

**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, OFS

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Mar 19 -

Mass for the Consecration to St. Joseph, 6:30 PM, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 9080 Shepard Rd, Macedonia

Apr 4 -

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

Jan 17, 2021 to

Jan 26, 2021 -

Pilgrimage to Holy Land (see our website for more information)

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

MARCH 2020

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

St. Joseph, Pray for Us

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* (On the Devotion to St. Joseph) in 1889 explains why we place so much trust in this saint: "Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the marital tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most majestic dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Therefore it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties. It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and took it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ."

The solemnity of St. Joseph falls in Lent on March 19th. At 6:30 PM we will celebrate at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Macedonia. During the Mass we will consecrate ourselves to St. Joseph. Please recite daily the following Litany of St. Joseph to prepare for the consecration.



Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**
God, the Father of Heaven, **Have mercy on us.**
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, **Have mercy on us.**
God, the Holy Spirit, **Have mercy on us.**
Holy Trinity, One God, **Have mercy on us.**
Holy Mary, **pray for us.**
St. Joseph, **pray for us.**
Noble Offspring of David, **pray for us.**
Light of Patriarchs, **pray for us.**
Spouse of the Mother of God, **pray for us.**
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, **pray for us.**
Foster-Father of the Son of God, **pray for us.**
Zealous Defender of Christ, **pray for us.**
Head of the Holy Family, **pray for us.**
Joseph most Just, **pray for us.**
Joseph most Chaste, **pray for us.**
Joseph most Prudent, **pray for us.**
Joseph most Strong, **pray for us.**
Joseph most Obedient, **pray for us.**
Joseph most Faithful, **pray for us.**
Mirror of Patience, **pray for us.**
Lover of Poverty, **pray for us.**

Model of Workmen, **pray for us.**
Glory of Domestic Life, **pray for us.**
Guardian of Virgins, **pray for us.**
Pillar of Families, **pray for us.**
Comfort of the Afflicted, **pray for us.**
Hope of the Sick, **pray for us.**
Patron of the Dying, **pray for us.**
Terror of Demons, **pray for us.**
Protector of Holy Church, **pray for us.**

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, **spare us, O Lord.**
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, **graciously hear us, O Lord.**
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

He made him the lord of his household, and prince over all his possessions. Let us pray. O God, in your loving providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**



As I write this reflection, I earlier had Mass with the School children. I had a difficult time coming up with some image to reflect the use of ashes in our life. Then one night I had the inspiration [from the Holy Spirit] of using cinders/ashes on snow and ice covered roads to give traction to cars and to keep them from sliding off the road. [Some of us do remember this old innovation.] This then helped me to mention that just as the ashes on the road keeps a car from sliding off the road and giving traction to continue on the road; the ashes on our foreheads are a reminder to keep our spiritual life in traction to stay on the right road to God and to keep us from sliding off the narrow way by our sinning. Lent gives us the opportunity to stay focused on Christ our Lord and to repent of our sins and believe in the Gospel message.

During Lent, we are reminded of the three ways that we can keep our spiritual life on the right road, the narrow way, by prayer, fasting, and alms giving. Our Padre Pio Prayer Group has been active in these three areas of Lent throughout our existence. This year we are asking members to donate over-the-counter medicines for the St. Barnabas El Salvador group. We are also in a time of great prayer as many of us are preparing for the Consecration to St. Joseph, on March 19, 2020, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We have this wonderful, grace-filled opportunity to come to Jesus, not just through the Blessed Virgin Mary but also through St. Joseph. This consecration to St. Joseph may be for some of us the opportunity to stay on the narrow way and to keep ourselves focused on Jesus through the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. The following Consecration Prayer to St. Joseph will be the one for those who are preparing for Consecration to St. Joseph.

On this day, before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I, _____, a repentant sinner, consecrate myself, body and soul, to you, St. Joseph. I turn to you as my spiritual father and place my life and my salvation into your hands. Confident in your goodness, I place myself under the paternal cloak and ask you to protect me from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Saint Joseph, you are the virginal husband of the Mother of God! Help me to love her with tender affection and filial devotion. Mary is my spiritual mother and the surest, fastest, and easiest way to Jesus. Keep me close to her and, together with her, bring me closer to Jesus. Never depart from me, St. Joseph. Nourish me with the Bread of Life, instruct me in the wisdom of the saints, help me carry my cross, and keep me always in the Catholic Church. When I die, take me to the Kingdom of Heaven to see Jesus and Mary. From this day onward, I will never forget you. I will speak of you often, spend time with you in prayer and, with your help, earnestly strive to sin no more. Should I fall, help me to repent and go to Confession. Should I go astray, guide me back to the truth. Before heaven and earth, my soul cries out: Praise to the Holy Trinity who has made you prince over all their possessions! Praise to the Virgin Mary who loves you and longs to see you loved! Praise to you, my spiritual father, the great St. Joseph! I give everything to you, St. Joseph. Take me as your own. I am yours. Amen!

I pray that all of us will have the most joyful and uplifting Lent that we ever had. All of Heaven rejoices in the return of a sinner. May we and those whose lives we touch experience the immense love of our God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

What a Difference Meaning Makes

A couple in their early 30's were attending a prayer day. Jill was very interested in the talks. John was mildly interested, and admitted that he loves his Catholic faith but came mainly because Jill wanted him to come and to support and encourage her. You could tell that their love for Jesus and each other ran deep.

Jill was born in the late 90's when it was (and is now) fashionable for people to consider the beliefs of the faith to be irrelevant. Her Catholic parents unfortunately adopted that outlook. They did not have her baptized. She was on her own spiritually and followed the low standards of so many of her contemporaries: narcissism, pleasure, fun and sexual experimentation. All this led to a child out of wedlock and a short, tumultuous marriage followed by divorce. She realized that her life was a mess. She felt empty and wanted more out of life but didn't know exactly what was the remedy. She met John who was a wholesome man, a protestant who practiced his faith somewhat. Knowing what happened to Jill and observing the high rate of divorce around them, they hesitatingly decided to at least give the Catholic faith a try as something that could possibly help their marriage survive. They found a good parish with a good priest and went through the RCIA. Jill was baptized with their newborn child at the Easter vigil and their marriage was validated in the church. Both their hearts were set on fire. Jill's was a bright, hot flame, John's was like a constant, steady flame. Jill found the love of her life—Jesus, and this overflowed richly to John who really noticed her wonderful, ever-deepening love for him which in turn helped him to love her and Jesus all the more. They accepted all the teachings of the church including the challenging ones on the regulation of births. They are currently pregnant with their fifth child. Of course there are financial and other concerns, however, there is so much faith, hope, and love in their young family that they and their children are greatly looking forward to their new addition.

Jill especially considers herself a missionary. Many of her contemporaries

who feel depressed, worried and confused by the values of our secular culture notice the difference in her and her family. She tells them tactfully that the difference is that she now has meaning in her life. She loves making her husband happy, trusting in his spiritual leadership, and sees each one of their children as wanted by God from all eternity. What fuels the fire or her vision and meaning is that she starts her day in prayer with the love of her life. All the children know that “mommy needs her time with Jesus.” She has led many people to Jesus and enjoys her very busy and demanding life because it overflows with meaning.



Some Considerations:

- Is Jesus the love of my life, my best friend?
- Do I make time to talk to Jesus every day?
- Do I allow myself to consider my life humdrum or do I find meaning in it?
- Do I rejoice in the fact that God has wanted me from all eternity?
- Do I investigate the teachings of the church, especially the challenging ones, so that I can fully embrace them and explain them to others?
- Do I consider myself a missionary in a world in which there is doubt, depression, anxiety, confusion and suicide?
- Am I put off by the faults of others, or do I respond to the hidden pain with love?
- How do I respond to the words of Jesus? “I have come to cast fire on the earth and wish that all hearts were set aflame by it?”

Padre Pio, who suffered the excruciating pain of the stigmata because you found meaning in it, pray for us, and set our hearts on fire with the love of Jesus!

Tradition Behind St. Joseph Altar

The St. Joseph's Altar or table is a tradition originating in Sicily as a result of answered prayers. Sicily is a rocky island with erratic weather conditions which brought either droughts or torrential rains. St. Joseph is the patron of those in need—workers, travelers, the persecuted, the poor, the aged, and the dying. The Sicilians' mere existence was a daily struggle. A lengthy famine seized the island and the dry, cracked earth yielded no life-giving crops. The starving farmers had only their deep faith remaining. They prayed to St. Joseph, the patron saint of Italy, to intercede to God for them. Their prayers were answered as gentle rains fell to fill dry wells and streams and gave birth to crops. Even coastal fishermen pulled in abundant catches where there had been no fish. These poor farmers and fishermen wanted to pay homage to St. Joseph for answering their prayers. Since their very being was dependent on a fruitful harvest and the yield from the sea,



they decided to offer these, their most valuable possessions to St. Joseph. An altar was constructed and foods that were common became elaborately decorated feasts for the eye as well as the palate. Even though at times it was a great sacrifice, the tradition continued as a labor of love and devotion on the feast day of St. Joseph, March 19th. At first the altars were erected in family homes, usually in thanksgiving for favors granted, such as deliverance from the ravages of war or the healing of body or spirit of a loved one. The quality of the breads, cookies and pastries, which are baked in a variety of symbolic forms are as much an art form as they are tasty. The altar is also a way to present prayer petitions for special needs or thanksgiving. The petitions are placed in a basket among the food offerings. When the Sicilians immigrated to the United States over a century ago, they brought this custom with them. These altars still flourish today.

Lenten Reflections/March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Today, I will ask for strength to resist temptation.	2 I will help care for a brother or sister in need today.	3 I will forgive someone who has hurt me.	4 I will pray for someone who has wronged me.	5 I want to extend the same kindness and forgiveness to others as I want shown to me.	6 I will reconcile with someone I have had a disagreement with.	7 I will pray for someone who has wronged me.
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Turibius of Mogrovejo</i>	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Katherine Drexel</i>	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Casimir</i>	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday First Friday Abstinence	Lenten Weekday <i>Ss. Perpetua & Felicity</i> First Saturday
8 I will redouble my efforts to truly listen to those around me and recognize their best attributes.	9 When I am tempted to condemn another, I will remember God's mercy and forgiveness.	10 I will follow Christ's example and look for ways to serve others today.	11 I will confess my sins and ask God to help me become more obedient to His Word. [Diocese of Cleveland Day of Penance]	12 I will help feed the hungry.	13 I will make Christ the foundation of my life.	14 I will pray for someone who is far from God the Father.
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Frances of Rome</i>	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday Abstinence	Lenten Weekday
15 I will thank God for sending His Son, the Life giving Water, to cleanse me from my sins.	16 I will make a special effort to examine preconceptions that may be holding me back.	17 I will forgive those who have repeatedly offended me, just as Christ forgives me.	18 I will thank Jesus for being the perfect sacrifice the law required and the prophets foretold.	19 Today I will entrust myself, our Church, and our world to St. Joseph's, loving care.	20 I will unite myself to God by reading His Word, praying and worshipping in His House.	21 I will humbly ask God to forgive my sins.
3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Patrick</i>	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Lenten Weekday Abstinence	Lenten Weekday
22 I will ask God to open my spiritual eyes to the stumbling blocks in my life, so that I may better walk with Him.	23 I will help someone who is ill, suffering, or alone.	24 I will visit someone who is homebound or in a nursing home.	25 I will meditate on the wonder of the Lord of the universe choosing to wrap Himself in Humanity and be born like one of us.	26 I will rejoice that Christ's works and signs demonstrate that He is the Son of God.	27 I will thank God that I can rest assured He has a plan for me that evildoers cannot change.	28 Today, I will reflect on Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Turibius of Mogrovejo</i>	Lenten Weekday <i>St. Oscar Romero</i>	THE ANNUCIATION OF THE LORD	Lenten Weekday CONSECRATION PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH	Lenten Weekday Abstinence	Lenten Weekday
29 I will thank Christ for His power over sin and death.	30 I will examine my own life first when tempted to judge others.	31 Today, I will ask God to use me as His instrument in all I do and say.	<p>On this day, before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I, _____, a repentant sinner, consecrate myself, body and soul, to you, St. Joseph. I turn to you as my spiritual father and place my life and my salvation into your hands. Confident in your goodness, I place myself under the paternal cloak and ask you to protect me from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Saint Joseph, you are the virginal husband of the Mother of God! Help me to love her with tender affection and filial devotion. Mary is my spiritual mother and the surest, fastest, and easiest way to Jesus. Keep me close to her and, together with her, bring me closer to Jesus. Never depart from me, St. Joseph. Nourish me with the Bread of Life, instruct me in the wisdom of the saints, help me carry my cross, and keep me always in the Catholic Church. When I die, take me to the Kingdom of Heaven to see Jesus and Mary. From this day onward, I will never forget you. I will speak of you often, spend time with you in prayer and, with your help, earnestly strive to sin no more. Should I fall, help me to repent and go to Confession. Should I go astray, guide me back to the truth. Before heaven and earth, my soul cries out: Praise to the Holy Trinity who has made you prince over all their possessions! Praise to the Virgin Mary who loves you and longs to see you loved! Praise to you, my spiritual father, the great St. Joseph! I give everything to you, St. Joseph. Take me as your own. I am yours. Amen!</p>			
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday				

99 Questions to Examine Your Conscience

According to #1457 and #1458 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church Whoever confesses his sins is already working with God. God indicts your sins; if you also indict them, you are joined with God. Man and sinner are, so to speak, two realities: when you hear "man" - this is what God has made; when you hear "sinner" - this is what man himself has made. Destroy what you have made, so that God may save what he has made. When you begin to abhor what you have made, it is then that your good works are beginning, since you are accusing yourself of your evil works. The beginning of good works is the confession of evil works. You do the truth and come to the light." Going to confession can be overwhelming and uncomfortable. This list of questions is extensive and can be daunting. It can be hard to say out loud the things in our lives that we have done wrong. Rather than looking down upon your failings, let the sorrow for sin help you overcome them. Look upon this sacrament as an opportunity to make full reparation for your sins, and restore your soul's relationship with God. If you are reluctant to go to confession, remember God's mercy and compassion. Remember, Christ came into the world to save sinners!



"I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods besides me."

1. Have I doubted or denied God's existence?
2. Have I been ungrateful to God for His benefits?
3. Am I open to God's will?
4. Do I rely solely on myself and not on God?
5. Have I abandoned the Catholic Faith?
6. Have I joined a non-Catholic church or anti-Catholic group?
7. Have I refused to believe any truths of the Faith or any teachings of the Church?
8. Did I fail to profess or defend the Catholic Faith?
9. Have I failed to go to confession at least once a year?
10. Have I been faithful to my daily prayers?
11. Have I practiced any superstitions?
12. Am I unwilling to turn away from everything that is opposed to God's work in my soul?

"You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain."

13. Have I taken the Lord's name in vain, for example, carelessly, in anger, or surprise?
14. Do I speak irreverently of holy persons, places or things?
15. Have I cursed myself or others?
16. Did I use profanity?
17. Have I called down evil upon anyone?
18. Did I get angry with God?
19. Have I angered others so as to make them curse?
20. Have I broken a vow made to God?
21. Have I murmured or complained about God?

"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy."

22. Did I miss Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation?
23. Did I arrive to Mass late or leave early?
24. Did I receive Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin?
25. Have I been irreverent while receiving the Most Blessed Sacrament?
26. Have I been willfully distracted during Mass?

27. Do I distract others during Mass?
 28. Have I done unnecessary work on Sunday?
- "Honor your father and your mother."**
29. Have I disobeyed, insulted, or shown disrespect to my parents or legitimate superiors?
 30. Did I neglect my duties to my husband, wife, children or parents?
 31. Did I neglect to give a good religious example to my family?
 32. Am I disrespectful, impolite, or discourteous toward my family?
 33. Have I failed to meet my children's physical, spiritual, emotional, and educational needs?
 34. Have I disobeyed the lawful demands of my superiors, teachers, or employer?
 35. Did I fail to actively take an interest in the religious education and formation of my children?
 36. Did I cause anyone to leave the Catholic Church?
 37. Did I cause tension and fights in my family?
 38. Did I care for my aged and infirm relatives?
- "You shall not kill."**
39. Did I kill or physically injure anyone?
 40. Did I have an abortion, or advise someone else to have an abortion?
 41. Do I use artificial contraception or birth control?
 42. Have I entertained thoughts of suicide, desired to commit suicide, or attempted suicide?
 43. Have I participated in euthanasia or assisted suicide?
 44. Have I placed others in harm's way?
 45. Have I failed to help someone in danger or in need?
 46. Do I drink or smoke excessively or use drugs?
 47. Have I wished evil on anyone?
 48. Do I deliberately harbor unkind and revengeful thoughts about others?
 49. Have I taken revenge?
 50. Have I used harsh or abusive language toward others?
 51. Have I spread gloom through my words and actions?
 52. Is there anyone with whom I refuse to speak, or against whom I bear a grudge?
 53. Have I taken pleasure in anyone's misfortunes?
 54. Have I led others into sin?
- "You shall not commit adultery" and "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife"**
55. Did I commit impure acts with another - fornication (premarital sex) or adultery?
 56. Did I commit impure acts by myself (masturbation)?
 57. Do I engage in homosexual acts?
 58. Have I refused my spouse the marriage right without good reason?
 59. Am I dating someone who is civilly divorced but still bound by a valid marriage?
 60. Did I marry or advise anyone to marry outside the Catholic Church?
 61. Have I willfully entertained impure thoughts or desires?
 62. Did I respect all members of the opposite sex, or have I objectified them?
 63. Have I read, listened to, viewed, or spoken of impure things?
 64. Have I worn revealing or immodest clothing?
 65. Have I succumbed to occasions of impurity?
- "You shall not steal."**
66. Have I stolen money or property?
 67. Have I cheated?



(Continued on page 6)

Prayer for Priests and Religious Vocations



*Keep
far
from
them
all the
evils
of sin*

The month of March offers us the opportunity to honor **St. Joseph on March 19**. His life is a model for all. We especially pray that the holy life of St. Joseph will be an example for our priests.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR PRIESTS

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

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

Obtain for them the humility of St. John the Baptist, the faith of St. Peter, the zeal and charity of St. Paul,

the purity of St. John and the spirit of prayer and recollection of which You, my dear Saint, are the model, so that, after having been on earth, the faithful dispensers of the Mysteries of your foster Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, they may in Heaven receive the recompense promised to pastors according to the Heart of God. Amen.

—From the booklet 'Favorite Prayers to St. Joseph' published by Tan Publishers

PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

O Divine Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and of Mary Immaculate, Thou didst leave Thy Mother and Thy foster-father St. Joseph, for three days in Jerusalem as a mere child to do the Will of Him Who sent Thee and to be about Thy Father's business.

Through the merits of this painful separation, grant to children a great desire to consecrate themselves to Thy service.

Give them true generosity in following Thy Call, and bestow upon them the grace to persevere in overcoming all obstacles to their vocation.

Give to parents, likewise, the faith, love, and spirit of sacrifice which will make them consent when a child of theirs is sincerely called to the Religious Life.

Let Thy example, and that of Thy Blessed Mother and St. Joseph encourage both children and parents, and let Thy grace sustain them. Amen.

—Our Lady of Solitude Monastery

(Continued from page 5)

68. Have I failed to make restitution for what I stole?
69. Have I intentionally damaged property?
70. Have I accepted or bought stolen property?
71. Have I helped someone steal?
72. Am I dishonest in my business dealings?
73. Have I failed to make restitution for my stealing, cheating and frauds?
74. Do I gamble excessively?
75. Have I borrowed without permission?
76. Have I failed to return things borrowed?
77. Did I waste time at work, school or at home?
78. Have I cheated my employer of an honest day's work?
79. Have I cheated my employees of their wages?
80. Have I refused or neglected to help anyone in urgent need?
81. **"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**
81. Have I lied deliberately?
82. Have I deliberately misled or deceived anyone?
83. Did I gossip or reveal others' faults or sins?

84. Have I failed to keep promises or oaths?
85. Have I signed false documents?
86. Have I failed to prevent the defamation of another's character?
87. Have I revealed secrets and betrayed trust?
88. Do I make false judgments and harbor false suspicions?
89. Have I failed to forgive someone or held a grudge?
90. Have I failed to apologize or make amends?
91. Did I fail to keep secret what should be confidential?
92. Have I disclosed another's sins without serious reason?
93. **"You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor."**
93. Am I greedy or selfish?
94. Am I envious of someone's possessions, talents, or blessings?
95. Do I indulge in self-pity?
96. Am I proud, vain, or desire to be praised?
97. Have I exaggerated my success?
98. Have I minimized or made excuses for my failures?
99. Have I measured my charity by what others have given, rather than my ability to give?

Do Not Leave Mass After Communion

The Mass is the “source and summit of the Christian life.” (CCC 1324) It is the re-presentation of the one holy sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is Jesus Christ himself, really, truly, and substantially present. Mass is the most important thing we do every week! Especially relevant, the Mass is one thing. It is one big long prayer. Yes, there are parts, but they all go together, and “going to Mass” means going to all of it. We’re not called to simply “get communion” and leave. Thanking Jesus after receiving communion, the final prayers, and the dismissal are all essential parts of Mass! If you have a good reason why you’re leaving early, you can leave early. Maybe an emergency just came up. But that’s not why the vast majority of Catholics who leave Mass early are doing it. They are leaving early because it’s become their habit. They receive the Eucharist, they think they’re done, and they can beat the traffic if they leave early. Perhaps they’ve never been corrected or told otherwise...so why would they stop? We need to stop tolerating this kind of spiritual mediocrity. Mass is important, and if you want to be Catholic, the Church requires us to attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening) and Holy Day of Obligation. This means being there on time and stay-



ing until the very end. If you aren’t willing to do this, then you simply aren’t a practicing Catholic. In reality, we’re obligated to attend Mass, which means all of the Mass, unless we have a good reason otherwise. The bottom line is this: when we go to Mass, that means staying until the very end. If you’ve been in the habit of leaving early, let’s stop that and stay for the whole thing. Set a good example and do what is pleasing to God. If we leave Mass before the dismissal, we miss out on celebrating and being taught why we celebrate the Eucharist in the first place. We are fed and strengthened on the body and blood of Christ not only for ourselves but also for all those He gave His life for. We are dismissed from Mass not because it’s over, but because we have work to do. We are to go to the world to proclaim Christ. And so we stay to the end of Mass to be blessed and commissioned: “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.” If you notice someone leaving early every time, show charity by praying for them to change their hearts. The power of prayer works wonders. St. Padre Pio’s Masses lasted over two hours. No one would ever think of leaving early!

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio



We had a great turnout for the February gathering. The ceremony during Mass of the Rite of Affirmation for our Padre Pio Prayer Group was amazing. Thank you for all who attended. We now know more about St. Padre Pio after taking the Padre Pio quiz!

For Lent we are supporting the St. Barnabas El Salvador Mission Team. One hundred dresses were donated. Gerry Jira will be sharing a few El Salvador stories at the March meeting. How about bringing a bottle of St. Joseph Aspirin to donate to the mission group in honor of St. Joseph? They are asking for donations of over-the-counter meds to take with them. Mass

cards will be available as well. We welcome Fr. Matthew Jordan from St. Hilary Parish. He will be our speaker after Mass.

We are over halfway through with the St. Joseph consecration book. The Consecration will be March 19th on the Feast Day of St. Joseph at 6:30 PM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Anyone who is interested in helping with the St. Joseph table, please sign up at the meeting.

May God look upon you and hear your prayers during this Holy Season of Lent.

Sincerely,

Cindy Russo, OFS
Group Leader



KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Bobby	Kathy Hlad
Jan Boczek	Mark Magda
Virginia DeJesus	Joe Morici
Roy Evans	Eleanor Phillips
Margie Ferfolia	Judy Purdy
Marty Franck	Abbot C. Schwartz OSB

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



† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Pray for All Souls in Purgatory

Jake's Corner

For March, I was asked to write about the Saint Joseph's Staircase in the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 1872, Bishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy, the Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Fe, ordered that a Chapel be built and dedicated to Our Lady of Light and it would be placed under the care of the Sisters of Loretto. Once the Chapel was ready for use, a major design flaw was found. There was no way to get from the nave of the Chapel on the first floor to the choir loft on the second floor. Sadly, one of the Chapel's architects, Antonio Mouly, could not solve the problem because he passed away. The Sisters insisted on building a staircase, but they were told that there was no possible way and to demolish the choir loft. Instead, the Sisters decided to pray a nine-day novena asking the intercession of Saint Joseph.



originally built without a railing, but a railing has since been added. Since the identity of the staircase's builder was never truly solved, this miracle has been attributed to Saint Joseph himself.

I personally believe that after Our Lady, Saint Joseph is the most powerful and most beloved Saint in Heaven. Saint Joseph was a major factor and role model for Jesus. Many Saints believed that Saint Joseph, by God's grace, was free from Original Sin, all stain of sin, and all near occasion of sin. Mary was conceived without original sin; Joseph was conceived with original sin. Many ancient saints, popes, doctors and theologians of the Church have firmly believed that St. Joseph never committed an actual sin – neither mortal, nor venial sin. This theological assertion does not empty the cross of its power, but rather reveals the omnipotence of God to apply the merits of the Redemption as He sees fit, even outside of time. Again, Jesus still saved Joseph from sin. In my opinion, Saint Joseph is so powerful because Our Lord will not refuse anything to him. As Jesus was obedient to Saint Joseph on earth, why would He not be obedient to Saint Joseph in Heaven? Just as Saint Joseph interceded for the Sisters of Loretto in building their choir loft's staircase, be assured he will intercede for you. Have a Blessed Lent everyone and keep calm and *Ite Ad Ioseph*.

SOURCE: Esparza Daniel. "The Staircase St. Joseph built in New Mexico." *Aletia*, 06 July 2016, <https://aletia.org/2016/07/06/the-staircase-st-joseph-built-in-new-mexico/>. Accessed 27 February 2020

Written by: Jake Snyder

On the ninth-day of the novena a man appeared saying that he could build a staircase under one condition – that he would be granted total privacy. The man locked himself in the Chapel for three months and once the staircase was completed, he disappeared quickly and without asking for pay. The man was never identified. The staircase baffles many architects because it was built completely without nails or glue and it has a very weak central support system. The miraculous staircase was



The St. Barnabas Salvadoran Mission Team is going to El Salvador in March. Could you please donate over-the-counter medicine to take for their clinic. We will be collecting these items at our March meeting: **Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, Tums, Neosporin, Anti-itch cream, Benadryl, Vitamins (Adult and Children)**. All donated items will go directly to the Mission Team to take with them on their trip.

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