

**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 2 -

**Ash Wednesday
Mass on Padre Pio
TV (see page 8)**

Mar 19 -

**St. Joseph Feast Day
beginning with
Rosary at 8:00 AM
and Mass at 8:30 AM,
Our Lady of
Guadalupe Church**

Apr 2 -

**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**

SAVE THE DATE:

**Aug 25-27 -
Pilgrimage to The
World Apostolate of
Fatima in NJ**

SAVE THE DATE:

**Oct 10-14 -
Pilgrimage to
EWTN in AL**

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

MARCH 2022

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

Take a Step

One of God's greatest promises explains what happens when you spend time with Him: "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). Nearness means you'll get to know God better and learn to recognize His voice. Jesus said He leads His sheep with His voice. "The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out" (John 10:3). With Christ in the lead, you'll go the right direction and will make it to your destination. You won't stumble around in a fog of confusion or wander aimlessly, not knowing where to go.

Staying close to Jesus also ensures you'll have life "abundantly" (John 10:10). This doesn't mean you won't have challenges or hardships. But it does mean you'll always have peace, power and joy that can help you deal with any situation. How can you do this? Slow down and make more room for Jesus in your life. Your reward is Eternal Salvation.

Lent gives you six weeks leading up to Easter to draw near, spending 40 days of fasting, sacrifice and almsgiving. How will you prepare for

the Resurrection this year? Lent is a perfect opportunity to start and reboot your prayer life and relationship with God. Make room for some quiet time. It's just between you and God. The Adoration Chapel is a great place to open your heart and make room for the Lord.

Do a good self-examination of your conscience. Make a good Confession. Read through the accounts of Jesus' life on earth in the Gospels. Recite and meditate on the Stations of the Cross. Focus on Our Lady of Sorrows. Many people fast during the days leading up to Easter. Don't just fast, but fast and pray. If you fast from time spent in one ac-

tivity and spend that time with God in prayer, you might find that it's a habit worth continuing even after Easter.

Are you ready to take the next step? St. Clare of Assisi said "If you suffer with Him, you will reign with Him. If you cry with Him, you will have joy with Him. If you die with Him on the Cross of tribulation, you will possess the eternal dwelling place in the splendor of the saints. And your name, written in the Book of Life, will be glorious among men."



Loving God, during the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you, prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of simplicity. Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace-filled time to rekindle my love for, and faith in, you. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



As I write this reflection [February 24, 2022], I have just finished our morning Mass and exposed the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration. We do the exposition every Thursday from after the morning Mass until 2:00 p.m. I was informed just before Mass that Russia had invaded the Ukraine. I changed the Mass prayers to the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions: #31. In Time of War or Civil Disturbance. Our world has been heading toward a major conflict for a number of years; it was just a matter of time when it would happen.

I began my homily with these words: *“Evil is having fun today.”* This caused me to reflect that this Lent would be a good time to truly offer sacrifices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we never had done before. As a suggestion, we may want to double our penances this year. For, as when the priest places the ashes on our heads, he may say either: **“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”** or **“Repent, and believe in the Gospel,”** these words remind us that our life is short and that before we *“turn back into dust”* that we are to repent from our falling from grace and to believe in the Gospel, which is about and is Jesus the Christ. In Him, we live and move and have our being/purpose. Evil, like that occurring in the Ukraine by Russia, shows that we need to sacrifice, fast, repent from sin and offer these for the retribution of **ALL SIN** by our self-giving in works of penance. Lent is the time to do penance. These acts of penance are done for the “Glory of God” and for the “Salvation of Souls.” [GG & SS] When we voluntarily perform penances, God sees our perseverance and sacrifice and He is attentive to our penances and in return, He offers us His Love, His Very Self. His Love will then help us to continue to repent and believe in the Gospel.

On the *EWTN* Website, they have this added prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel. I have included it at the end of my reflection for I like the phrase: *“deliver us from all evil.”* The world is full of evil but it is also full of the Grace of God. He is present to us and when we “fall from Grace”, He is there. As Saint Paul writes to the Romans: *“Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more”* [Romans 5:20b]. So, no matter how serious our sins are, God’s Grace is greater and if we accept His Grace, we can be victorious over sin and death.

Let us pray for the People of the Ukraine and for all the areas of our world where there are wars and civil disturbances. Also, I am not able to be at the March Gathering for our parish is offering our Pre-Cana retreat on March 5th. So, it looks like I should be able to attend our April Gathering [God Willing]. Know that even though all of you are out of my sight, you are NOT out of my mind/thoughts for I pray for our Saint Padre Pio Prayer Group every day. Have a joyful Lent.

O glorious prince Saint Michael, chief and commander of the heavenly hosts, guardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel spirits, servant in the house of the Divine King and our admirable conductor, you who shine with excellence and superhuman virtue deliver us from all evil, who turn to you with confidence and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day.

Prayerfully yours,

Actions Still Speak Louder Than Words

St. Joseph speaks a grand total of zero words in the Gospels. He only makes an appearance in two of the four gospels: Matthew and Luke. In fact, the Gospel of Mark doesn't mention his name at all and the Gospel of John only has two passing references to Jesus as the "the son of Joseph" (John 1:45, 6:42). Saint Joseph's hidden life is his statement. He is the exemplary model of the phrase: "Actions speak louder than words." He was not worried about announcing to the world everything he did. He was not worried about leaving his "public legacy." He doesn't spend time talking about his mission. He spends his time living his mission.

St. Joseph reminds us that real work often goes unnoticed. Aside from being patron saint of numerous causes, St. Joseph is especially known for being the patron of a "happy death." During this pandemic when so many relatives, friends, neighbors and people of our world are suffering the effects of illness, death and injustices in our health care systems, St. Joseph teaches us something critical about Christian happiness. It is not about avoiding suffering. Rather, it is about embracing whatever reality comes our way in the love and grace of Jesus and Mary. This doesn't mean we remain complacent with our current state of affairs. Rather, it's

quite the opposite. Remembering that Jesus and Mary are always by one's side, we have the Christian faith, hope and love necessary to transform our broken world—no matter how ill, old, poor or in pain one might be.

The faith Christ taught us is what we see in Saint Jo-



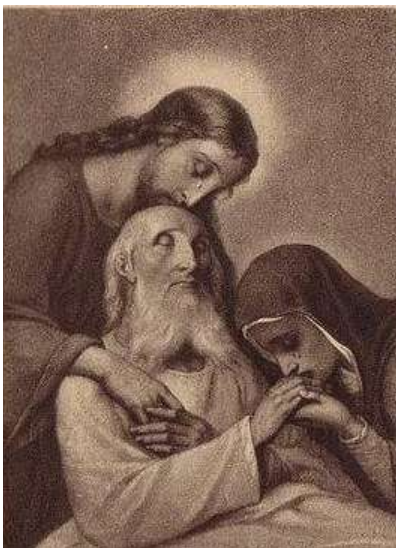
seph. He did not look for shortcuts, but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it. St. Joseph pray for us!

The Tradition of the "St. Joseph Table" ("la tavala di San Giuseppe") has its origins in Sicily. Legends

from the Middle Ages attributed the end of a devastating drought to a prayer-devotion that the Sicilian people made to St. Joseph. This celebration is a symbolic "thank you" and renewal of the Sicilian people's devotion to Saint Joseph. It is a shared celebration with the entire community where the riches of food are given as alms to the poor: Traditional etiquette is that no one can be turned away from this table. Saint Joseph's Day, March 19, is in Italy also Father's Day—which isn't at all surprising as St. Joseph was, of course, the foster father of Jesus. This feast and festival—which always falls in the midst of Lent—is especially commemorated and celebrated in Italy in general and Sicily in particular.



On Saturday March 19th we will be celebrating his feast day at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church with 8:00am Rosary and 8:30am Holy Mass. Everyone will receive Blessed St. Joseph Bread to share with your family.



A Poor Sinner Who Prayed

What is the most incredible Padre Pio experience? His Mass. It's hard not to look at Padre Pio's resume of miracles without a sense of wonder. And yet, what impressed his visitors most deeply was not the cures, bilocations, or ability to read souls in the confessional; rather, it was his celebration of the Holy Mass. Not because Padre Pio was a great showman performing astonishing miracles at the altar. No, those who attended his Mass truly experienced the presence of God in a way that was deep, genuine, and uniquely direct.



God." He always made sure to point people back to the source of the miracles: God.

Padre Pio referred to himself as a poor sinner who prayed, and encouraged others to do likewise. When people thanked him for performing a miracle, he would reply with embarrassment, "Don't thank me. Thank God." Francesco Santaraello was a crippled man with club feet, dubbed the village idiot of San Giovanni Rondo. Unable to walk, he would drag himself along the ground on his knees with the assistance of small crutches. He frequently stationed himself outside of St. Padre Pio's friary to beg for money among the crowds of people who came to see

"At the beginning of Mass, his face was really pale, just as if he were carrying our suffering, our pain, and our sin. After the consecration, his face underwent an amazing change. It seemed to be transfigured with radiant light. From the very first time I went to Mass, I realized that the Spirit of God was there." When we reflect on Padre Pio's fascinating life—with its miracles and profound offering of the Sacred Liturgy—let it be an invitation to deeper faith, prayer, and a stronger relationship with the God who loves us. Padre Pio did not like the attention he received from being a miracle worker. Whenever a person came to him for a cure, he usually gave a quick reply such as, "Let us pray to

the famous capuchin. One day, as Padre Pio was walking by, Francesco cried out, "Padre Pio, give me a blessing!" Padre Pio looked at the man and said, "Throw away your crutches!" Francesco was stunned and did not move. Padre Pio shouted again, "I said, 'Throw away your crutches!'" and left the man, walking into the church to say Mass. The crowds watched in amazement as Francesco threw his crutches away and, for the first time in his life, walked on his deformed feet. Francesco would never use his crutches again. "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." (John 5:8).



Prayer to Our Lady of All Nations

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,
send now your Spirit over the earth.

Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all Nations,
that they may be preserved from degeneration,
disasters, and war.

May the Lady of all Nations, the Blessed Virgin Mary, be our Advocate. Amen.

Praying for Priests This Lent



**Defend
and assist
our priests.**

Blessed Lady of the Tears

O Blessed Lady of the Tears, we entrust and consecrate the priesthood to your Immaculate Heart.

Grant, O Lady of the Tears, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all priests, that they may be authentic witnesses of your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Give all priests and seminarians a deep love and devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to you, their loving Mother. Grant that every priest and seminarian will daily spend one hour with Jesus in the Eucharist and daily pray your most holy rosary. Grant all priests and seminarians the gift of purity, the gift of chastity and the gift of the divine love of your Son. May they proclaim the Truth with love and with courage. May we, too, comfort your Immaculate Heart by praying the rosary and adoring the Heart of Jesus your Son in the Most Holy Eucharist present in every Catholic Church in the world.

We ask all of our prayers through the Tears which you shed at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SOURCE: <https://prayerforpriests.weebly.com/>

Prayer for a Chalice of Strength

My God and Father in heaven, that night in the Garden, on the Mount of Olives, your Son told Peter: "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, who will promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defense?" (Mt 26:53).

Father, we ask you now: send these twelve legions of angels with chalices of strength out into the Gethsemane of the Holy Church to defend and assist our priests, who, strengthened by the power and presence of these angels, may faithfully fulfill their priestly missions. Amen.

SOURCE: www.opusangelorum.org

My Dear Padre Pio Prayer Group:

Wow, our retreat was so spirit packed and powerful. If you were there, it changed you. When I was praying over the people individually with the Blessed Sacrament, the experience literally touched my soul. When I just had to take a short break and Fr. Chuck Works came up and continued the blessing, it was almost too incredible to take in. Fr. Chuck was in a COVID induced coma, waiting for someone to pull the plug on his respirator, when we prayed for him during our December meeting. As it turns out, he experienced things beyond our reason. Maybe he will share it with us one day. He had lost a lot of his hair during his journey towards death, but God, our Prayer Group, Padre Pio, The Blessed Mother, and so many others, both earthly and heavenly entities, had other plans for him. That blessing was the first public act he had done as a priest since his seemingly imminent death. I think he came to our meeting just to show his thanks for his life. I believe God was telling him there is more work to be done; but you will find out from Fr. Chuck when he chooses to tell at least some of the story of his incredible journey.

Our God is just so loving and offers such healing to those who believe. Another guest from our December meeting was baby Brooklyn. She was a six-month-old baby with a large brain tumor, loving parents frightened and almost without hope, but they brought her to our meeting, hoping that somehow a miracle might happen for their beautiful baby daughter. Brooklyn's mom shared that as we all prayed for her daughter, and I was blessed to hold her up in front of you all, Brooklyn's complexion changed before her eyes. She had not seen that color in her baby's face since she was born. A few days

after our Mass and meeting, Brooklyn's parents took her to the doctor, when the doctor said there must be something wrong with her platelet count since it has been in the 90's. For a healthy person it should be in the 900's. Her platelet level was in the 700's. He had them come back and the platelet count was higher. Baby Brooklyn was also able to get the sleep at night which had escaped her throughout her entire young life. Brooklyn's mother said that her daughter's last scan is completely free of cancer. They came to our retreat to offer their thanksgiving too.

Incredible things are happening in our group. News of many healings and God instances continue to flow in to Cindy and our group, especially from our retreat. When I saw baby Brooklyn at our retreat, the big marks on the side of her head exposed where the large tumor was taken out. In the seminary, we were told that a scar was much better than an open wound. An open wound continues to infect us and can continue to harm us. A scar is a sign of healing and almost like The Stigmata, a sign of healing and God's incredible love for us.

Thank you for acknowledging my Birthday and Retirement.

*Sincerely,
Fr. Bill Browne*



Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio

We undisputedly started the 2022 prayer gatherings on the right foot. The mini retreat may have been mini, but very mighty. I want to thank all the priests who helped make this a great spiritual success. Fr. James Kulway, our main celebrant and retreat speaker, was very impressed with our group. Fr. Bill Browne said this retreat changed his life. I hope it changed yours too! The blessing of Fr. Chuck Works' presence after such a traumatic recovery of COVID added to the day. Fr. Michael Petkosek and Fr. Dennis Kristancic spent their time in the confessional too! I am grateful to all of our retreat helpers who ministered before or during the retreat. It would not have run so smooth without you. It personally took me a few days to process and recover from this blessed day. Thank you for opening your hearts to Jesus and grow into a deeper relationship with Him. The positive comments keep pouring in through texts and emails. Many have shared how much they loved the letter from our Spiritual Papa, the witnesses, the Adoration healing service, the prayers, meditations, retreat folder and even the warm breakfast sandwiches! If you want to revisit the retreat it is posted on our website (www.padrepiocleveland.org). I will have the extra retreat folders (if you did not receive one) at the March gathering.



8:30am including the Consecration to St. Joseph. We are sponsoring a St. Joseph Altar Table. Everyone will take home a blessed St. Joseph bread to share with your family.

I have been setting up two pilgrimages for this year. We will be going to The World Apostolate of Fatima in Washington, NJ on their Padre Pio Event Day (August 25-27) and EWTN in Alabama on October 10-14 on Barons Bus. Please save the dates. At the April gathering I will have registration forms, so please bring a \$50 down payment (check or cash) to secure your seat.

Calling all bakers! We will have another bake sale for April! Please drop off cookies on Friday April 1st at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. We will be packaging and setting up at 1:00pm.

St. Padre Pio fosters a deep emotional involvement with his Spiritual Children. He watches over them and considers their soul equal to his. He is always there to meet their needs with words of comfort and love. As Lent



This month I will distribute an Adoration book which the retreat was based on. That is your next step in growing a deeper relationship with Jesus and Mary. In it is a 9-day novena to the Blessed Sacrament. I challenge you to do this 9-day novena during Lent. It does not have to be 9 days consecutively. So, can you give Jesus in your 8,220 hours of Lent 9 hours? I will explain more at the meeting.

We have a great speaker for March: Pilgrim George. You will not want to miss his witness. His message will change your life. On March 19th we will be celebrating St. Joseph Feast Day at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. The rosary will begin at 8:00am and Holy Mass is at

begins, remember these words of Padre Pio: "Don't expect instant success. The spiritual life is a long journey. It is the work of a lifetime. Take one day at a time and one step at a time. If you stumble and fall, get up immediately and keep going. Never give up. In the spiritual life, you must take one step forward each day in a vertical line, from the bottom up."

Have the Best Lent ever!

Cindy Russo TOF
Group Leader

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Contact Pat Shea (330-825-4659 or billpatshea@gmail.com) to add a member to the list.

Bonnie Bobrowski	Cynthia Fonseca	Fr. Pio Mandato	Bill Shea
Donna Bolton	Oscar Fonseca	Fr. Cory Mayer	Margaret Talbot
Mario Bruschi	Marty Franck	Joe Morici	Edward Toth
Sarojini Bruschi	Bob Garcar	Fr. Terry O'Connell	Patricia Toth
Gia Cefaratti	Rose Gullo	Molly O'Leary	Joseph Wojtyla
John Ciarlariello	Kyle Hrabusa	Eleanor Phillips	Fr. Chuck Works
Virginia DeJesus	Michael Hurley	Carmie Pruchnicki	Ray Zozar
Serena DiCillo	Helen Husky	Steve Pruchnicki	
Colin Dinasky	Tony Kazmierczak	Judy Purdy	
Bob DuMound	Connor Lewis	Brooklyn Russell	
Roy Evans	Jonathan Lipreads	Phyllis Schilling	
Michele Ferrara	Mark Magda	Regis Schilling	



† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Chris Hamm
Thomas Rogers, husband of Betty Rogers (Prayer Group member)
Donald Skalak

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

Dear Padre Pio Prayer Groups,

This coming **Ash Wednesday** we will live a moment of spiritual fraternity and together we will pray for Peace.

On March 2nd, at 11:30 a.m., the Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated by Father Franco Moscone and broadcast on Padre Pio TV.

The Eucharistic celebration will be live broadcasted from **the main chapel of "La Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza"**: for the first time we will be able to be spiritually close and pray together with the operators and the sick of our beloved House, faithful responding the Holy Father's invitation addressed to us in the last few days: let's dedicate ourselves more intensely to the prayer for peace in the world, let's do it together.

On Wednesday 2nd March, you can follow the 11:30 am celebration on:

Padre Pio TV (channel 145 / sky 852 / tivùsat 445)

By clicking here <https://www.teleradiopadrepio.it/padre-pio-tv/>

On our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/gruppidipregghiera>

Lovingly united in prayer.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUPS CENTER

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

WEBSITE: WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG CONTACT US: INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG

FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND TWITTER: @PADREPIOCLEVELAND

The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.