

**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:**

Nov 30 -
St. Andrew
Christmas Novena
starts (see page 8 of
the newsletter)

Dec 3 -
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

NOVEMBER 2022

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 11

Give Thanks to the Lord

“Let us come before him with Thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods” (Psalm 95:2-3)

In this Autumn season, many people find themselves focusing more on thankfulness. But a look at Scripture reminds us that to “give thanks to the Lord” must be a foundation of our lives every day. In fact, having an “attitude of gratitude” adds to our spiritual and physical health all year round - and it’s a mindset we can cultivate. We can certainly express our appreciation to family and friends, for employment, pleasant experiences and new things. But the Bible clearly instructs Christians to fix our eyes on the Heavenly Father, the true source of every good thing in our lives. He is the One who graciously gives us “good things” of all kinds, and our natural response should be to thank Him specifically. We can lift up our thanks privately anytime. But there’s something very special about gathering together at Mass to express gratitude to God. Try to be more aware and grateful for God’s presence in your life.

Verses all through the Bible point us back to God as our Creator and Sustainer, and how we are to be a thankful people. The list of things we could praise Him for is endless. But here are just a few reasons to give thanks to God all year long. Don’t be surprised if more blessings come to your mind as you read these.

“Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever” (Psalm 106:1). God’s love is just as strong for us today as it was for those in Scripture. He is still our Abba Father, who seeks relationship with us. His deep and abiding love should lead us to praise Him just like those we read about.

“Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins...” (Psalm 103:2-3). Every

believer throughout the ages has been able to hold onto the same promise of receiving God’s forgiveness for sin. We too can feel that lightening of our spirit, and respond with gratitude. The Apostle Paul often expressed gratitude for his fellow Christians, for the encouragement and support they gave. He recognized that God was ministering to him through those believers, while giving them a chance to know the joy of serving the Lord. Feeling the power of community brought out praises. At our gatherings you can feel the power during the liturgy. Our St. Pio family can agree that there is comfort and strength to be found in our fellowship. We are given chances to serve each other and help each other grow closer to our Lord. The sound of thanks coming from a prayer group sounds sweet to God. And what we obtain at the gatherings we share with our family and people we encounter every day.

“We ought always to thank God for each of you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your face is growing more and more and the love all of you have for one another is increasing” (2 Thessalonians 1:3). Saying “thank you” to God hardly seems like enough, in light of all His blessings to us. But whenever we do that, He gladly receives our praises. Studying verses about thankfulness will bring us to a place of humility, and a place of joy, and that is how God wants us to live every day.



The Church/Saints Triumphant, The Church/Saints Suffering, The Church/Saints-in-the-Making Militant

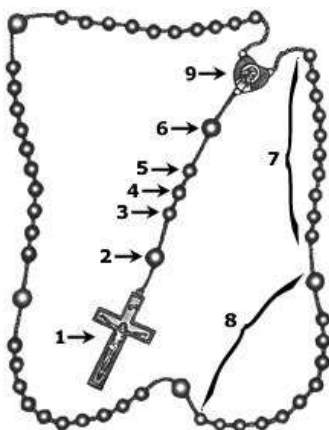
We arrive at another November and another opportunity to reflect on the Saints Triumphant, the Saints Suffering and the Saints-in-the-Making. This is a time where the Entire Church is remembered and prayed for. November 1st is All Saints Day, where we remember and pray with the Saints in Heaven. The Church has canonized a number of individuals as having been given the dignity of being declared Saints, the Holy Ones of God. However, there are many, many more individuals that are not canonized by the Church but are in Heaven. So, on this Day, the Church Militant and the Church Suffering, pray with the Church Triumphant. November 2nd is All Souls Day, where we remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory. These souls cannot pray for themselves, so the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant pray for their release from the sufferings that are required to purge them from the stain of sin and the need to do penance for their forgiven sins.



November and the entire year, the Church Triumphant and the Church Suffering offer prayers for the Church Militant. They provide us with support to carry out our baptismal call and to love God and our neighbor. The Saints Triumphant, by their lives, show us that it is possible to live a life in Christ. It will be filled with suffering and pain, but the reward of perseverance in faith will be indescribable. As we help the Church Suffering by our prayers and sacrifices, they pray for us. When I remember, I will ask the Church Suffering in Purgatory to help me to not have to be where they are, but that I may be able to enter with the Church Triumphant at the moment of death. If I have to be in Purgatory, I pray that it is very short. So you see, like the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are together and form a relationship with each other, the Church; Triumphant, Suffering and Militant are also united.

To help with our prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, I provided the Prayer Calendar with an intention to pray for Holy Souls each day of the month. The beginning of the calendar has a prayer that is prayed on the first day, then each day's intention for specific Holy Souls, and then on the last day to conclude the month with the prayer that is at the end of the calendar. What is taking place is that the entire month is a prayer for the Holy Souls. It is not like the Gregorian Mass of 30 Days for Holy Souls, but it is 30 days to remember them. Also, I have provided a Chaplet for the Holy Souls. It uses a five-decade rosary for this chaplet. *“Eternal Rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace.” “Amen.”*

Chaplet for the Holy Souls (a traditional, five-decade rosary is used for this chaplet):



1. The Sign of the Cross and the Apostles Creed.
2. Pray an “Our Father.”
- 3, 4, 5. Pray a “Hail Mary” three times and then pray the “Glory Be.”
6. On the large beads before each decade, pray the following prayer: *O Holy Souls draw the fire of God’s love into my soul, to reveal Jesus Crucified in me here on earth, rather than hereafter in Purgatory.*
7. Then on the small beads pray this prayer: *Crucified Lord Jesus, have mercy on the souls in Purgatory.*
8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 for the next four decades.
9. At the conclusion of the chaplet, pray the “Glory Be” three times and end with the Sign of the Cross.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

A Contest of Love

The word Purgatory comes from the Greek root πῦρ (“pur”) which means both “fire” and “pure.” This is a fitting description, as the fires of Purgatory, rather than destroying like the fires of Hell, instead purify. Purgatory is where we make amends for the pain due to mortal sins that have been forgiven through the sacrament of Confession, and unrepented venial sins. Much like a scar left on the body after a wound has healed, the pain due to sin remains long after the sin has been forgiven. In this life, we are given the graces to shorten our time due in Purgatory by prayer, fasting, undertaking penance, frequenting the sacraments, wearing the scapular or rosary scapular, and making use of indulgences.

While Purgatory is a place of suffering, it is actually a beautiful example of Divine mercy. It is a metaphysical impossibility for anything even slightly impure to enter the presence of God. St. Catherine of Genoa explains: “If God’s goodness would not temper justice with mercy, satisfying it with the most precious Blood of Jesus Christ, even a single sin would merit a thousand hells.” How merciful is God that He allows us to expiate for our sins through the purifying fires of Purgatory, rather than an almost assured, and deserved, damnation. Servant of God Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo explains in his definitive guide, *The Afterlife: Purgatory and Heaven Explained*, that, despite their pain, the souls in Purgatory possess a joy inexplicable by earthly standards. He describes Purgatory as “a contest of love,” in which the soul is moved ever-upward by its intense love for God and desire to be united with Him.

And these souls have every reason to be happy! The souls in Purgatory are confirmed in grace. This means that their salvation is guaranteed – they are incapable of sin or error, and they are no longer at any risk of damnation. They know they will see God face-to-face one day, and they therefore embrace their suffer-



ing as the necessary means by which to attain the beatific vision. There is a story from the life of St. Stanislaus, Bishop of Krakow, in 1070 he raised from the dead a man named Peter Miles, who had been dead three years and whose body had decomposed to a skeleton. Given the option to be brought back to earthly life or return to Purgatory, Miles heartily chose Purgatory rather than risk sin and hell here on earth.

While the souls suffer joyfully, it is important to remember that they cannot help themselves get to Heaven more quickly. The Holy Souls need our help! Sometimes, God allows souls to manifest on earth in order to request prayers. The most common request is for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Any small prayer, penance, indulgence, or offering of suffering that we take on behalf of the Holy Souls can greatly accelerate their journey through Purgatory toward Heaven. This confirmation in grace and certainty of salvation means that the Holy Souls are consumed with a pure love for God and the Church. St. Catherine of Bologna claimed that she gained more favors by praying for the intercession of souls in Purgatory than she gained from the saints in Heaven themselves! As members of the Church Militant, we have it within our power to gain for a soul currently suffering in Purgatory the most sublime moment of entrance into eternal happiness.

St. Gertrude’s Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory

Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, for those in my own home, and within my family. Amen.

Dear Friends of Padre Pio:

The Monday through Thursday Pilgrimage was awesome, lifegiving, and inspirational. To see the transformation of the troubled Rita Rizzo into The Pioneering Herald of the Gospel, Mother Angelica, in word, deed, and appreciation was overwhelming. EWYN and her will be eternally united. What an honor and responsibility for someone from Northeast Ohio, just like the majority of the Padre Pio Prayer Group of Northeast Ohio.

There are saints among us. If someone ever gets wind of the bathtub (in Canton) where Mother Angelica first tested out the fishing lures she sold for fundraising for her new order; let me know. I think putting my own lures, especially the ones that are not catching anything, could help a little with blessed attractiveness to God’s fish.

*Love serving you all,
Rev. Bill Browne*



Litany for the Holy Souls in Purgatory/November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Litany for the Holy Souls in Purgatory O Jesus, You suffered and died that all mankind might be saved and brought to eternal happiness. Hear our pleas for further mercy on the souls of:						
6 All for whom love or duty calls me to pray. Jesus, have mercy!	7 Those who have suffered disadvantages or harm through me, Jesus, have mercy!	8 Those who are especially beloved by you, Jesus, have mercy!	9 Those whose release is near at hand, Jesus, have mercy!	10 Those who desire most to be united with you, Jesus, have mercy!	11 Those who endure the greatest sufferings, Jesus, have mercy!	12 Those who are least remembered, Jesus, have mercy!
32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday BVM First Saturday
13 The frivolous, who spent their time in idleness, Jesus, have mercy!	14 The tepid, who devoted little time to prayer, Jesus, have mercy!	15 Those of little faith, who neglected the frequent reception of the sacraments, Jesus, have mercy!	16 The popes, kings and queens, and rulers, Jesus, have mercy!	17 The bishops and their counselors, Jesus, have mercy!	18 My teachers and spiritual advisers, Jesus, have mercy!	19 The priests and religious of the Catholic Church, Jesus, have mercy!
33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday BVM
20 The defenders of the holy faith, Jesus, have mercy!	21 Those who died on the battlefield, Jesus, have mercy!	22 Those who fought for their country, Jesus, have mercy!	23 Those who were buried in the sea, Jesus, have mercy!	24 Those who died of strokes, Jesus, have mercy!	25 Those who died of heart attacks, Jesus, have mercy!	26 Those who suffered and died of cancer, AIDS or COVID-19, Jesus, have mercy!
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary [34 th Week in Ordinary Time]	St. Cecilia	Weekday St. Clement I St. Columban Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro	St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions Thanksgiving Day	Weekday St. Catherine of Alexandria	Weekday BVM
27 Those who died suddenly in accidents, Jesus, have mercy!	28 Those who died without the last rites of the Church, Jesus, have mercy!	29 Those who shall die within the next 24 hours, Jesus, have mercy!	30 My own poor soul when I shall have to appear before your judgment seat. Jesus, have mercy!	Closing Prayers Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon them forever more with your saints in heaven because you are so gracious. May the prayer of your suppliant people, we beseech you, O Lord, benefit the souls of your departed servants and handmaids. Deliver them from all their sins and make them partakers of your redemption. Amen.		
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	ST. ANDREW	Closing Prayers Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon them forever more with your saints in heaven because you are so gracious. May the prayer of your suppliant people, we beseech you, O Lord, benefit the souls of your departed servants and handmaids. Deliver them from all their sins and make them partakers of your redemption. Amen.		

Charity for the Helpless

Gregorian Masses are a special gift handed on from the treasury of pious practices of the Christian faithful. By means of Gregorian Masses, we have the opportunity to do a great work of mercy for the dead.

Gregorian Masses received their name from Saint Gregory the Great, who was sovereign Pontiff from 590 to 604. St. Gregory the Great contributed to the spread of the pious practice of having these Masses celebrated for the deliverance of the souls from purgatory. In his *Dialogues*, he tells us that he had Masses on thirty consecutive days offered for the repose of the soul of Justus, a monk who had died in the convent of St. Andrew in Rome. At the end of the thirtieth Mass, the deceased appeared to one of his fellow monks and announced that he had been delivered from the flames of Purgatory.

What are Gregorian Masses? Gregorian Masses are a series of Holy Masses traditionally offered on 30 consecutive days preferably as soon as possible after a person's death. They are offered for one individual soul. The custom of offering Gregorian Masses for a particular soul recognizes that few people are immediately ready for heaven after death, and that, through the infinite intercessory power of Christ's sac-

rifice, made present in Holy Mass, a soul can be continually perfected in grace and enabled to enter finally into the union with the Most Holy Trinity – our God, Who is Love Itself.

Why do we pray for the dead? The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (1030). You can arrange now to have these Masses done after you die. It is also a great gift to your loved ones.

No charity is greater than that shown who are helpless. None are more helpless than the poor souls in purgatory. Forgiveness is certain when we confess our sins, but the stain of imperfections remains. Few leave this life clean of all stain.



Deceased Souls From the Past Year



Helen Apiyo
Barbara Bilinovich
Msgr. Bill Bonczewski
Thomas Bridgman
Susan Browne
Avery Bush
Vince Cicone
Mary Del Zoppo
Nick DeNapoli
Debra Dochery

Deborah Gardner
John Gilchrist
Chris Hamm
Bert Harper
Chuck Magda
Nancy Martin
Rose Mercurio
Frank Milota
Dennis Moore
Peggy Nelson

Fr. Bill O'Neill
Thomas Rogers
Anthony Rossi
Kris Ruhe
Judy Selby
Donald Skalak
Maryann Thomas
Geraldine Wearsch
Gib Zilner

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Praying for Priests

In thanksgiving for the Holy Priesthood, let us remember to pray for all priests each day, your parish priests and for any priests special to you.



Prayer for a Priest

(by John Joseph, Cardinal Carberry (+1998), Archbishop of St. Louis 1968-1979.)

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priest, [mention

Father's name]. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life.

In his loneliness, comfort him in his sorrows, strengthen him in his frustrations, point out to him that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show him that he is needed by the Church, he is needed by souls, he is needed for the work of redemption.

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your son who is close to you because of his priestly ordination, and because of the power which he has received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs him so much.

Be his comfort, be his joy, be his strength, and especially help him to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Prayer for Priests (by St. Mother Teresa)

Mary, Mother of Jesus, throw your mantle of purity over our priests. Protect them, guide them, and keep them in your heart.

Be a Mother to them, especially in times of discouragement and loneliness. Love them and keep them belonging completely to Jesus. Like Jesus, they, too, are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and virginal. Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus always on their lips, so that he is the one they offer to sinners and to all they meet.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, be their Mother, loving them and bringing them joy. Take special care of sick and dying priests, and the ones most tempted. Remember how they spent their youth and old age, their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus.

Mary, bless them and keep a special place for them in your heart. Give them a piece of your heart, so beautiful and pure and immaculate, so full of love and humility, so that they, too, can grow in the likeness of Christ.

Dear Mary, make them humble like you, and holy like Jesus. Amen.

Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus always on their lips.

In the Words of St. Padre Pio



“My heart feels as if it were being drawn by a superior force each morning just before uniting with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. I have such a thirst and hunger before receiving Him that it is a wonder I don't die of anxiety. I was hardly able to reach the Divine Prisoner in order to celebrate Mass. When Mass ended, I remained with Jesus to render Him thanks. My thirst and hunger do not diminish after I received Him in the Blessed Sacrament, but rather increase steadily. Oh, how sweet was the conversation I held with Paradise this morning. The Heart of Jesus and my own, if you will pardon my expression, fused. They were no longer two hearts beating but only one. My heart disappeared as if it were a drop in the ocean.”

Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio

Our October meeting, which was on the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, was quite memorable. It was a “Topsy Turvy” Day! Brother Donald Thielsen OFM Conv. from the National Shrine of Maximilian Kolbe at Marytown in Libertyville, Illinois was our guest speaker. He enlightened us on Sts. Francis of Assisi, Therese, Padre Pio and Maximilian Kolbe. He had the relics of Sts. Francis and Maximilian which he prayed and venerated with us afterwards. The collection for his soup kitchen was \$1029.84. He was overwhelmed with our generous donations. He wished us many blessings in return.

Our EWTN Pilgrimage Retreat had so many beautiful and surprised blessings. Fr. Bill Browne and Fr. Edward Janoch were our Spiritual Directors on retreat. What a blessing for us to witness them concelebrating Holy Mass at Our Lady of Angels Chapel at the EWTN Network and at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville. Our group was able to be on the tele-vised show, *EWTN Live* with Fr. Mitch Pacwa. We will be handing out autographs after our meeting (just kidding). EWTN truly rolled out the red carpet for us. We received VIP treatment. Also, we were able to go to the Ave Maria Grotto at the Benedictine Abbey in Cullman, Alabama. God blessed us with a Catholic-Italian bus driver named Dean. He wrote afterwards, “Thank you for the generous gratuity. The gift of the scapular is most precious. This trip coincided with a significant health event in my life. I just finished reading everyone’s notes. I am overwhelmed and my heart is full.” I want to also thank my earthly angels (Mary Dye and Juliann Stoklas) who helped prepare and serve for this trip, and anyone who donated goodies to make sure we did not go hungry.



The Rosary Rally on Oct 15 on Twinsburg Square was very well attended. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for serving as guards in the procession of Our Lady of Fatima. It was the largest nationwide Rosary Rally held. There were 21,455 town square sites this year.

At our November meeting I will share many God occurrences that happened on our pilgrimage. We will also remember the deceased members of our Prayer Group for this year. Be prepared to come up and accept a candle if you lost your loved one this year.

May your Thanksgiving be full of Hope, Peace and Love.

Sincerely,

Cindy Russo TOF
Group Leader



We welcome all of your prayer intentions, so please let Pat Shea know so we can add them to our list.
(H: 330-825-4659, C: 330-212-5818, or billpatshea@gmail.com)

PRAY FOR OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS

Vincent Baka
Mary Kay Balk
Jacqualine Bercik
Cindy Bernot
Fred Billow
Bonnie Bobrowski
Donna Bolton
Mario Bruschi
Sarojini Bruschi
Jo Burgio
Jan Cornhachion
Gia Cefaratti
John Ciarliariello

Jane Colan
Virginia DeJesus
Serena DiCillo
Colin Dinasky
Bob DuMound
Roy Evans
Michele Ferrara
Maryann Finotti
Cynthia Fonseca
Oscar Fonseca
Marty Franck
Bob Garcar
Rose Gullo

Mandy H.
Kyle Hrabusa
Michael Hurley
Helen Husky
Tony Kazmierczak
Jo Ann Krummel
Camryn Leavens
Connor Lewis
Jonathan Lipreads
Mark Magda
Jean Massingill
Fr. Cory Mayer
Tina Mazzone

Joe Morici
Fr. Terry O'Connell
Molly O'Leary
Keith Panning
David Peck
Ed Perry
Eleanor Phillips
Carmie Pruchnichi
Steve Pruchnichi
Judy Purdy
Arriana Roberts
Linda Rowsey
Bryson Savnik

Regis Schilling
Christine Slagter
Margaret Talbot
Clay Toreson
Edward Toth
Patricia Toth
Pilgrim George Walters
Joseph Wojtyla
Fr. Chuck Works
Ray Zozar

🙏 PRAY FOR OUR SPECIAL INTENTIONS 🙏

* That God protect our Group Leader, Cindy Russo, and give her wisdom in leading our Padre Pio Prayer Group.

* For all of our seminarians at all stages of their studies.
* For all the intentions in our online Prayer Basket.

† PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Patti Collett
Helene Orzech (mother of Fr. Eric Orzech)
Lawrence F. Vasel



St. Andrew Christmas Novena



It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas novena prayer FIFTEEN times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

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

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FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND TWITTER: [@PADREPIOCLEVELAND](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVELAND)**

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