult. Bless the one who offended me. I give you this pain in union with your pain of Jesus on the cross. “Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.” Amen.

Padre Pio Police Rosary Group Update

Rosaries were recently distributed to three local communities: Independence, Brecksville, and Broadview Hts. They were lovingly distributed as well as received. Along with the rosary protection package, we also include a sign-up sheet if the officers wish to be prayed for. About a week ago, I received over 30 names to be included in our prayers. To my delight, it included two dogs, Argo and Rambo. They need prayers and protection too! If you are interested in praying for an officer or one of the dogs, please pick up a piece of paper with their name on it after the meeting at the back of the church.




Exciting news for our Police Rosary Group from sunny Florida.

Mary Kay Dinasky, a member of our Padre Pio Prayer Group and an avid rosary maker and promoter of St. Padre Pio, has been sharing our rosary project with many of the churches in the Naples area during the winter season. Mary Kay was able to coordinate a “Blue Mass” and distributed over 200 rosaries to the area police, EMT's and firefighters. The Mass was in honor of the first responders' sacrifice and service to their communities. Mary Kay also spoke at an “Ave Maria” rosary makers group and shared her devotion of St. Padre Pio and our group's efforts to make rosaries for the police. Rosaries are now being made in several parishes in the Naples area. Thank you to all who have helped Mary Kay and heard the call in Naples to make rosaries for our protectors. Mary Kay, thank you for sharing your gifts and talents as you do our Lord's work and making our Blessed Mother very happy. “The Rosary is the weapon for these times.” — St. Padre Pio.

Donations are always welcome to help with the materials for the police rosaries. Thank you in advance.

Saint Joseph Gems/March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 "Let us trust in God and Saint Joseph." Saint John Neumann Lenten Weekday	2 "If you wish to be close to Christ, we again today repeat, 'Go to Joseph.'" Venerable Pope Pius XII Lenten Weekday	3 "Who can conceive Saint Joseph's feelings on hearing himself called 'father' by the child Jesus?" Saint Bernardine of Siena Lenten Weekday St. Katherine Drexel	4 "Saint Joseph desired nothing, wanted nothing that was not for the greater glory of God." Saint Joseph Marelli Lenten Weekday St. Casimir	5 "Let us ask Saint Joseph to foster staunch vocations for our Lord." Saint Peter Julian Eymard Lenten Weekday First Friday Abstinence	6 "Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood." Saint Pope John Paul II Lenten Weekday	
7 "Joseph was deeply pious; he prayed much for the coming of the Messiah." Bl. Anne Catherine Emmerich 3 RD SUNDAY OF LENT	8 "Nothing will be refused Saint Joseph, neither by Our Lady nor by his glorious Son." Saint Francis de Sales Lenten Weekday St. John of God	9 "Just as Saint Joseph was virginally the husband, so he was virginally the father." Saint Augustine Lenten Weekday St. Frances of Rome	10 "Joseph's faith does not fail; he obeys quickly and to the letter." Saint Josemaria Escriva Lenten Weekday	11 "Joseph also was virginal through Mary in order that from a virginal marriage a virginal Son might be born." Saint Jerome Lenten Weekday	12 "No husband or wife ever loved one another so much as Joseph and Mary." Venerable Fulton J. Sheen Lenten Weekday Abstinence	13 "By means of his espousal to Mary, Joseph's testimony proved the Christ was born of a virgin." Saint Thomas Aquinas Lenten Weekday
14 "We should more efficaciously explore the compassion of God through the merits and intercession of Saint Joseph." Blessed Pope Pius IX 4 TH SUNDAY OF LENT	15 "Imitate Saint Joseph: Defend Jesus, the Holy Church, and the Pope, according to your abilities." Saint Maximilian Kolbe Lenten Weekday	16 "Since we all must die, we should cherish a special devotion to Saint Joseph that he may obtain for us a happy death." Saint Alphonsus Liguori Lenten Weekday	17 "Saint Joseph lived content in his poverty." Saint Bonaventure Lenten Weekday St. Patrick	18 "The two greatest personages who ever lived on this earth [Jesus and Mary] subjected themselves to Saint Joseph." Saint Madalene Sophie Barat Lenten Weekday St. Cyril of Jerusalem	19 "Let us pray to Saint Joseph with all favor and confidence." Bl. William Joseph Chaminade Lenten Weekday Abstinence	20 "Virgins can look to Saint Joseph for their pattern and as the guardian of virginal integrity." Pope Leo XIII Lenten Weekday
21 "Saint Joseph, teach me how to pray." Saint Bernadette Soubirous 5 TH SUNDAY OF LENT	22 "Like Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI Lenten Weekday	23 "All Christians belong to Joseph because Jesus and Mary belonged to him." Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Lenten Weekday St. Turibius of Mogrovejo	24 "The Lord has arrayed Joseph, like with a sun, in all which the saints possess together in regard to light and splendor." Saint Gregory of Nazianzus Lenten Weekday St. Oscar Romero	25 "As a virginal husband, Saint Joseph guarded his virginal wife." Saint Albert the Great Lenten Weekday Abstinence	26 "The Gospel does not record a single word from him; his language is silence." Saint Pope Paul VI Lenten Weekday Abstinence	27 "Saint Joseph sweetly and continuously stimulates us to love, serve, and imitate the Queen of his heart, the Immaculate Mother of Jesus." Blessed Gabriele Allegra Lenten Weekday
28 "With a father's heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as the son of Joseph." Pope Francis PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	29 "Though you have recourse to many saints as your intercessors, go specially to Saint Joseph, for he has great power with God." Saint Teresa of Avila Monday of Holy Week	30 "Ite ad Joseph. Go to Joseph with extreme confidence, because I do not remember having asked anything from St. Joseph, without having obtained it readily." Saint Pio of Pietrelcina Tuesday of Holy Week	31 "How great a share had not the glorious Saint Joseph in the chalice of Jesus' passion, by the service which he rendered to his sacred humanity." Saint Mary Magdalen de Pazzi Wednesday of Holy Week	A PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day. You protected and cherished the Virgin, loving the Child Jesus as your Son, you rescued Him from the danger of death. Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the Blood of Christ. Guardian of the Holy Family, be with us in our trials. May your prayers obtain for us the strength to flee from error and wrestle with the powers of corruption so that in life we may grow in holiness and in death rejoice in the crown of victory. Amen.		

Quotes about Saint Joseph come from the book: *St. Joseph Gems: Daily Wisdom on our Spiritual Father*, by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, Marian Press, Stockbridge, MA, 2019

Reverence

A Reflection by Fr. Michael Petkosek

Brothers and sisters, I'd like to reflect briefly on the importance of reverence in our lives. This topic has been on my heart in a unique way since I was ordained to the priesthood almost two years ago and I've been struck in that time by both great examples of reverence as well as atrocious instances of a lack of it. My intention in this reflection is to uphold the important role of reverence in our lives, for it is a primary means of practicing our devotion to God through our behavior. The current reflection focuses particularly on the Eucharist.

Since the human being is a unique composite of body and soul, what we think or believe about something can be reflected *intentionally* in an outward manner by how we act. It is a uniquely human ability to be able to condition our behavior to situations. Consider that the notion of a "poker face" is something that only a human can do—the family dog isn't hiding his excitement from anyone. No animal can hide their emotions or shape their reactions, they simply react.

But we are blessed with rationality and free will, and with these comes the ability to respond *intentionally* with our bodies—through movement, gesture, posture, and so on. Part of the great Catholic tradition of worship includes this very human activity. We stand to pray at certain times, we sit, or kneel at others... we lift our hands in praise, or fold them in quiet contemplation... we sing out with heads held high, we close our eyes and bow our heads... We express many things in prayer through our bodies.

So it is when we approach the Eucharist. Our outward demeanor should reflect what we believe interiorly. The Eucharist is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus! I think that all of us, contemplating an in-person conversation with Jesus, would see ourselves as upholding a certain level of reverence in the presence of our Lord. But the Eucharist is an in-person encounter! Jesus, in all his glory, is present to us in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is our chance, in this life, to have that in-person encounter!

I know that it is very easy to take for granted what we have: Believe long enough and we get used to what we believe. It is also good to be familiar with the Lord. We long to spend eternity with him, and Jesus has given us direct access to himself in the Eucharist. Our eternal life begins now! But even knowing what we have, and being familiar with the Lord, our liturgical actions in receiving him still demand a level of reverence. *If* we believe what the Church says about the Eucharist, *then* we should act like it when we receive.



We rightfully show respect for many things, or express wonder in various situations. Take for instance the flag: We show great respect to this national symbol, and rightly so. Think also of the way we would handle an expensive or important object: We do so with care. These are natural, normal reactions to such things. But there is nothing more deserving of our respect, awe, and wonder than the Eucharist. And so we should challenge ourselves: Does my behavior toward the Eucharist exceed that of other things of *earthly* importance?

Brothers and sisters, let us always remember *who* we have in the Eucharist and let faith of that encounter drive our behavior. Let us express outwardly through reverence what we believe to be true about this great gift. Let us be attentive to our Lord, who so humbled himself, as to come to us under the appearance of, and to be consumed as, a tiny host.

What Happened to the Gloria and Alleluia?

Even the liturgy "fasts" in preparation for the glorious season of Easter. The Lenten season is marked by two very distinct liturgical omissions. Neither the hymn known as the Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest) nor the Alleluia verse sung before the Gospel is permitted during the entire 40 days of Lent (with a few small exceptions).



Why is that? First of all, the Gloria is a hymn that celebrates the coming of the Lord using words from the angels at Christ's birth. The Church during Lent returns in spirit to a time when the people of God were in exile, waiting for the Messiah to come and save

them. It is a similar season of expectation as is Advent, but instead of awaiting Christ's birth from the womb of Mary, the Christian people await Christ's second "birth" from the womb of the sepulcher.

Secondly, following this same spirit of exile, the Church joins Moses and the Israelites as they wander in the desert for 40 years. It is a time of agony and purification, one where the faithful join together in saying, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" (Psalm 137:4) The word "Alleluia" is rooted in a

(Continued on page 10)



St. Augustine Church

Est 1898

204 Sixth Street NW • Barberton OH 44203
(330) 745-0011 • www.staugustinebarberton.org

February 23, 2021

Dear Friends of Padre Pio:

Thank God for the people of God who teach us, lead us, and speak God's word to us in an overwhelming and disarming way.

A "Penitent" came to me the other day for the Sacrament of Reconciliation who said "that while he/she was waiting in line, an overwhelming sense of joy and exhilaration came over them in anticipation of what was coming from the Sacrament. The person seemed to be describing being lifted out of the doldrums and darkness and being brought to a place of joy, comfort, light with a keen awareness of the Presence of God. That person got me meditating on the consolation of the Sacraments and how privileged we are to have them.

The Latin origin of the word "consolation" comes from *con* (with or thoroughly) along with *solation* (solace, comfort in grief or misfortune). To paraphrase St. Paul: This God of all consolation is the God who has known suffering from the inside in Jesus, and thus provides comfort for all who are afflicted and empowers them to console others.

Both the affliction and the consolation are a shared occurrence. To be a priest and encounter Christ in the Sacraments, and in His people, is a gift beyond words. The priesthood is such a great privilege. The next time you are tempted to think: "Poor Father; He has to listen to all those sins." Think about the consolation and the lessons he is being given at the feet of our Savior. Lent is an incredible time. Let us pray, "Lord, increase my faith."

(2 Corinthians 1:3-7) Blessed be the God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Mercies and the God of all Consolation, who consoles us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolations with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same suffering that we are suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

The mystery of the cross is something that can teach those open to it every day. Miraculously, the burden lightens as we share them with Christ and we are brought to a different place.

Sincerely,

Rev. Bill Browne
St. Augustine Church

What's in a Name?

Have you ever thought about the name you were baptized with? It is not a coincidence. Your name has a special meaning. Here are some examples:

Jesus	God Is Salvation	Loretto	To Reap
Mary	Wished For Child	Lucy	Bringer Of Light
Joseph	God Raises	Mark	To Be War-Like
Abraham	Father Of All Nations	Martha	Lady Of The House
Adam	Man	Mathew	Gift Of Yahweh
Agnes	Sacred And Chaste	Max	The Great
Albert	Aristocratic And Bright	Michael	Who Is Like God
Alecia	Noble And Graceful	Pam	Sweetness
Amanda	One Who Deserves Love	Patricia	Noble
Ann	Gracious	Paul	Humble
Basil	Royalty	Peter	The Rock
Carmel	Garden Of God	Pio	Holy
Carol	Free Woman	Raphael	God Heals
Charles	Free Man	Rene	Reborn
Cindy	Refecting Jesus's Light	Richard	Strong
Daniel	The Lord Is My Judge	Robert	Bright Fame
David	Adored	Roger	Famous Spear
Delores	Full Of Sorrow	Salvatore	Savior
Denise	Dedicated To God	Samuel	Name Of God
Diane	Divine Woman	Sarah	Princess
Dominic	Lord's Child	Susan	Lily
Edward	Rich Guard	Theodore	A Gift From God
Elaine	Torch Of Light	Thomas	Twin
Elsie	Promise Of God	Timothy	Honoring God
Faith	Trusting And Believing	Theresa	To Reap
Fatima	Chaste	Veronica	Honest Image
Faustina	The Lucky One	William	Desire
Florence	Thriving		
Francis	Free Man		
Gabriel	God's Bravest Man		
Gerald	Ruler With Spear		
George	God Is My Judge		
Heather	Protection		
Jacinta	Hyacinth Flower		
Jack	God Is Merciful		
Jeffrey	God's Peace		
Jim	Following After		
Joan	God Is Merciful		
John	God Is Gracious		
Karen	Ray Of Light		
Kevin	Fair And Gentle		
Laura	Victory		
Leslie	Garden Of Holly		
Lisa	Oath Of God		



Prayers for Priests



To the glorious Saint Joseph, in this year and month dedicated to him, let us confide all our priests to his tender care and especially any priest that may have a particular need.

Prayer to Saint Joseph for Priests

O illustrious Patriarch Saint Joseph, who carried the Infant Jesus in your blessed arms and who, during the space of thirty years, lived in the most intimate familiarity with Him, take under your powerful protection those whom He has clothed with His authority and honored with the dignity of His priesthood, whom He has charged to continue His mission to preach His Gospel, and to dispense everywhere His graces and blessings.

Sustain them in their fatigues and labors; console them in their pains; fortify them in their combats; but above all, keep far from them all the evils of sin.

Obtain for them the humility of St. John the Baptist, the faith of St. Peter, the zeal and charity of St. Paul, the purity of St. John and the spirit of prayer and recollection of which You, my dear Saint, are the

model, so that, after having been on earth, faithful dispensers of the Mysteries of your foster Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, they may in Heaven receive the recompense promised to pastors according to the Heart of God. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Joseph for a Particular Priest

O glorious Saint Joseph, I present to thee this day Father N., priest of Jesus Christ, and beg thee to be to him advocate and defender, counselor and friend.

Open thy heart to him as thou didst open thy home to the Virgin Mother in her hour of need.

Protect his holy priesthood as thou didst protect the life of the Infant Christ threatened by cruel Herod.

In darkness bring him light; in weakness, strength; and in fear the peace that passeth understanding.

For the sake of the tender love that bound thee to the Virgin Mary and to the Infant Christ, be thou for him, Saint Joseph, a constant intercessor and a shield against every danger of body, mind, and soul so that, in spite of his weaknesses and sins, his priesthood may bring glory to Christ and serve to increase the beauty of holiness in His bride the Church. Amen.

A Note from Karen Baglieri:

With a grateful heart I am writing to thank you for the invitation and opportunity to speak to your group on February 6, 2021 with Fr. Michael Stalla about my healing journey and to witness to the greatness of our God! It was a delight to be with all of you and to meet some of you personally after the talk.

As Fr. Michael and I highlighted in our presentation, my journey through depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation was indeed trying and dangerous. It was a test of faith for myself and all of those who journeyed with me. There are many times in our lives when Our Lord offers to share His cup of suffering with us. All those years of suffering for me was my time. As I was preparing this article I read a quote from St. Faustina's diary that particularly struck home with me and caused me to do a lot of reflection on my experience. I would like to share it with you now. "JESUS: I am taking you into My school for the whole of Lent. I want to teach you how to suffer. You are allowed to drink from the cup from which I drink. I give you that exclusive privilege today.....(1626). "With all humility

I present this quote not to say that I am anywhere near the sanctity of a Faustina but to make the point that when we suffer, and we all will suffer at times in our lives, it is an opportunity to share in the cup of the Lord. To share in Christ's passion and to embrace our suffering is a hard concept to comprehend, and even more so to accept, but when we learn to unite our suffering with Jesus on the cross, that suffering gains power and God's grace flows in abundance. Many times, even though I couldn't feel my surrender inter-



nally in my soul, I would speak out loud my surrender and pray for someone else, be it my family or friends. That action consoled me and brought me a small sense of purpose for what I was experiencing. Of course it didn't lessen my symptoms or alleviate the psychological pain I was experiencing, but it gave purpose to my distress if even for a moment. Please note that Jesus tells Faustina that it is an "exclusive privilege" to share in His suffering. This reminds

me of a saying that a priest friend used to tell me years ago. "God gives a share of His cross to His best friends." Just as when we have an important job to do we enlist our best friends to help because we trust them with the task at hand, God enlists our help in His redemptive work. Much like any earthly father will enlist the help of his children with chores around the house, our Heavenly Father asks to help and this enables us to share in the work and increase our sanctity and our sense of oneness with the Father.

Let us all enter this Lenten season with hearts wide open to the workings of God. Let us be willing to fully participate in the passion, death, and resurrection of Our Lord this year and to be prepared to receive grace upon grace during the Easter season. May God bless you all abundantly and may this Lenten and Easter season be filled with God's love and an outpouring of grace upon your soul.

WEBSITE: hopesgarden.com; APP: Download the app "Mighty Networks" (then search for Hope's Garden); GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATION: <https://tinyurl.com/y8dtxcvd>

Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio



I pray you are having the best Lent ever. The consecration to St. Joseph is a perfect Lenten gift. On St. Joseph's Feast Day (March 19) we will be having a Special Mass at 6:30 pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. The consecration prayer to St. Joseph will be recited during Mass. Stations of the Cross will follow afterwards.

Last month's speakers Fr. Stalla and Karen Baglieri did a wonderful testimony on depression, to never give up, and the power of prayer. The sermon of Fr. Michael Petkosek is on page 5 of the newsletter.

The hospital for the relief of suffering was officially opened on May 5, 1956. The whole world was informed of this wonderful event through prayer groups and the press. Fifteen thousand people came to San Giovanni Rotondo. This was a dream come true for Padre Pio. On the Feast day of Corpus Christi, Padre Pio took the Blessed Sacrament in procession to all departments. Sometimes he returned to visit the sick, to administer a baptism, or to celebrate a Mass. The hospital has currently about 1,200 beds. Their request was for 50 beds to replace the old manual crank up beds. Our prayer group was able to supply 6 beds at \$1800 each. The hospital is overwhelmed with the generosity of the prayer groups and devotees of Padre Pio. They have been able to purchase a total of 200 beds. Thank you for being so generous. You have been amazing!

There was a great turnout at St. Helen Church on Feb. 23rd with over 300 people attending. It was a night with Eucharistic Adoration, prayers, a traveling statue of St. Padre Pio, veneration of his relics, and a witness by me. It was a very holy and reverent night to remember. You can view the livestream from the evening on our website.

Please note that because of Easter weekend, our next monthly prayer group gathering is on Saturday, April 10 which is the second Saturday of the month.

Blessings and Gratitude,

Cindy Russo TOF
Group Leader



A Lenten Prayer

Dear Lord, in this season of Lent, we're reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain, we don't see how our circumstance can ever change. But in the midst of our weakness, we ask that you would be strong on our behalf. Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we've walked through. Allow your power to be manifest through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you would trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your Presence. Trade our mourning and grief for the oil of joy and gladness from your Spirit. Trade our despair for hope and praise. We choose to give you thanks today and believe that this season of darkness will fade away. Thank you that you are with us in whatever we face and that you are greater than this trial. We know and recognize that you are Sovereign, we thank you for the victory that is ours because of Christ Jesus, and we are confident that you have good still in store for our future. We thank you that you are at work right now, trading our ashes for greater beauty. We praise you, for you make all things new. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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 †

Ray Obojski
Patricia Shemuga, mother of our chaplain Fr. Kevin Shemuga

Jake's Corner

For March, I am writing about Saint Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez, Bishop and Martyr. Saint Óscar Romero was born on August 15, 1917 in Ciudad Barrios in El Salvador. He was the second of eight children. During his early teenage years, the Saint felt called to the priesthood and was ordained on April 4, 1942 in Rome. He was known as a vibrant pastor and he embraced a simple lifestyle. From the years of 1944 until 1967, Romero exercised his priestly ministry in the city of San Miguel. Then, Romero was moved to San Salvador to be the secretary of the El Salvadoran Episcopal Conference.

Three years later in February of 1970, Pope Saint Paul VI named Romero to be the Auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador. He was ordained a Bishop on June 21, 1970. Furthermore, on October 15, 1974, Romero was named the Bishop of the Diocese of Santiago de María. A few months later in February, Pope Saint Paul VI, appointed then Bishop Romero as Archbishop of San Salvador. On March 12, 1977, while viewing the bodies of the Servant of God Rutilio Grande,



Written by: Jake Snyder

SJ, and his Companion Martyrs, he felt a new strength and call to take the place of Fr. Rutilio Grande to become a tireless defender of the poor and persecuted. Throughout his three years as Archbishop, he spent tireless hours preaching and speaking on behalf of the rights of the people. Archbishop Romero was known as the "voice of the voiceless" for his outspoken efforts in defending the rights of the poor. On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was Martyred while celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Chapel in the Hospital de la Divina Providencia. The Servant of God Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez was given the Decree of Martyrdom on February 13, 2015 and was Beatified in San Salvador on May 23, 2015. Blessed Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez was Canonized on October 14, 2018.

Saint Óscar Romero is a great example of holiness. Through his great love for the poor, he drew many closer to Christ. As an Archbishop, he cared for both the spiritual and temporal needs of his flock. In paraphrasing the words of Pope Francis, Saint Óscar "smelled like his sheep." Through the intercession of this great Bishop and Martyr, may we come to recognize Christ in every person that we encounter.

SOURCE: <http://romeroes.com/biografia/>

(Continued from page 5)

Hebrew expression that means "praise the Lord" and is thus omitted during Lent.

As a result, our focus in Lent is not in rejoicing, but in mourning our sins, looking at those things that prevent us from an authentic relationship with God. Once these are removed through prayer, fasting, and

almsgiving, we are able to rejoice again at Easter, for it is not only Christ's resurrection that we celebrate, but our own rebirth in the spirit.

Similar to a woman experiencing labor pangs before birth, so the Christian people "groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23).

SOURCE: <https://tinyurl.com/c433ys7m>

BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of March, especially our Spiritual Director, Fr. Ed Janoch, celebrating his birthday this month!

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