

**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:**

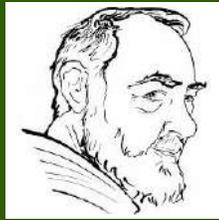
May 25 -

**St. Padre Pio's
Birthday (1887)**

Jun 5 -

**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

MAY 2021

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 5

Will You Accept Mary's Invitation?

The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. The first 23 days of the month fall within the liturgical season of Easter, which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remainder of the month (beginning the Monday after Pentecost) is in Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

Mary's "yes" changed the world. She can give us the courage and hope to say "yes" to God's dream for our own lives. Will you accept Mary's invitation? It's a simple message. Pray the rosary. Get spiritually healthy. Let Mary guide you. At times it can be challenging, but the moment we open ourselves up to God's dream for us is the moment miracles begin to happen in our lives. Will you accept Mary's invitation?

People around the world have been fascinated by Our Lady of Fatima since her first appearance on May 13, 1917.

The messages, the predictions, the miracles! What are we to make of it? You'll find the key to Fatima is simply seeking to understand Mary's message. It is a message of love, healing, and a path to incredible happiness. Mary appeared in Fatima every month from May to October 1917. She delivered a series of messages during that time to three young children: Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto. The message is simple and practical, yet it is profound and life changing. While Mary

discussed many things with the children, the message of Our Lady of Fatima can be summarized with three invitations:

1. Learn to pray the rosary, the prayer that can change the world, and wear the brown scapular.
2. Get spiritually healthy.
3. Let Mary guide you to lasting happiness.

Every time Mary appeared to the children, she asked them to pray the rosary. Why? The rosary is incredibly powerful. It has the power to bring peace and the power to heal. The rosary has the power to make a difference in your life, the lives of your loved ones, and in the world. The rosary settles our

hearts and minds. We live hectic lives in a chaotic world, a world troubled by war, violence, and brokenness. Amidst the chaos and confusion, our souls yearn for peace and clarity. How does the rosary bring us that serenity? The rosary puts things in perspective and allows us to see things as they really are. It reaches deep down into our souls and puts us at ease, creating a peace that is rare and beautiful. It teaches us to slow down, calm down, let go, offer our struggles to God, and listen. The rosary teaches us how to just be, and that is not a small or insignificant lesson. When we pray the rosary, we can bring our needs and struggles, and the needs of others, to Mary. She cares for us like a loving mother, and she wants to bring our troubles to her son, Jesus.

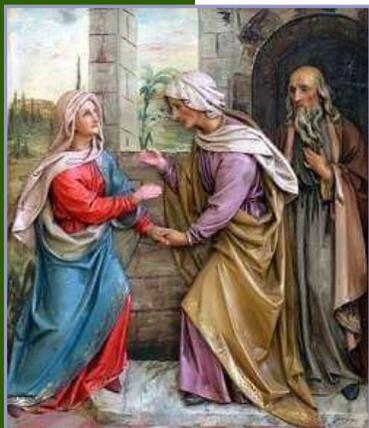


What can we pray for? We can pray for the needs of our family and friends, we can pray for our communities, for our cities and neighborhoods, for our schools and churches, and for the hungry, lonely, and sick. We can pray for our nation, our leaders, and our troops. The impact the rosary can have is incredible. In fact, Mary even promised that the rosary could bring an end to war!

Will you accept Mary's invitation?

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER ✕ THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Month of May for the past number of years has started with remembering Saint Joseph the Worker and ended with The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month is “bookended” with two of the human members of the Holy Family; Mary and Joseph. They are two of the holiest human beings to ever grace this earth. Jesus the Christ, the other member of the Holy Family is both divine AND human. He has joined the two natures so that His mother and foster-father can share in his divinity while also having a glorified human body. It is not a Church teaching, but some saints have mentioned that they believe that Saint Joseph may also have been assumed into heaven, body and soul. Here are two examples:



“How could we doubt that Our Lord raised glorious Saint Joseph up into Heaven, body and soul? For he had the honor and grace of carrying Him so often in his blessed arms, arms in which Our Lord took so much pleasure. Saint Joseph is therefore in Heaven body and soul, without a doubt.” [Saint Francis de Sales]

“In the same way that Mary was assumed into Heaven, it is thought that Jesus deigned to glorify Joseph. In this way, all of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph – who lived together on Earth, would reign together in Heaven.” [Saint Bernardino of Siena]

Just as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was believed for centuries in the Church, it was not until the 1950’s that the Dogma of the Assumption was finally proclaimed by the Church. The belief that Saint Joseph was assumed body and soul into heaven has not been dogmatically defined, but it is not heretical to believe that this is possible. All others who are in Heaven share in the divinity of Christ and await the unification of their glorified bodies.

The Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker was in response to the Communist celebrating workers on “May Day” by the Venerable Pope Pius XII, in 1955. As Pope Pius XII said:

[As] the Vicar of Christ, we wish to reaffirm highly, on this day of May 1 ... the dignity of work, and [to] inspire social life and laws, based on a fair share of rights and duties ... [We have determined to] establish the liturgical feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, assigning it precisely on the 1st of May ... because the humble craftsman of Nazareth not only embodies the dignity of the arm of the worker ... he is also always the guardian of you and your families.

“The spirit flows to you [Saint Joseph] and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work.”

Saint Joseph the Worker, Pray for Us.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is well known by Catholics, especially if they pray the rosary, for the Visitation is the Second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. The Visitation shows how graced-filled Mary is; that she has just accepted the blessed role of being the mother of the Messiah and she now goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth in her need. Elizabeth is an elderly woman [probably in her 40’s or 50’s] who is now pregnant with Saint John the Baptist, the Precursor of the Messiah. Mary’s presence to Elizabeth causes John to leap for joy in his mother’s womb. He is already proclaiming the presence of the Messiah to the world, even if that world is only to his mother. As Mary carried Jesus in her womb, may we carry Jesus in our whole being so that others may “leap for joy” at the presence of Jesus in our life: body, mind, and soul.

The Month of May is filled with many celebrations. There is Mothers’ Day, First Communions, Ordinations and their Anniversaries, and Memorial Day, just to name a few. Let the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph be our guides and protection from all that goes against the virtues of being a “holy family.”

J ✕ M ✕ J

An Incredible Disciple

There's a lot of different ways to describe a disciple – but one of the most important ways is that a disciple hears what the master is saying, and acts on it. Another way of putting it is: What is God telling you, and what are you going to do about it? A disciple lives in those realities, and a disciple is constantly asking themselves "What is God telling me?" And then "What am I going to do about it?" Not my way, but God's way.

Saint Joseph was an incredible disciple when it came to this, because every time God asked him to do something, he did something about it. Not only did he do something about it, but first he heard, he listened, he paid attention, he received, and then he actually did something about it. St. Joseph was a father who was a master of an interior life. His silence was not just a silence, it was an active way of listening to the Father; it was an active way of saying "I'm open, Lord, and I want to hear Your voice." Joseph's prayerful silence was the primacy of his interior life. Scripture doesn't record a single word of St. Joseph. In a world that is so noisy, St. Joseph reminds us of how important it is to cultivate interior silence. St. Joseph's prayerful silence enabled him to respond generously to God. St. Joseph was submissive to God's will. He responded to the demands and needs of the Holy Family at every twist and turn. He fulfilled the needs of Mary and Jesus and never forced his own will on other people. He didn't cling to his own dreams or plans, he surrendered entirely to the will of God. He was flexible and always put his freedom at the service of the Divine plan. We should also aim to always respond to the needs of others in the moment. That is truly how we can become a disciple of Christ.

Disciples are called. Luke 5:1-11 perfectly illustrates this. God always acts first! Jesus came to the fishermen and gave them an invitation. It was only after this invitation to discipleship that our choice matters. Jesus has called each of us. The next step is...

Disciples intentionally respond to Jesus' call. After we are called, then a disciple must respond positively to the call! If Peter had not dropped his nets and followed Jesus, he would not be a disciple. You can't follow, if you don't make a choice. Discipleship is never inherited or accidental!



Disciples love. This is a primary mark of a disciple. Love of God and love of others. Jesus says that others will know we are disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35).

Disciples are fruitful. In fact, Jesus says that being fruitful proves that you are his disciple. "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples" (John 15:8).

Disciples are obedient. In John 15: 14 - "you are my friends if you do what I command". Notice, we can't be intimate with Jesus and be disobedient.

Disciples are taught. In Scripture, we constantly find the disciples of Jesus learning from Him. They listen and then implement the teaching in their lives. We too have to follow this model. The life of a Christian disciple is one of lifelong learning.

Disciples follow. The word, "disciple", means "follower". All of our life of discipleship starts with following Jesus. We must do as he did. Love as he loved. Choose what he chose. "Soon afterward He went on through cities and villages, preaching and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him." (Luke 8:1).

Disciples keep an eye on Heaven. The life we live now is not our final home. We are made to live with God forever in eternal bliss. Our heavenly home is determined by our decisions in this life. The prize of heaven is a gift we must keep our eyes on, so that we don't lose the eternal perspective of God.

Disciples carry crosses. Discipleship isn't easy. Jesus puts it this way, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23). We should never forget that suffering is a part of discipleship. It isn't merely about feel-good emotions and good times.

Disciples spend time with Jesus in prayer. We need to live in intimate relationship with God. "He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'" (Luke 11:1).

Disciples love and serve God (and others). Think of the many times the disciples were called to serve.

Disciples make other disciples. Ultimately, we need to do what Jesus did, which means to "make disciples". This was his final command and the one we cannot avoid personally.

The life of a disciple can be a challenge and one that we all need to grow in. Ask St. Joseph to help you be a better disciple.

The Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker is May 1.

Quotes from Saint Pio of Pietrelcina/May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 One moves forward to victory not with weapons of steel, but with prayers.	31 Our faith enables us to endure to the end of the trial.					1 May Jesus be in your heart, may He bless you, console you and smile upon you. Easter Weekday St. Joseph the Worker First Saturday
HOLY TRINITY	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Memorial Day					Easter Weekday St. Joseph the Worker First Saturday
2 Be at peace, for with the divine assistance all will work out for your own good.	3 Pray constantly and you will win the victory over our enemies.	4 Humble yourself beneath the powerful hand of the heavenly physician.	5 Always give most fervent thanks to God through Jesus Christ.	6 Prepare yourself to very well receive other favors from heaven.	7 Whoever does not appreciate the favors he has already received is very naturally unworthy of further favors.	8 It is God's will and that is enough.
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	SS. PHILIP AND JAMES	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday First Friday	Easter Weekday
9 The spirit must utter its assent to God's will.	10 Jesus is with you and you are with Jesus.	11 Send up to God a prayer of resignation and of hope and thank Him...	12 Place (all things) in the Lord's hands and peacefully await the fulfillment of all the divine plans.	13 The little vessel which is your soul always possesses the strong anchor of trust in the divine goodness.	14 This mystical vessel will always have Jesus as the helmsman and Mary as its beacon.	15 There is no room for fear.
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mothers' Day	Easter Weekday St. Damien de Veuster	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday St. Nereus and Achilleus St. Pancras	Easter Weekday Our Lady of Fatima	ST. MATTHIAS	Easter Weekday St. Isidore
16 Lift up your heart all the time and let us pray with a pure heart, a contrite and humble heart.	17 Rest assured that God is with you, so what are you to fear?	18 When a person is resigned to suffering, it can be said that he suffers with Jesus ...	19 When a person is resigned to suffering, it is Jesus who suffers in him.	20 The divine mercy is infinite and well able to forgive a contrite and humble heart.	21 Think of the present when Jesus is with you and loves you.	22 Think of the future when Jesus will reward your faithfulness and resignation.
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday St. John I	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday St. Bernardine of Siena	Easter Weekday St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions	Easter Weekday St. Rita of Cascia
23 Get rid as far as possible of all fear and always practice confidence, faith and love.	24 "We shall be judged on love!" So then, let us love Jesus.	25 Let us allow (Jesus) to act in us as He likes best.	26 (Jesus') action is always aimed at His greater glory and our greater sanctification.	27 While it is good to guard the secret of a king, it is also good gloriously to reveal the works of God.	28 Put your trust and love in the goodness of our God.	29 In your sufferings, have Jesus in the center of your heart. You are not far from the love of this God who is so good.
PENTECOST	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church Weekday [8 th Week in Ordinary Time]	Weekday St. Bede the Venerable St. Gregory VII St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi	St. Philip Neri	Weekday St. Augustine of Canterbury	Weekday	Weekday BVM [May 30 th & May 31 st Upper Left]

What Do You Want Jesus to Do For You?

We all need healing from something. We may find ourselves in need of healing from illness or injury; from addiction; from emotional wounds, such as rejection, abandonment, or shame. We may be hurting from broken relationships and accompanying fear, or an inability to trust others; from distorted views of ourselves or others; from effects of our own sin or the sin of others.



Nothing in our life, no suffering or pain, goes unseen by God. Your brokenness does not disqualify you from His love. In fact, it is quite the opposite: each place of brokenness that we allow Jesus to touch and heal becomes a wellspring of grace overflowing with love and peace.

Jesus knows intimately what it means to suffer because He entered into our suffering and redeemed us through it. Jesus Christ is a wounded healer. When God became man, it was to deliver us from the suffering of this world. "By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Pet 2:24).

He comes to heal every one of us, but perhaps not in the way we would expect. This life is passing away, and all suffering will eventually cease. So His great concern is for our salvation. He desires to heal us from our deepest wound which is sin. So even if we don't experience physical healing now, we know with certainty that Jesus is working to bring about healing in our souls, by constantly calling us to return to Him with repentance and offering us His forgiveness. This is the healing (spiritual healing) that leads to eternal life. Jesus sees the places where we are blind, where we are lame, where we are bleeding and His Sacred Heart is moved in love. These are the places He desires to encounter us, to console us, and

to place us in the loving embrace of God the Father. When we allow Jesus to touch our wounds, we experience a peace the world cannot give. It is precisely from these places that His victory shines most brightly, defying all human logic. It is in seeing the impossible, bringing life from death, that He increases our faith.

What do you want Jesus to do for you? In this question lies an invitation to look into the depths of our hearts, beyond what the world tells us what we need, to the truth, that Love is the answer to every human longing. No matter where or how we may be

wounded, the unshakeable truth is that our life is good. Each one of us was created by Love, in Love, and this can never be damaged, lost or taken away. We find healing in this truth, in the total security of God's love for us. And as we believe it more and more in this life, we come closer to what we will perfectly know and receive in heaven: where "God will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain.. The one who sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." (Rev 21:4-5).

ST. PADRE PIO'S PRAYER TO JESUS

O my Jesus, give me Your strength when my weak nature rebels against the distress and suffering of this life of exile, and enable me to accept everything with serenity and peace. With my whole strength I cling to Your merits, Your sufferings, Your expiation, and Your tears, so that I may be able to cooperate with You in the work of salvation. Give me strength to fly from sin, the only cause of Your agony, Your sweat of blood, and Your death. Destroy in me all that displeases You and fill my heart with the fire of Your holy love and all Your sufferings. Clasp me tenderly, firmly, close to You that I may never leave You alone in Your cruel Passion. I ask only for a place of rest in Your Sacred Heart. Amen.

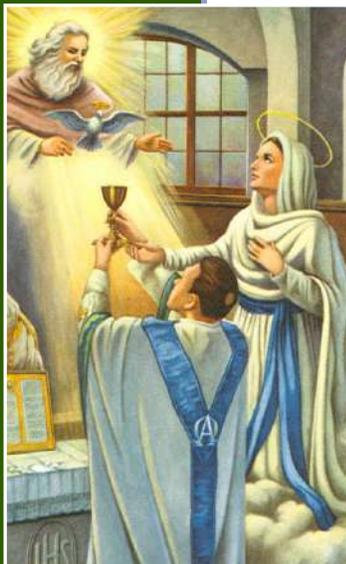
Happy Birthday St. Pio of Pietrelcina!

Francesco Forgione was born in this home to Grazio Mario Forgione (1860–1946) and Maria Giuseppa Di Nunzio (1859–1929) on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, a town in the province of Benevento, in the Southern Italian region of Campania. His parents were peasant farmers. He was baptized the next day in the nearby Santa Anna Chapel, which stands upon the walls of a castle. As a child Padre Pio received the nickname *il bello Francesco* (beautiful Frances) because of his light brown eyes and attractive blonde hair that darkened gradually to auburn as he matured.



An incredible amount of people had a claim on Padre Pio's love and affection. He touched thousands of lives while on earth, and continues his work in heaven. He helped preserve people from sin, kept them from harm, saved lives, and interceded for miraculous cures. Members of your own family will receive remarkable graces from his intercession. He has a genuine love for all who come to him. He directed his spiritual children to Jesus in three steps: (1) they are to keep the commandments of the Church, (2) prayer—the basic prayers being a daily rosary and daily Mass, (3) spend thirty minutes in meditation before the Blessed Sacrament on the truths of the faith. That wouldn't be the end, however! If his children faithfully undertook that half hour, they would soon see that they needed more. Do you need special help, or that extra bit of intercession to persevere in grace? Call upon Padre Pio's favor and join the myriads of his spiritual children. "I shall stand at the gates of Paradise until all my spiritual children have entered."

Prayer for Priests and Holy Vocations



**Pray for a
constant
supply of
priests.**

In this month of May, let us ask Mother Mary to intercede for us to the Lord for our priests and for more holy vocations:

To the Mother of all Priests

Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, under the Cross you became the mother of the apostles, and so also, the mother of all priests. Your house is the Church, your table, the altar; your servants are the angels, and your sons, the priests, change bread and wine, as of old the Lord said;

"Take eat...this is My Body...Drink...This is My Blood!" He had not only earthly bread in mind, when He taught us the "Our Father"; He wishes himself to be out daily bread!

Ever faithful Mother, you wish your house, the Church, to be reserved and well ordered. Pray for a constant supply of priests, so that the daily bread of eternal life may always be supplied!

Send your angels into families, so that joy in the service of God may be cultivated, so that the service of the King may become their vocation.

And send again your angels, so that holy priests may lead these young men to the altar. What is needed is a holy crusade for God, an effort to preserve the purity of our holy Faith, and the good shepherd is more than ever necessary, now the wolf has broken into the fold.

Intercede also, Mother of all priests, for all those priests in peril or in error, who no longer see their way and their goal, and choose to follow their own opinions.

No mother deserts her child when it is in danger. Send then your holy angels with warnings so urgent that they cannot be ignored! Mary, Our Lord's Mother, hold out as ransom-money, to your divine Son, your hands, your heart and your tears; He will accept them all, and grant His priests, the true light, due strength and the joy they have lost awhile. Amen

May Crowning



Padre Pio's favorite month was the month of May because it was traditionally dedicated to Mary. How fitting it is that Padre Pio was born on May 25 during the month when Mary is honored throughout the church. Padre Pio use to say that May was the most beautiful month of all because it brings to mind "the tenderness and beauty of Mary."

May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. During May, throughout the Catholic world, special devotions honor the Virgin Mary. "May Crowning" marks a new spiritual season and recognizes Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth who lifted us right out of the last long, cold days of winter and firmly planted our hearts in the warm and promising soil of spring. It typically involves presenting Mary with a floral crown and other handmade items. This tribute remains up throughout the entire month in order to memorialize the importance of our Mother Mary in Church and in our personal lives.

We do not view Mary as a goddess, nor do we worship Mary; she is honored or venerated as the mother of Christ, the most important woman in our Catholic faith. Mary is offered through pilgrimages, sacrifices, visits to church, and other customs as our Mother. She gave birth to that Body, making her our own mother; thus giving birth to us spiritually. Perhaps you can share this tradition in your own home. Create a May altar and crown your statue of our Blessed Mother. Share with your family and friends memories of May crowning when you were a young child and sweet memories of this beautiful song that was sung.

"On this day, O Beautiful Mother! On this day we give thee our love; Near thee, Madonna, fondly we hover, trusting thy gentle care to prove. On this day we ask to share, dearest Mother, thy sweet care; Aid us e'er, our feet astray, wandering from thy guiding way. Queen of Angels, deign to hear, thy dear children's humble pray'r; Young hearts gain, O Virgin pure, sweetly to thyself allure."

Police Rosary Project Update

This past month, Padre Pio Prayer Group members Joe Feckanin, Sue Hofstetter and I had the honor to attend a Police Award Ceremony for the 5th District of Cleveland. The stories of their bravery, quick thinking and smart police work led to lives being saved and removal of criminals from the streets. It was an experience that I will never forget. We shared with them the history of our Padre Pio Prayer Group and the beginnings of our ministry for Police Prayer Protection Packages. Joe led the attendees in singing God Bless America. Knowing that not all police are Catholics, Sue shared a beautiful way how the rosary can be shared with them, so they are able to receive blessings. It was explained that they can accept the rosary and give it to a neighbor or friend who is Catholic and ask them to pray for them. Let us lead the way in the Cleveland area and beyond to pray for and with all our first responders. Thank you to all who chose a police officer or police canine to pray for. May they always be protected under Mary's mantle.

Our rosary project has sprouted up in Florida led by Mary Kay Dinansky. Mary Kay not only had people



making blue and white “Pray, Hope and Don’t Worry” rosaries for the police but red and white ones for firefighters and first responders. Rosaries have been mailed and personally delivered to police departments in the greater Cleveland area and to police departments across the United States. If you would like to help, we are always looking for rosary makers. Donations are also greatly appreciated to cover the costs of all the materials that make up our Police Prayer Protection Packages. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Blessings & Gratitude,
Leslie Ann Magda

Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio



At our April Gathering our guest speaker Jim Amato gave a beautiful witness on Medicine of Divine Mercy. More blankets for the sick were blessed and they have been given away. Please keep our list of the sick on the back page of the newsletter in your daily prayers.

This month we celebrate May Crowning at Holy Mass. Last year we could not have it, only privately in our homes. In commemoration of two years meeting at Our Lady of Guadalupe, a statue of St. Pio of Pietrelcina has been added to the church grounds by a devotee of Padre Pio. It seems appropriate on the month of Padre Pio’s birthday (May 25) that the statue from Italy arrived in Macedonia. As Spiritual Children we all

sail in the same boat as Jesus guides the way. We have come to know more deeply our need for one another, and we have seen some remarkable acts of kindness and fellowship. We are blessed to see so many who were unable to come during the pandemic now returning. Absence has truly made our hearts grow fonder.

Congratulations to our faith filled priests on the anniversaries of their ordinations. They provide us with spiritual guidance, celebrating Holy Mass, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Bill Browne ordained May 15, 2004, Fr. Michael Petkosek ordained May 18, 2019, Fr. Edward Janoch ordained May 20, 2000, and Fr. Kevin Shemuga ordained June 11, 1983. Thank you for hearing the call from our Lord.

I want to wish all mothers a Happy Blessed Mother’s Day. As Padre Pio said “May the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it, from her Most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing.”

Sincerely,

Cindy Russo TOF, Group Leader

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Barbara Bilinovich	Marty Franck	Mark Magda
Mario Bruschi	Bob Garcar	Fr. Cory Mayer
Sarojini Bruschi	Kathy Hlad	Joe Morici
Tom Christy	Kyle Hrabusa	Molly O'Leary
Gia Cefaratti	Michael Hurley	Eleanor Phillips
Virginia DeJesus	Helen Husky	Judy Purdy
Roy Evans	Tony Kazmierczak	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 †

Collin Nemeth

Corner

Jake's

For May, I am writing about Saint Rita of Cascia. She was born in Italy in 1381 as Margherita Lotti, but she was known as Rita. From a young age, Saint Rita was very devoted to God and desired to enter the Augustinian Convent of Saint Mary Magdalen. However, her parents arranged for her to be married to Paolo Mancini. Rita became a mother of two sons. Paolo was very abusive to Rita and had many enemies. Eventually, Rita convinced Paolo to live a better life. There was a feud between the Mancini and Chiqui families. Paolo was murdered as a result of the rivalry between the two families. Rita forgave Paolo's murderers, but she had extreme difficulty convincing her sons to forgive. Their sons became convinced to avenge their father's death and defend the family honor. Rita prayed that God would take her sons so they would not commit the mortal sin of murder. Within a year, Giovanni Antonio and Paolo Maria died. Her vocation to become an Augustinian Nun rekindled in her heart, but the Augustinian Nuns of the Convent of Saint Mary Magdalen refused her request to enter.



Written by: Jake Snyder

Rita was still determined to enter the convent and again refused. The nuns stated that Rita could not enter the convent because her

family had not forgiven Paolo's murderers. There were members of the rival family who were already nuns. Rita entering the convent would become a threat to keeping peace in the community. Even though it seemed that Rita could not enter the convent, she was not discouraged. She asked for the intercession of her patron saints, Saint Augustine, Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, and Saint John the Baptist, to intercede for her in this matter. Rita was eventually able to make peace between the two families.

Rita entered the Augustinian Convent of Saint Mary Magdalen at the age of 36. For forty years, she lived her ordinary life as an Augustinian nun. On Good Friday of 1442, Rita prayed to share more in the suffering of Christ and received the stigmata as a wound of the Crown of Thorns. Rita died on May 22, 1457. Pope Urban VIII Beatified Rita of Cascia in 1627. Then, Pope Leo XIII canonized Rita of Cascia on May 24, 1900.

Saint Rita is one of the most popular saints because she is known as the patron of impossible causes. Saint Rita trusted fully in God and His providence and always entrusted herself to Him, especially when things seemed impossible. During May, let us learn to become more like Saint Rita and strive to lead holy lives.

SOURCES:

<https://www.saintrita Shrine.org/life-of-saint-rita>
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint_id=205

BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of May, and God Bless all the mothers!

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