

**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 12 -
Consecration to Our
Lady of Guadalupe's
Mantle following
Mass at 4:30 PM, St.
Bernard Church, 44
University Ave,
Akron

Nov 30-Dec 24 -
St. Andrew
Christmas Novena
(see page 7 of this
newsletter)

Jan 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

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12

Devotion to the Infant Jesus

Devotion to the Infant Jesus is another aspect of honoring Christ's Incarnation. It is to marvel at His having humbled Himself by taking on a human nature, subjecting Himself to all that flesh is heir to (minus the effects of original sin, of course), even subjecting Himself to the earthly authority of Mary and Joseph. Recognized even in the Virgin's womb by St. John the Baptist and his mother, after His Nativity, the Child Jesus was adored first by the shepherds and then by the Magi, and has been revered by Saints ever since.

St. Padre Pio loved Christmas. He held a special devotion to the Baby Jesus ever since he was a child. Renzo Allegri recounts the following 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." A similar story is told by Fr. Raffaele da Sant'Elia, who lived next to Padre Pio for many years: "I had got up to go to the church for the



Midnight Mass of 1924. The corridor was huge and dark, and the only illumination was the flame of a small oil lamp. Through the shadows I could see that Padre Pio, too, was making his way to the church. He had left his room and was making his way slowly along the corridor. I realized he was swathed in a band of light. I took a better look and saw that he had the Baby Jesus in his arms. I just stood there, transfixed, in the doorway of my room, and fell to my knees. Padre Pio passed by, all aglow. He didn't even notice I was there."

These supernatural events highlight the deep and abiding love of Padre Pio for God. His love was further marked by simplicity and humility, with a heart wide open to receive whatever heavenly graces God had planned for him. May we, too, open our hearts to receive the Baby Jesus on Christmas day and let God's unfathomable love overcome us with Christian joy.

PRAYER TO THE INFANT JESUS

O Child Jesus, I have recourse to You through Your Holy Mother; I implore You to assist me in this necessity, for I firmly believe that Your Divinity can assist me. I confidently hope to obtain Your holy grace. I love You with my whole heart and my whole soul. I am heartily sorry for my sins, and entreat You, O good Jesus, to give me strength to overcome them. I am firmly resolved never to offend You again and to suffer everything rather than displease You. Henceforth, I wish to serve You faithfully. For love of You, O divine Child, I will love my neighbor as myself. O Jesus, omnipotent Child, I entreat You again to come to my assistance in this necessity. [mention it here] Grant me the grace of possessing You eternally with Mary and Joseph, and of adoring You with Your Holy Angels and Saints. Amen.

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.”

Isaiah 11:1



When I was in the Fifth Grade [1971-72] we had a religion project to make a symbol for the Jesse Tree. I was assigned to create the symbol for the 10 Commandments. I remember taking a piece of paper and curling the ends so it looked like a scroll of the Torah. I used toothpicks to make the handles for the scroll and wrote hieroglyphics-looking letters of the Hebrew letters. I remember my teacher, Mrs. Covelli, was greatly impressed in the artistic quality of the symbol. The artistic talent comes from my mother. So as I was reflecting on this memory, I thought, would it not be nice to remind us of this tradition from our past life, but also still needed for our present life.

The Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus’s family tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus’s family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you will see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations. Most of us may not have a tree and place a Jesse ornament on it, but I provided for this month’s calendar the Scriptural passages for each of the symbols for us to reflect upon. The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in *Isaiah 11:1*: “*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*” Jesse was the father of David, Israel’s greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse’s family tree. Each symbol represents a story from within this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus.

The Year of the Lord two thousand twenty [2020] has been filled with confusion, conflict, calamity, and chaos. However, we are reminded that there is someone who will lead us through this period of history, and it is CHRIST. Let us reflect on the promise of Christ by our Jesse Tree and remain faithful and persevere to the end, so that we will be able to be in a place of clearness, concord, communion, and clarity which is CHRIST in Heaven.



Have a Peaceful Advent, a Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year.

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Victorious Waiting in Advent

At the time this article is being written, November 16, the world is in a state of restlessness and waiting. Our country is restlessly awaiting who will actually be our president. The whole world is restlessly waiting for an end to the pandemic. Eighty-six countries are restlessly awaiting an end to religious persecution. Pro-life people see wealthy people like Bill Gates and George Soros promoting abortion worldwide. Many politicians are trying to eat away at our constitution and replace it with a radical Godless secular socialism. And we ask, "where is God in this?" God is where he has always been—right in our midst, but we need a deep faith to recognize how he is acting.



He is acting right now by giving us the scripture readings of the season of Advent. Advent means WAITING. We reflect on the Gospel of the first week of Advent from Mark 13: "Be constantly on watch! Stay awake! Watch with a sharp eye." We can apply these words to our present situation to not keep our eyes and ears focused on the progressive driven media or on what people of little faith and hope may say, but on what God is speaking to us through Fatima. The apparition speaks to us the same message of Mark 1, the Gospel of the second Sunday of Advent which states: "John the Baptizer proclaimed a baptism of repentance...as they CONFESSED their sins." Mary encourages us to practice the first Saturdays which include confession. The first Saturday devotion is the one unfulfilled condition for world peace.

The Gospel goes on to say: "John was clothed in camel's hair...His food was grasshoppers and wild honey." Mary says "Penance, penance, penance." Do we do some kind of fasting or abstinence?

The Gospel of the third Sunday of Advent has John saying: "I am a voice in the desert, crying out: Make straight the way of the Lord." With faith we can believe that the pandemic is possible chastisement in this

world which in many ways is a spiritual desert. God's specific purpose in allowing it to happen may be to make straight the way of the Lord which can lead to a flowering of an age of Mary which will be the triumph of her Immaculate Heart promised by Mary.

Who likes chastisements? Who likes pandemics? Our attitude should be that of Mary in Luke 1, in the fourth Sunday of Advent: "I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." John suffered, Jesus suffered, and Mary suffered. They suffered not as victims but as VICTORS. We can ask ourselves: In this season of waiting. Do I approach it with the faithless and hopeless attitude of a victim or do I approach it as a victor, considering it a privilege that Jesus has let me be born in this time and space to let his kingdom come through my faith and hope?

Some Reflections:

- History has shown us over and over again that when a group of soldiers or citizens are challenged to step forward to engage in a fierce battle or a show of power, there usually is a moment of hesitation, a period of restless waiting, and as soon as one brave person steps forward others follow. Am I willing to step forward with faith and hope to help others overcome fear and doubt?
- There is a powerful truism which states: "If I think I can, I can. If I think I can't, I can't". John the Baptist acted "in the power of the Spirit." We can be victors, with this same power to help Jesus accomplish His will through the pandemic.
- A woman was feeling worried by all the restlessness in the world. In prayer, she got the message from Mary that she could do something proactive. Although she is a little shy, she decided to invite some family members and friends to her house for a rosary once a month. About 20 people regularly come. Buoyed up by this, she is now planning to start a scripture study at work. She is acting in the power of the spirit; so can all of us in one way or another.

Advent Jesse Tree/Christmas December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>God's Promise to Abraham Symbol: Starry sky Scripture: Genesis 15:1-6</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 30 The Jesse Tree Symbol: Stump with branch Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-2</p> <p>ST. ANDREW</p>	<p>1 Habakkuk and the Watch Tower Symbol: Watch tower Scripture: Habakkuk 2:1-4</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>2 Creation of Humans Symbol: Globe/Adam and Eve Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>3 The Fall Symbol: Snake and apple Scripture: Genesis 3</p> <p>St. Francis Xavier</p>	<p>4 Noah's Ark Symbol: Noah's Ark Scripture: Genesis 6:11-14; 7:17-8:3; 9:8-13</p> <p>Advent Weekday St. John Damascene First Friday</p>	<p>5 The Promised Land Symbol: Tent and camel Scripture: Genesis 12:1-7</p> <p>Advent Weekday First Saturday</p>
<p>6 Solomon Builds God's Temple Symbol: Temple Scripture: 1 Kings 5:5; 1 Kings 6</p> <p>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>7 Abraham Sacrifices Isaac Symbol: Ram Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14</p> <p>St. Ambrose</p>	<p>8 Jacob's Dream Symbol: Jacob's ladder Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22</p> <p>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p> <p>Isaiah's Prophecy of a Savior Symbol: Sun Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>9 Joseph Symbol: Joseph's coat of many colors Scripture: Genesis 37:1-36</p> <p>Advent Weekday St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</p>	<p>10 The 10 Commandments Symbol: Tablets Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-22</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>11 God Chooses David to be King Symbol: Sheep/shepherd's crook Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-15</p> <p>Advent Weekday St. Damasus I</p>	<p>12 David Crowned King Symbol: Crown Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-5</p> <p>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</p>
<p>13 Solomon Builds God's Temple Symbol: Temple Scripture: 1 Kings 5:5; 1 Kings 6</p> <p>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>14 Esther Saves Her People Symbol: Scepter Scripture: Esther 4</p> <p>St. John of the Cross</p>	<p>15 Isaiah's Prophecy of a Savior Symbol: Sun Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>16 Isaiah's Prophecy of the Second Coming Symbol: Wolf and lamb Scripture: Isaiah 11:6-9</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>17 Jonah and the Whale Symbol: Whale Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5</p> <p>Late Advent Weekday</p>	<p>18 Daniel and the Lions' Den Symbol: Lion Scripture: Daniel 6</p> <p>Late Advent Weekday</p>	<p>19 Prophecy of a Savior Born in Bethlehem Symbol: City of Bethlehem Scripture: Micah 5:1-5</p> <p>Late Advent Weekday</p>
<p>20 Elizabeth and Zechariah Symbol: Praying hands Scripture: Luke 1:5-25</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>	<p>21 John the Baptist Symbol: Baptism shell Scripture: Matthew 3:1-6</p> <p>Advent Weekday St. Peter Canisius</p>	<p>22 God Chooses Mary Symbol: Virgin Mary Scripture: Luke 1:26-38</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>23 Angel Appears to Joseph Symbol: Angel of the Lord Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25</p> <p>Advent Weekday St. John Kanty</p>	<p>24 Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem Symbol: Sandals Scripture: Luke 2:1-5</p> <p>Advent Weekday</p>	<p>25 Jesus Is Born Symbol: Baby in manger Scripture: Luke 2:6-21</p> <p>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD [CHRISTMAS]</p>	<p>26 Stephen the First Martyr Scripture: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59</p> <p>ST. STEPHEN</p>
<p>27 The Holy Family Scripture: Luke: 2:22-40</p> <p>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</p>	<p>28 The Holy Innocents Scripture: Matthew 2:13-18</p> <p>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</p>	<p>29 Simeon the Righteous Scripture: Luke: 2:22-35</p> <p>Fifth Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord St. Thomas Becket</p>	<p>30 Prophetess Anna Scripture: Luke 2:36-40</p> <p>Sixth Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord</p>	<p>31 Jesus, The Word of God John: 1:1-18</p> <p>Seventh Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord St. Sylvester I</p>		

A Vision of the Nativity of Our Lord

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ as witnessed in visions of Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich.

Joseph offered the Blessed Virgin to get some pious women of Bethlehem whom he knew to come and assist her. She did not wish it, and she told him she should have no need of help from any one. Joseph prepared some food: they ate and prayed together. He put up a division between the place which he had chosen to sleep in and the rest of the grotto by means of some poles, on which he hung some mats which he found there. He gave the ass which was fastened to the wall of the grotto something to eat: he then filled the manger of the crib with reeds and grass and moss and spread a coverlet over it. As the Blessed Virgin had then told him that her time was at hand, and wished him to pray in his chamber, he suspended several lighted lamps from the roof and went out from the grotto as he had heard a noise near the entrance. He there found the young ass, which till then had been running about in the valley of the shepherds. It appeared very joyful and played and jumped about him: he fastened it under the shed, which was before the grotto, and gave it some food. When he returned to the grotto, and before entering his retreat, he cast his eyes upon the Blessed Virgin. He saw her praying on her knees before the couch: her back was turned towards him and she was looking towards the east. She seemed to him as if surrounded by flames, and all the grotto seemed to shine with a supernatural light. He looked at it as Moses when he saw the burning bush: then seized with a holy fear, he entered into his cell and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

The light which surrounded the Blessed Virgin became more and more brilliant: the light of the lamp prepared by Joseph could not be seen. When the hour of midnight arrived Mary was transported in an ecstasy. I saw her raised a certain height from the ground; she had her hands crossed upon her breast. The light kept increasing around her; everything seemed to feel a joyful emotion, even things inanimate. The rock which formed the floor and the wall of the grotto were, as it were, alive with light. But soon I saw no more of the roof; a luminous path, whose brightness continually increased, went from Mary to the highest heaven. Then was



there a marvelous movement of the celestial glories, which, approaching nearer and nearer, appeared distinctly under the form of the angelic choirs. The Blessed Virgin, raised from the earth in her ecstasy, prayed and turned her eyes to her God, of whom she had become the mother, and who, a feeble new-born infant, was lying on the ground before her. I saw Our Saviour like a little shining infant, whose brilliance eclipsed all the surrounding splendor, lying upon the rug before the knees of the Blessed Virgin. He seemed to me very small, and to grow larger before my eyes; but this was only the radiance of a light so dazzling that I can scarcely say how I could see it. The Blessed Virgin remained some time in ecstasy. Then I saw her place a linen cloth over the child; but she did not touch Him nor take Him yet into her arms. After a short time I saw the Infant Jesus move, and I heard Him cry. It was then that the Blessed Virgin recovered the use of her senses. She took the child, wrapped it in the linen cloth with which she had covered it, and took it in her arms against her breast. I believe that she suckled it. I then saw angels around her in human form prostrate themselves before the new-born and adore Him. About an hour had elapsed since the birth of the child, when Mary called Saint Joseph, who was still praying with his face to the ground. Approaching, he prostrated himself, full of joy, humility, and fervor. It was only when Mary had induced him to press to his heart the sacred gift of the Most High, that he rose, received the Infant Jesus in his arms, and returned thanks to God with tears of joy.

Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich was a Roman Catholic Augustinian Canoness Regular of Windesheim, mystic, Marian visionary, ecstatic and stigmatist. She died at the age of 49. She experienced visions on the life and passion of Jesus Christ, reputed to be revealed to her by the Blessed Virgin Mary under religious ecstasy. She was beatified on 3 October 2004, by Pope John Paul II. The Vatican focused on her own personal piety rather than the religious writings associated to her by Clemens Brentano. The statements made by Sister Emmerich must be regarded only as those of a devout Nun, and must not be confounded with statements of facts supported by the testimony of the Church. Imprimatur: Herbert Vaughn, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, England.

Prayers for Priests and Religious Vocations



As we enter into this Holy Season, let us offer prayers for Priests and for Holy Vocations in the Service of the Lord, who is the King of Kings, Our Savior and Lord.

A PRAYER FOR ALL PRIESTS

Eternal Father, I lift up to You all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of

Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Keep them I pray Thee, dearest Lord, Keep them, for they are Thine; Thy priests whose lives burn out before Thy consecrated shrine. Keep them for they are in the world though from the world apart; When earthly pleasures tempt, allure — shelter them in Thy Heart. Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain, When all their life of sacrifice for souls seems but in vain.

Keep them, and remember, O Lord, they have no one but Thee.

Yet they have only human hearts, with human frailty.

Keep them as spotless as the Host, that daily they caress.

Their every thought and word and deed, deign, dearest Lord, to bless. Amen.

MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH (by Pope John Paul II)

Mary, Mother of the Church, to you we turn.

With your "yes" you have opened the door to the presence of Christ in the world, in history and in souls, receiving in humble silence and total submission the appeal of the Most High.

Grant that many men and women may know and hear, even today, the inviting voice of your Son: "Follow me".

Stretch out your motherly hand over all missionaries scattered throughout the world, over religious men and women who assist the elderly, the sick, the deficient, the orphans; over those who are engaged in teaching, over the members of secular institutes, the silent leaven of good works; over those who in the cloister live on faith and love and beg for the salvation of the world. Amen.

Mold them into the likeness and holiness of Your Son.

Joseph A. Trapani (died 03 Nov 2020)



"... He is very devoted to St. Padre Pio. He administered the website for St. Padre Pio Shrine in Landisville since its inception. He was fortunate to meet Eubie Cardone and immediately they become close friends. Eubie was born in Pietrecina, Italy and asked Joe to write his memoirs for his children about Padre Pio saving him from death as a little boy and throughout his life. Joe felt that the Holy Spirit put a thought in his head to put this in a book form so that many people can see the good works of Jesus through the intercessions of Padre Pio. The book "Touched by a Living Saint of Pietrecina St. Padre Pio" after 18 years the book is still selling well. He was fortunate to receive feathers from his friend the late Eubie Cardone, which came from the pillows of Padre Pio. He made several thousand Prayer Card relics containing the feather from Padre Pio's pillows. His friends gave him a nickname of "Joe Feathers". Through the sales of books, he met many remarkably interesting people who had their stories of how Padre Pio had interceded for them or their love ones. His latest story is how he met Cindy Russo, the leader of a St. Padre Pio Prayer Group in Cleveland, OH, and became good friends. Through his book he met friends from around the country, and they stayed in touch. Joe was blessed to drink the Precious Blood of Jesus in Padre Pio's Chalice. Also he met Rocky who has the shawl that Padre Pio wore and Joe wore all thru the meeting with Rocky. He expressed the LOVE of Jesus thru the intercession of St. Padre Pio. ..."

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio

We live in complex times when bearing witness to faith in Jesus Christ causes repercussions that may be costly. If we sneeze in public, instead of people saying "God bless you", we get a glare as though we have COVID. Suddenly, simply saying grace before meals or "Merry Christmas" draws a correction because of "negative tolerance". So what are we to do? Persevere. Compromising our Catholic identity is not an option. Better to be a fool for Christ and to bear witness to the truth with the tenderness of divine mercy. The Christ Child didn't arrive on the scene and overwhelm the world with power and might. He drew people to His light by the tenderness of merciful love. Truth carries the weight of beauty that resonates in the human heart. Having encountered Christ's love, we hope that everyone will experience such tender mercy and we pray patiently. Year 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. Nothing seems the same from last year except God: He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. What changes is us. Even in these unusual challenges we face, has your faith increased? Do you really trust in God? With Advent upon us, we need to prepare ourselves spiritually as we do physically for Christmas. Take some time for you to prepare. I know I have learned not to take anyone or anything for granted. I do miss our social gathering after our Masses and the feasts.



Lady after Mass. I hear there will be Mariachi music as well. If you cannot attend, please consecrate yourself privately.

I want to take time to thank our priests who have devoted their time with our group. Please keep them in your daily prayers. Without their help we would not have our Prayer Group. Also to all who volunteer behind the scenes, it is a real group effort! After our guest speaker's presentation, there will be Padre Pio fundraiser candles and ornaments for sale.

I will end this letter with words from Padre Pio that he wrote to one of his spiritual children: "May the infant Jesus always reign in your heart, and may he establish and consolidate his reign within you more and more. This and other prayers were my presents to the Child of Bethlehem during these days, for you. Our Lord loves you my child, and he loves you tenderly. And if He doesn't let you feel the sweetness of this love, He does this in order to render you more humble and abject in your own eyes. Do not neglect to turn to his holy goodness with every confidence -- particularly at a time during which we represent him as a small Babe in Bethlehem. Because, my child, why does he assume this sweet and lovable condition, If not in order to provoke our loving Him with confidence, and to confide lovingly in Him? Stay very close to the crib of this gentle Child, especially during these holy days of his birth."



Last prayer gathering we honored all the deceased members and family loved ones we have lost this year with a candle memorial. Fr. Michael Petkosek gave us an enlightened presentation on Saints, Sainthood and Heaven. We also discussed the retreat and novena we are participating in to Our Lady of Guadalupe's Mantle. It has been an amazing and spiritual retreat. I hope Our Lady has touched your heart. We will be taking a little pilgrimage to St. Bernard Catholic Church, 44 University Avenue in Akron, on Dec. 12th for 4:30pm Mass. There is a parking garage on the side of the church. Masks required. We will consecrate or renew ourselves to Our

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Cindy Russo TOF, Group Leader

St. Andrew Christmas Novena (The Christmas Anticipation Prayer)

Prayed 15 times a day from November 30 through December 24



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 [*here mention your request*] through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Bobby	Bob Garcar	Joe Morici
Bernie Antonino	Kathy Hlad	Molly O'Leary
Jan Boczek	Bernie Hovan	Eleanor Phillips
Mario Bruschi	Kyle Hrabusa	Judy Purdy
Virginia DeJesus	Michael Hurley	Anthony Rossi
Roy Evans	Tony Kazmierczak	Abbot C. Schwartz OSB
Margie Ferfolia	Irene Kovar	Fr. Kevin Shemuga
Michele Ferrara	Jonathan Lipreads	
Marty Franck	Mark Magda	

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

† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Mary Jean Miller, mother of Greg Miller, Prayer Group member
Joseph A. Trapani, author of "Touched by a Living Saint of Pietrecina..St Padre Pio"



Jake's Corner

For December, I am writing about St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared. There is not much known about the Saint before he converted, but we do know that he was born in 1474 in Cuautlilán, which is now a part of Mexico City. He was born with the name, "Cuauhtlatoatzin" which means "the talking eagle." He was well respected in his community and had many gifts. At the age of 50, he was baptized by the Franciscan Fr. Peter da da Gand.



him to climb to the top of the hill and pick some roses and place them in his tilma (cloak), and not to open it until he reached the Bishop. Saint Juan Diego did as Our Lady said and went to the Bishop. When he was in front of the Bishop, he opened his tilma and there, the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared right there on that tilma! The Bishop believed and built a small shrine on Tepeyac where the miraculous tilma was placed. With the Bishop's approval the Saint lived as a hermit near the small shrine where he cared for it and greeted every pilgrim that came. Until the end of his life, he lived as a man of great prayer, virtue, and charity. He died in 1548 and was buried in the first shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. His Holiness, Pope Saint John Paul II, Beatified Juan Diego on May 6, 1990 and the same Pontiff Canonized him on July 31, 2002.

Saint Juan Diego was truly an example of trusting in God's providence. Even when it was the middle of winter, he did as Our Lady said and went and got the roses, placed them in his tilma, and went to the Bishop. He trusted that God had a plan for his life and by cooperating with God's Grace, he became a great Saint. Even with all the chaos going on in the world, may we always trust in God, like Saint Juan Diego, and cooperate with God's Grace to live lives worthy of salvation.

Source: http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20020731_juan-diego_en.html

Written by: Jake Snyder

On December 9, 1531 on his way to morning Mass, Juan Diego passed Tepeyac Hill, which is now on the outskirts of Mexico City. While he was passing Tepeyac Hill, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and told him to ask to build a Shrine on Tepeyac where Our Lady said she would pour graces on those who asked for her powerful motherly intercession. Saint Juan Diego went to the Bishop and he did not believe Saint Juan. The Bishop wanted a sign to prove this was indeed a message from the Mother of God. So, Saint Juan Diego returned to Tepeyac where Our Lady appeared again. She told

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

**WEBSITE: WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG CONTACT US: INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG
FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND TWITTER: @PADREPIOCLEVELAND**