

**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:**

Dec 11 -
Rosary Rally at
Noon, Veteran's
Memorial Park,
Route 82, Macedonia

Dec 13 -
Special Mass at 6:30
PM, Our Lady of
Guadalupe Church,
Macedonia followed
by food, music and
refreshments

Jan 1 -
NO Padre Pio
Prayer Group
Gathering in
January 2022

Feb 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

DECEMBER 2021

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The Nativity of Our Lord

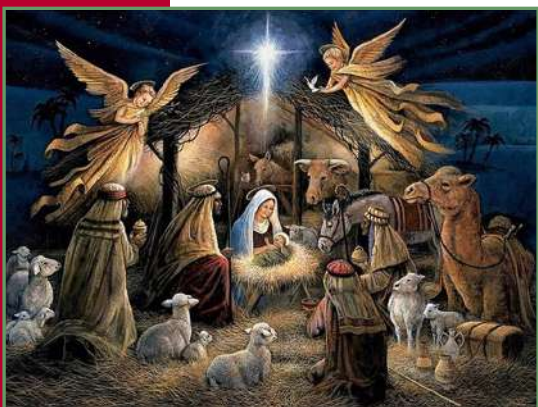
And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Gospel of Luke 2:1-7)

O sweet Incarnate Word, O most amiable Infant Jesus, behold me at last at Your feet; let me contemplate You; permit me to delight in Your beauty, Your goodness, Your immense charity! In this little Child who smiles, and holds out His baby arms to me, I find Your infinite love, living, breathing—for this Babe is You, O my God! How can I ever thank You for Your exceeding love? How can I ever make You a return of love?

“You, who are so great and rich, have made Yourself little and poor for us! You chose to be born far from home, in a stable, to be wrapped in swaddling clothes, to be nourished at Your Virgin Mother’s breast, to be laid in a manger between an ox and an ass. Today is the dawn of the new redemption, of the old restoration, of eternal happiness; today, the heavens have distilled honey throughout the whole world! Then, O my soul, kiss this divine manger, press your lips to the Infant’s feet and embrace them. Meditate on the shepherds watching their flocks, contemplate the angelic hosts, prepare to join in the heavenly melody, singing with your lips and with your heart: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will!’” (St. Bonaventure)



Why Christmas 2021 Is Already Ruined; NOT!



I find it interesting that Christmas 2021 is already ruined and that we might as well forget celebrating it. With the shortage of supplies and gifts because of the backlog of container ships in Los Angeles, COVID-19 continues to sweep across America, and political rifts between political parties are just a few reasons that Christmas 2021 is ruined. The worldview of Christmas seems to be ruined, but the real reason for Christmas can never be ruined. The real reason for Christmas is that God the Father, to correct the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, sent the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity to become man and take on our human nature. Jesus the Christ is the true reason for Christmas. God's promise has been fulfilled in sending us our Savior. Jesus also promised to come back and gather all who

were faithful to God into the Heavenly Kingdom. As we wait for the joyful hope of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, He also promised to be with us until He comes again. His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist is His promise to be with us always. The hidden presence under the elements of bread and wine is Jesus' way to remain with us. God has been faithful in the first coming of Christ, so it will be in the second coming of Christ. What our world thinks of Christmas is that the gifts and the parties and the spending on these things is what Christmas is. It is things that make Christmas for them. For us, Christmas is about the faithfulness of our God and made known through a person, Jesus the Christ. If we hold Jesus in our hearts and remember His first coming and wait for His second coming and worship, adore, and consume the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, Christmas can never be ruined.

Have a Joyful Advent, a Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year!



O Come Let Us Adore Him!

Angels are spiritual creatures that bring messages from God. In Christ's Nativity, the angels' messages had an important role. At the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary and said "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." The angel continued, "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High." The angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream, saying "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. After Jesus was born a multitude of the heavenly host (angels) were visibly seen by shepherds shouting for joy over the birth of the Lord. The angels appeared to shepherds in the fields saying "Come and see." Millions of angels were giving glory to God by singing on the hills of Bethlehem at Jesus' birth. Later the angels told the Magi Kings not to go back to Herod; take a different route home. The angels also warned St. Joseph to go to Egypt to keep baby Jesus safe. God assigned each of us a guardian angel and at every Mass the angels are present and active.

In her liturgy, the Church joins with the angels to adore the thrice-holy God. So, what are they doing? What

exactly is their purpose? Angels adore God. Adoration abounds at events that they share with us. They sing, praise, and give glory to God constantly. "Holy, Holy, Holy!" We should spend more time trying to be more like the angels and we will grow to have an intimate relationship with God.




God and you. When you spend more time with an open heart in Adoration and just let Christ love you, then you'll fall in love too. That love will define you and allow you to be yourself. When you go, you see Jesus and He sees you. You pray, talk and listen hoping to do His will in your life. Adoration is a very beautiful and personal experience between you and God. Make it a habit.

So this Advent we need to make time and follow the example of the angels. Show Him how much we adore Him!

Adoration Prayer by Pope John XXIII

"O Jesus, present in the sacrament of the altar, teach all the nations to serve you with willing hearts, knowing that to serve God is to reign. May your sacrament, O Jesus, be the light to my mind, strength to the will, and joy to the heart. May it be the support to the weak, the comfort of the suffering, the wayfaring bread of salvation for the dying and for all the pledge of future glory. Amen."

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	** Christmastide **					
<i>Father, you gave the human race eternal salvation through the motherhood of the Virgin Mary. May we experience the help of her prayers in our lives, for through her we received the very source of life, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.</i>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Humble yourself before the compassion of our God.	Our God is always ready to welcome and raise up the one who acknowledges his nothingness before him.	Flee from even the slightest shadow of anything that makes you think highly of yourself.	Reflect upon and keep before your mental gaze the great humility of the Mother of God, our Mother.	The more (Mary) was filled with heavenly gifts, the more deeply did she humble herself.	As gifts increase in you let your humility grow.	You must consider that everything is given to you on loan.
	Advent Weekday <i>St. Nicholas</i>	Advent Weekday <i>St. Ambrose</i>	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday <i>St. John Damascene</i> First Saturday
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	<i>St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</i>	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday <i>St. Damasus I</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
The increase of gifts must always burst forth from your heart in the form of continual thanksgiving.	Place your faith in the divine assistance.	Be certain that one who has defended you up to the present will continue His saving work.	If nature suffers and demands its rights, this is a condition of man's life as a wayfarer.	Man was created to enjoy happiness and his trials are a consequence of sin.	As long as we remain in this world we shall always feel a natural aversion to suffering.	Embrace and submit to the (cross) for love of God.
				Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<i>St. Lucy</i>	St. John of the Cross	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
It is the flesh that is weak, but God wants the spirit and not the flesh.	Cling tightly all the time in spirit to the divine will.	Serve the Lord with a joyful heart, for divine love will never grow less in your soul.	Have boundless trust in the divine mercy.	God loves you very much.	Continue to trust, to hope and to love.	Praise be to God in the highest heavens!
	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday <i>St. Peter Canisius</i>	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday <i>St. John Kanty</i>	Late Advent Weekday [CHRISTMAS EVE]	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD [CHRISTMAS]
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
May the Holy Spirit fill you with His most holy gifts.	May it please this God of goodness to behave as a loving Father and not as a righteous judge.	Watchfulness, prayer and humility are the arms needed to overcome all temptations.	One does not do wrong without being aware of it.	Be sincere and the Lord will love you more dearly.	Jesus is closely united with you. Listen to His voice. Put away the fears you have. God is with you.	
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH	ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord <i>St. Thomas Becket</i>	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord <i>St. Sylvester I</i>	

Feast of the Immaculate Conception



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

on December 8 is one of the most prominent Marian feasts in the Catholic Church.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary breaks with the penitential simplicity of the Advent season to give us a chance to celebrate the Mother of God, through whom the incarnation of the Word of God was made possible. It celebrates Her nature as a holy and sinless woman from the time of her conception, and Our Lady gives us a model of a life without sin in con-

formity with God's will. As She is such an important figure in the Advent and Christmas seasons, the feast of her conception allows us to honor Her as we prepare for the coming of her Son.

On December 11 we will be holding a Christmas Advent Rosary Rally in Honor of Mary on Route 82 in Macedonia at the Veteran's Memorial Park at Noon. Bring your rosary and join us with 1000's across the country from America Needs Fatima. All are welcome!

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the story behind the indigenous peasant who came across the Patron of the Americas and how he fought for her message to be heard. The Virgin of Guadalupe, like the shroud of Turin, appears on a piece of fabric. Both are sacred objects, hundreds of years old, and both depict an image said to be miraculous. The Virgin of Guadalupe was declared Queen of Mexico and is Patron of the Americas.

Our Lady of Guadalupe first introduced herself as the Mother of God and the mother of all humanity when she appeared on the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico in 1531. Juan Diego saw a glowing figure on the hill. After she had identified herself to him, Our Lady asked that Juan build her a shrine in that same spot, in order for her to show and

share her love and compassion with all those who believe. Afterwards, Juan Diego visited Juan de Zumárraga, who was Archbishop of what is now Mexico City. Zumárraga dismissed him in disbelief and asked that the future Saint provide proof of his story and proof of the Lady's identity. Juan Diego returned to the hill and encountered Our Lady again. The Virgin told him to climb to the top of the hill and pick some flowers to present to the Archbishop. Although it was winter and nothing should have been in bloom, Juan Diego found an abundance of flowers of a type he had never seen before. The Virgin bundled the flowers into Juan's cloak, known as a tilma. When Juan Diego presented the tilma of exotic flowers to Zumárraga, the flowers fell out and he recognized them as Castilian roses,

which are not found in Mexico. What was even more significant, however, was that the tilma had been miraculously imprinted with a colorful image of the Virgin herself.

The tilma is preserved since that date and showing the familiar image of the Virgin Mary with her head bowed and hands together in prayer, represents the Virgin of Guadalupe. It remains perhaps the most sacred object in all of Mexico. Juan Diego in 2000 was declared a Saint.

There will be a special Mass celebration and a renewal of our Consecration on December 13 at 6:30pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Macedonia. Food, music and refreshments will follow.



Prayer for Priests and Religious



Our Lady of Rosa Mystica refers to Mary as Mother of the Church. We can find this name also in the Litany of Loreto. As the Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church, we pray to her for the protection and strengthening of priests and religious orders, and for the flourishing of vocations. Her image has three roses. Each rose has a meaning: White – Prayer, Yellow/Gold – Penance and Reparation, Red - Sacrifice. These roses are to relieve the pain caused by three swords in Our Lady's heart: by religious souls who are betraying their vocation, to

repair mortal sin of those souls, and to repair for the infidelity of priests unworthy of their ministry.

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE VIRGIN, ROSA MYSTICA, FOR HER INTERCESSION

Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Grace, Rosa Mystica, in honor of thy Divine Son, we prostrate ourselves at your feet to implore God's mercy.

We beg for help and grace, not relying on any merit of ours, but on the kindness of your motherly heart, and confident that you will grant our urgent requests.

Hail Mary...

Rosa Mystica, Mother of Jesus, Queen of the Holy Rosary and Mother of the Church, Mystical Body of Christ, we implore the gifts of unity and peace for the world parched by discord, and the graces to convert the souls of all your erring children.

Hail Mary...

Rosa Mystica, Queen of the Apostles, let flourish around the Eucharistic Altars many religious and priestly vocations which, with the holiness of lives and their burning zeal for the salvation of the souls, will spread throughout the world the Kingdom of your Jesus! Fill us with your heavenly graces!

Hail Holy Queen...

Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, Immaculate from Thy creation, pierced with pain, kindled with

love, pray for our clergy and all the religious. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious who are walking on the wrong path. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious who do not show any more the necessary respect that is due to God. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious who do not possess any more the courage to profess their faith. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious who show no respect for the Most Holy Eucharist. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious who have succumbed to the allurements of a deceitful world, and do not seek God any more. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pierced with pain, kindled with love, pray for all those priests and religious who have given up the Holy Sacrament of confession, and tolerate sinful deeds. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious who have no more love for you and thus have become cold in heart so quickly. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious who do not obey the Holy Spirit any longer. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious for the sake of your Immaculate Heart. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious for the sake of your tears. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious for the sake of your Son who, on the Cross, gave you His priests as your sons. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious for the sake of your invincible power of intercession for us. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious for the sake of you being the all-powerful Mediatrix of all graces. Save them.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Rosa Mystica, pray for all those priests and religious for the sake of your sorrows and your tears of blood. Save them.



**Immaculate
Heart of
Mary,
Rosa
Mystica,
save them.**

Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio

At the last prayer meeting we had the honor to remember our members and their loved ones who have died this past year. Tom Hummer gave us an amazing talk on the church, saints, and our role as lay people in the Catholic Church. His collection of 100's of relics was very powerful. He gave us his time



to pray with us individually. I want to express much gratitude to Tom and his ministry. Pam Ciarlariello gave us a witness on the Holy Souls and holy cards of St. Gertrude prayer. We thank Fr. Michael Petkosek and Fr. Bill Browne for the celebration of the Holy Mass and confession! Our Prayer Group is very blessed to have them. Continue to pray for all of our Chaplains.



lowing story. "We were reciting the rosary while waiting for the Mass. Padre Pio was praying with us. All of a sudden, in an aura of light, I saw the Baby Jesus appear in his arms. Padre Pio was transfigured, his eyes gazing upon the glowing child in his arms, his face transformed by an astonished smile. When the vision disappeared, Padre Pio realized from the way I was looking at him



that I had seen everything. But he drew close to me and told me not to mention it to anyone."

Bring your Baby Jesus to be placed on the steps of the altar for a special blessing! May your Baby Jesus bless you and your family!

Buon Natalie,
Cindy Russo TOF, Group Leader

This month some of the members took a small pilgrimage to be in the audience on the Dr. Ray Guarendi EWTN television program sponsored by the AM 1260 The Rock which was taped in Brecksville at St. Joseph Byzantine Church.

We are starting Advent and now preparing for our Lord. We have two events we are hosting this month (see page 5). This is a way to prepare and take time out for the Lord. At our December gathering we are taking up a clothing drive for the children of Honduras. This is our Christmas Charity this year. We are collecting children's t-shirts, shorts and underwear for 2nd to 8th grade. There will be a truck in the church parking lot. Monetary donations are welcome. Karen Godt will speak about Hope for Honduran Children (<https://www.hopeforhonduranchildren.org/>). One last reminder, there will be a Christmas Cookie Bake Sale at our gathering.



St. Padre Pio loved Christmas. He held a special devotion to the Baby Jesus ever since he was a child. At Midnight Mass in particular was a joyous celebration for Padre Pio, who celebrated it every year, taking many hours to carefully celebrate the Holy Mass. His soul was lifted up to God with great joy, a joy that others could easily see. Witnesses have recounted how they would see Padre Pio holding the Baby Jesus. This was not a porcelain statue, but the Baby Jesus himself in a miraculous vision. Renzo Allegri recounts the fol-

Dear Padre Pio Prayer Group,

As we celebrate the three comings of Christ during this advent season, we pray that it may be a season of vigilance. It could and should also be a season of sacrifice and detachment from the distractions of this world which is rapidly passing away. I pray that you might all strive to clean up the manger scenes of your own lives, that the Newborn Jesus may have a fitting and welcoming home in which to lay His head. May prayer and good works abound.

Fr. Bill Browne

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Barbara Bilinovich	Cynthia Fonseca	Jonathan Lipreads	Judy Purdy
Mario Bruschi	Oscar Fonseca	Mark Magda	Brooklyn Russell
Sarojini Bruschi	Marty Franck	Fr. Cory Mayer	Phyllis Schilling
Gia Cefaratti	Bob Garcar	Joe Morici	Regis Schilling
Virginia DeJesus	Rose Gullo	Fr. Terry O'Connell	Mary Smith
Serena DiCillo	Kyle Hrabusa	Molly O'Leary	Joseph Wojtyla
Roy Evans	Michael Hurley	Eleanor Phillips	Fr. Chuck Works
Margie Ferfolia	Helen Husky	Carmie Pruchnichi	
Michele Ferrara	Tony Kazmierczak	Steve Pruchnichi	

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



† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Nancy Martin, Prayer Group member
Dennis Moore
Peggy Nelson
Anthony Rossi, Prayer Group member
Judy Selby

Jake's Corner

St. Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave

woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defense of the faith.

Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up. The one that has passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan and Lucy knew her mother could not be swayed by a young girl's vow, so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was the better partner for life.

After several prayers at the tomb of Saint Agatha, Lucy saw the saint in a dream. St. Agatha told Lucy her mother's illness would be cured through faith, which Lucy used to persuade her mother to give the dowry money to the poor and allow her to commit her life to God.

While Lucy and her mother were grateful to God, the rejected



bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to the governor Paschasius. The governor attempted to force her into defilement at a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen.

The guards heaped bundles of wood around her but it wouldn't burn so they finally resorted to their swords, and Lucy met her death.

Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this, he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them.

When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

Lucy, whose name can mean "light" or "lucid," is the patron saint of the blind. She is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. In paintings, she is often depicted with a golden plate holding her eyes and often holds a palm branch, which is a symbol of victory over evil. Her Feast Day is Dec 13.

SOURCE: https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=75

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

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