

**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

**MISSION &
VISION:**

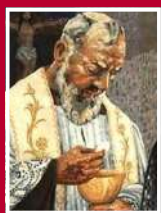
To carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls.

Our vision is to create more Spiritual Children and lead souls to heaven.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Jan 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

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



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

Preparing for Us as We Prepare for Him

Advent is an attitude of anticipation. The entire season prepares us to allow Christ into our hearts, sometimes in ways far different from other times when we celebrate the "excitement of December." Many people want everything about this season to stay the same year after year: the same carols, the same schedule for giving gifts, even food prepared in the same way. But another truth tells us that each year ought to be different. We are not the same. Our faith should not be the same as a year ago. You should be growing closer to God. We are faced with different responsibilities, moved by different insights, changed by circumstances we didn't have before, challenged by fresh opportunities and different memories, and equipped with increasing or diminishing capacities for coping with all these variations. The family dynamic continually changes as loved ones move, new babies arrive, illness occurs or loved ones die. "Advent" is never exactly the same as well as Christmas.

Christ is preparing to come to us this Christmas in a way that suits who we are and how we are this year. Think about the shepherds in the field. Their lives were changed. Our Padre Pio Pilgrims had the blessing to visit Bethlehem at the Church of the Nativity and Shepherds' Field and Grotto. Shepherd's Field is in the Arab village of Beit-Sahur, which sits in the middle of the Booz fields mentioned in the book of Ruth (Ruth 3:5). This has been identified by tradition as the Shepherds' Field. We celebrated Mass, in the cave where the announcement by the angels of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds took place. The angel said "Come and see." Jesus is inviting us to do the same now.

Prepare this year as though it could be your last. Stop the frenzy of the commercialism of Christmas. Bring the focus of Christ back into your Christmas home with your family. Make it a spiritual month. Stop in the Adoration Chapel and adore Him. Thank Him. Remember the forgotten, in honor of Jesus who so many have forgotten. Meditate on the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. One of the first great sorrows to fill the heart of our Blessed Mother came at the moment of Jesus' birth. It's hard to fathom that at the moment the Mother of God was

about to give birth to her Son, the Savior of the World, the only place they were welcomed was a place where animals dwelt. There was no room for Him in the inn or in any other home. It must have been quite an experience for her. She was aware of the amazing

fact that her Son was the promised Messiah. She knew that she had conceived Him miraculously, by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. But now that it was time to be born, He was rejected for the first time. His first bed was a manger, the feeding trough for animals. Rejection was a part of the lives of Mary and Jesus. It began with His birth and ended on the Cross. Our Blessed Mother was there throughout. But the rejection they encountered in life never robbed them of their peace and joy. So often in life we also experience rejection, misunderstanding and a lack of welcome by the world. When this happens, there is a great temptation to get angry and even despair. The key to enduring rejection is to be certain of the love and full embrace of the Mother of God and Jesus her Son in your life. They are always there with arms open wide. They will never leave you. They will never reject you.



Dearest Mother, I thank you for welcoming me always as your child. May your heart be my home as I rest close to your Son. May I never be deterred by the rejection I encounter in this life. May I always turn to your loving embrace, knowing that you welcome me as you welcomed your Son into this world. Help me to always provide care to those who encounter rejection in this world. May I be an instrument of your welcoming heart to all who are in need. Dear Jesus, You had no place to lay Your head except a manger. Yet the presence of Your Mother was all the welcome You needed. Help me to open my own arms to You as You show Yourself in others. Help me to seek out those rejected and in need. May I be that manger for them and a refuge of Your own divine love. Jesus I trust in you. Amen.



"Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them." (Isaiah 11:6)

We come again to that time of the year when we are called to reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His coming had been foretold throughout salvation history and the above quote from Isaiah reminds us that this Child will do the impossible; this Child will bring Peace to this fallen world. What seems to be impossible to the human race will be possible to our God, made Man in the Flesh; Jesus Christ. The impossible will be possible, through the guidance of a Child.

Everything today is supposed to be for the "child". Where is our desire to remember this truly "Special" Child, Jesus Christ in our world today? Somehow our World wants to forget this Child. This Child expects too much from us. This Child expects us to forgive our enemies and to love our persecutors. This Child expects us to love God and our neighbor. This Child expects us to imitate Him, by carrying our cross and even to death, if we are called to this great witness of our faith. This Child expects us to challenge everything that the world places before us in its desire to replace that which is Holy for the mere materialistic. This Child expects us to change the world into His heavenly Kingdom and not the Kingdom into our "earthly world". This Child expects us to do what the world says is impossible to do. Are we ready to remember and do what this Child expects us to do?

St. Pio of Pietrelcina had a devotion to the *El Nino*: The Child. The Christ Child had appeared to Padre Pio. Here is an excerpt from Bob and Penny Lord:

All of a sudden, the entire room lit up. In a burst of heavenly light, there appeared the Child Jesus, resting in the arms of Saint Padre Pio, whose face turned radiant. He looked at the Child Jesus, Who returned his look with great love, and great intensity. This lasted only a few moments.

His devotion to the Child Jesus was the same as for the Crucified Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. St. Padre Pio sums it all up when he says: *"In the end, the gamble of our life is all in this Child."*

In baptism we have become a "child of God." As a child of God, we are reminded in the Sacred Scriptures to be childlike, to have the trust and faith like a child, to bring children to Christ, and to protect the faith of the little ones. This applies to all of us whether we are two, forty-two or ninety-two.

The Christ Child has led the world since his foreshadowing in the Old Testament and has continued since his birth in Bethlehem, two thousand nineteen years ago. Let us let this Child guide us today in this present world so that He will guide us in the future into Paradise. We wait in joyful hope, for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year.

Interruption or Intervention?

We are in the liturgical season of Advent which means “coming”. The church speaks of three comings of Christ in: (1) History (the Birth and Life of Jesus); in (2) Mystery (His ongoing coming into the world through the mediation of church and the sacraments); and finally in (3) Majesty (His coming in judgment at the end of the world). In this article we will consider his coming in history and mystery, and how it was and is considered as an interruption (negative), or an intervention (positive).

Jesus’ coming in history was meant to be perceived as a positive intervention: Great news! The long-awaited Messiah is here to save us! The challenge of an intervention is to see the big picture in the midst of the many challenges entailed. Mary became pregnant before she was married. Joseph would never be able to enjoy the marital embrace with Mary. Jesus left the bliss of heaven to live a human life, to suffer and die for us. They all accepted the challenges entailed because they embraced in faith the big picture of God saving us as his intervention in the world. Yes, their lives were interrupted but they focused on their part in God’s intervention. The Jewish leaders, however, interpreted it negatively as an interruption to their life as usual, and killed Jesus.

On a very practical level, we are meant to approach all of life as our participation in Jesus’ personally coming into our life as mystery. This can be quite a challenge because human nature acts out of self interest and tends to see God’s intervention as interruption. It is very easy to become resentful and negative like the Jewish leaders who killed Jesus. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and all the great saints, are shining examples of people who embraced everything in their life as Jesus coming to them in the mystery of an intervention not an interruption to their pre-conceived hopes and dreams. For example: Pope John Paul II suffered greatly from the assassination attempt on his life but saw it as God’s inter-

vention to fulfil the Fatima prophecies. St. Maximilian Kolbe embraced Auschwitz as God’s intervention and died joyfully. Many people we know are ordinary saints who accept the will of God in their lives like grandparents who let go of some of their plans for retirement in order to babysit their grandchildren.



A shining example is a couple who lived in a tough part of Cleveland. Their 12-year-old son, Reggie, had a school friend, Michael, whose father had abandoned the family and whose mother was a raging alcoholic. One day, after his mother came after him with a knife, Michael ran to Reggie’s house for refuge. Reggie’s parents did not

see Michael as an interruption, but as God sending him to their house. They prayed and decided to become legal guardians of Michael who considered them his mom and dad. Michael accepted Jesus, is now married, has three children and is considering the ministry as a second career.


Our challenge, inspired by this Advent season, is to view all of life through the paradigm of God’s intervention. Things happen to us that we don’t like. We feel let down or angry. We need to go through the five stages of death and dying or loss:

1) Denial, 2) Anger, 3) Bargaining, 4) Depression and finally 5) Acceptance. It’s OK to be real with God, to wrestle with him. If we keep “fighting the good fight” we will eventually change from seeing events not as interruptions but as the coming of God to us as interventions. We will see the



total picture when Jesus comes to us in majesty in the end and says, “well done good and faithful servant”.

Reflections from St. Padre Pio December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Charity has as its close relatives joy and peace.	2 Joy is born of happiness at possessing what we love.	3 By loving God the soul is certain of possessing Him.	4 The soul devoted to God out of love belongs entirely to God, while God give Himself entirely to that soul.	5 As long as we are wayfarers on this earth we can never be perfect...we can never enjoy perfect peace.	6 Patience (is) a virtue which enables us to bear all adversity without giving in.	7 Those striving for perfection must attribute great importance to this virtue (patience).
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Advent Weekday	St. Francis Xavier	Advent Weekday St. John Damascene	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday St. Nicholas First Friday	St. Ambrose First Saturday
8 Love, joy and peace are virtues which perfect the soul with regard to what it possesses.	9 Patience perfects the soul with regard to what it endures.	10 (Kindness) is agreeable, courteous, and polite...with no trace of uncouthness, (it) draws others to imitate...	11 Kindness leads us to be helpful to others.	12 ...never desist from efforts to help others, even when (we are) deriving no benefit from this help.	13 Modesty, continence and chastity perfect the devout soul with regard to control of the senses.	14 ...the virtue of modesty ... governs all exterior acts ... St. Paul recommends ... (it) be obvious to all.
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday St. Damasus I	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	St. Lucy	St. John of the Cross
15 Contenance exercises restraint over all the senses: sight, touch, taste, smell and hearing.	16 Chastity ennobles our nature...we suppress our sensuality and detach it from forbidden pleasures.	17 St. Paul warns us that those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires.	18 To allow the Holy Spirit freedom to act in our souls, we must mount guard over the spirit of self.	19 Let us take care to mortify our selfish spirit which puffs us up, makes us impulsive and leads to aridity of the soul.	20 Be careful to subdue vain-glory, irascibility and envy to which most people are slaves.	21 Don't worry ... and keep cheerful.
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday	Late Advent Weekday St. Peter Canisius
22 Let your thanks and praise be directed to God alone.	23 (Jesus draws) you to Himself by the power of love without encroaching in the slightest on your own free will.	24 He is always close to you, He rules and protects and sustains you, so that your will may not be overcome.	25 Let us open our hearts to the Baby Jesus whose soul was without the stain of sin and we will taste how sweet and suave it is to love Him.	26 ... open your heart to trust in God, to recognize the divine benefits...and finally to lead you...to thank the heavenly Father.	27 If you (quarrel with any one), it means goodbye to peace and charity.	28 To be inordinately attached to your own opinion is invariably a source and beginning of discord.
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Late Advent Weekday St. John of Kanty	Late Advent Weekday [CHRISTMAS EVE]	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD [CHRISTMAS]	ST. STEPHEN	ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST	THE HOLY INNOCENTS
29 Be on your guard against vainglory, a vice to be found in devout persons.	30 Meditate every day on the humiliations of the Son of God and the glory to which they led Him.	31 If we are imitators of Jesus Christ and face up to all life's battles, we too will share in His victories.		This celestial child, all meekness and sweetness, wishes to impress in our hearts by his example these sublime virtues, so that from a world that is torn and devastated an era of peace and love may spring forth. Even from the moment of his birth he reveals to us our mission, which is to scorn that which the world loves and seeks.		
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord St. Sylvester I	<small>Padre Pio, left, writing a letter of the subject Jesus of Nazareth</small>			St. Padre Pio

Blessed Salt

Blessed salt is a very powerful Sacramental of the Catholic Church. It is an instrument of grace to preserve one from the corruption of evil occurring as sin, sickness, demonic influence, or other manifestation. Since Vatican II, Catholics are being urged to participate "intelligently and actively" in the use of Sacramentals. The usage of Blessed Salt answers this call.

As a Catholic Sacramental, salt blessed by the liturgical prayer of a priest may be used by itself, unmixed, as in exorcisms, and formerly in the exorcist prayer at baptism, or it may be mixed with water to make holy water. Sacramentals such as blessed salt and holy water are not to be used superstitiously as if they have a power in them. Rather, their purpose is to serve as a point of focus to direct one's faith towards Jesus. Properly used, a modest

amount of salt may be sprinkled in one's bedroom, across a threshold, around the outside of the home, or in other places as a petition of divine protection. This will keep evil away from a home. It may be used in your car and boats to prevent burglary and for safety, etc. A few grains in drinking water or used in cooking or as food seasoning often brings astonishing

spiritual and physical benefits. As with the use of any Sacraments, much depends on the faith and devotion of the person who is using the salt or any sacramental. This faith must be Jesus-centered, as was the faith of the blind man in John 9; he had faith in Jesus, not in the mud and spittle used by Jesus to heal him. Blessed salt is certainly not a new sacra-

mental, but the Holy Spirit seems to be leading many to a new interest in its remarkable power as an instrument of grace and healing.

The following official prayer from the Roman Ritual may be used by a priest to bless the salt:



"Almighty God, we ask you to bless this salt, as once you blessed the salt scattered over the water by the prophet Elisha. Wherever this salt (and water) is sprinkled, drive away the power of evil, and protect us always by the presence of your Holy Spirit. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Jake's Corner

Written by: Jake Snyder

For December, I am writing about the great Jesuit Missionary, Saint Francis Xavier. Francis Xavier was born on April 7, 1591, in the Kingdom of Navarre to wealthy and pious parents. At the age of nineteen, he went to the University of Paris to study and at the age of thirty, he had a degree. While being a student at the University of Paris, Francis Xavier met a man by the name of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. They became close friends and after a little reluctance, Francis Xavier made the Spiritual Exercises. Francis Xavier and Ignatius of Loyola were ordained Priests together in 1537.

In August of 1534, he joined Saint Ignatius of Loyola and five other men to profess vows as members of the newly founded, Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Then, he went to Rome and upon the official approval and founding of the Order, Francis Xavier was named Secretary until he left for India in 1541.



In 1549, Francis Xavier set off as a missionary. Originally, he was the first Jesuit that Europe has a missionary. He went to many places including Mozambique and Kenya, Africa, Goa, etc. He began the first

Christian Mission in Japan and went on to establish the first Christian Mission in China in 1552. It was not easy to evangelize because he was very bad at foreign languages. When he got to China, he was not allowed to come onto the mainland so he waited on an island off of Canton for three months and there he died on December 3, 1552. He is credited with Baptizing 10,000 people. Saint Francis Xavier was Canonized on March 12, 1662, by Pope Gregory XV along with Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Saint Francis Xavier is a great example of trust in Divine Providence. He shows us that despite all difficulties, with God's help all things are possible. Furthermore, Saint Francis Xavier teaches us that in our own daily lives we can be missionaries. May we strive to be like Saint Francis Xavier during the month of December to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel, and prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus on Christmas. God Bless and Merry Christmas.

Source: Mooney, Debra. "Xavier University." *Who Was St. Francis Xavier?* | Xavier University, www.xavier.edu/mission-identity/xaviers-mission/who-is-francis-xavier. Accessed 21 Nov. 2019

**Nourish
priests
with
Your
own
Body
and
Blood.**



Prayers for Priests and Vocations

As we gratefully receive Jesus in our hearts in the Holy Eucharist, we pray for priests and for vocations:

Prayer for Priests

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer
for the spiritual renewal of priests.
We praise You for giving their ministry to the Church.
In these days renew them with the gifts of Your Spirit.

You once opened the Scriptures
to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
Now renew Your ordained ministers
with the truth and the power of Your Word.

In Eucharist you gave the
Emmaus disciples renewed life
and hope.
Nourish priests with Your own
Body and Blood.
Help them to imitate in their
lives the death and resurrection
they celebrate at Your altar.

Give priests enthusiasm for the
Gospel, zeal for the salvation of
all, courage in leadership,
humility in service,
fellowship with one another,
and with all their brothers and
sisters in You.

You love them, Lord Jesus,
and we love and pray for them
in Your name.

Amen.



Vocation Prayer for Children and Parents

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate
we bring to you in our prayer
the young people in our Church.
Give them hearts open to Your voice.
Help our youth to be generous in responding to
Your call.
Give them the grace to persevere
in overcoming all the pressures in our world
that may keep them from living their vocation
which began and continues through their Baptism.

Give to parents the faith, love and joy
which will inspire them
to encourage their children to live holy lives.
May they rejoice when a child of theirs is called by
You to serve You and Your people
as a priest, brother, sister or deacon.

May the example of Your life,
and that of Your parents, Mary and Joseph,
encourage parents and children
to form holy families,
and let Your grace sustain them.

Amen.

(Prayers taken from the Avilas of the Diocese of Cleveland)



DID YOU KNOW?

The Advent wreath contains 4 candles. All of the candles are purple except the third (which is rose). The symbolic meanings of the candles can vary but they are often:

Hope — expectation of what is to come and sometimes prophecy

Love — sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle

Joy — this rose candle is often called Mary's Candle

Peace — it can often be called the Angel's Candle

Dear Spiritual Brothers and Sisters of Padre Pio

The November meeting was very well attended. The memorial candle lighting service for our deceased members and loved ones from this year was beautiful yet heart-wrenching. Our prayers go out to all of the families involved. This time of the year can be especially difficult. I am sure we all learned more about the Holy Souls in Purgatory at the presentation after the Mass.



This month I had the honor of speaking at St. Basil's LifeTeen retreat. One hundred and three teens attended. It is so refreshing to see the young people on fire with the Holy Spirit and their faith. They

really wanted to be there. It was quite impressive at the presentation; they had a 20-minute break after my witness. Most of them remained there and asked many questions. It was a great day!

I pray you make the most of Advent this year. Some great books to read are: Padre Pio: The True Story by Bernard Ruffin, Crossing the Tiber by Steven Ray, A Father Who Keeps His Promises and Genesis to Jesus by Scott Hahn.

Following is a note from a new Padre Pio Prayer Group of Omaha, Nebraska. I personally want to thank each and every one of you for all your love, prayers and support. The generosity for the homeless living under the bridges collection has been overwhelming. My pray-

er for all of you is to have a Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year! I also want to acknowledge Fr. Bill Browne, Fr. Edward Janoch, Fr. Kevin Shemuga, Fr. Terry O'Connell and Fr. Michael Petkosek for their spiritual service to our group.

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

Sincerely,
Cindy Russo OFS, Group Leader

***From the newly organized Padre Pio Prayer Group of Omaha Nebraska:**

Dear Cindy and The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland,

Thank you for all of your guidance and prayers throughout the past couple of months. Your help in getting the group up running has been tremendous. Thank you for the Pray, Hope and Don't Worry banner. We will proudly display it at all our functions. Our first official prayer group meeting started Nov. 12. Fr. Patrick O'Kane is our Spiritual Director. We are up and running and excited about our future. We since then found another Padre Pio Prayer Group who has been together for 26 years nearby. Their leader was at the canonization of St. Padre Pio. It's just amazing how God works! We will certainly keep all of you in our prayers.

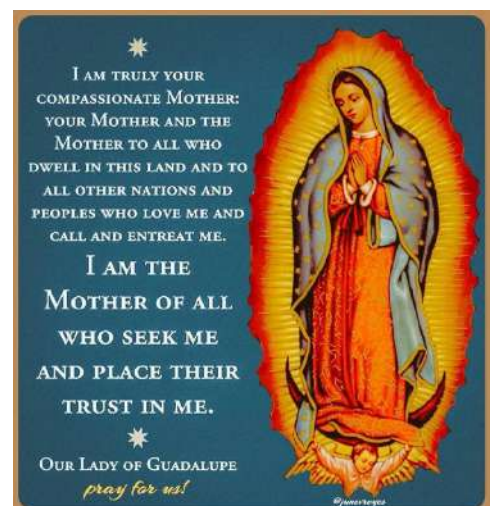


God Bless,
Joe Grier (Group Leader)
padrepioomaha.org



PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for your Son, we beseech you that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.



KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

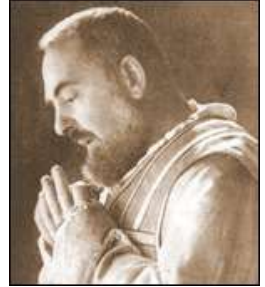
Bernadine Antonio
Carol Basek
Caitlin Blaydes
Jack Bolton
Dr. Biagio Boytim
Jan Boczek
Mike Bradley
Bill Bray
Rocco Bray
Tom Bruno
Mario Brushi
Norman Burkhet

Katherine Jean Casto
Sue Cleary
Brian D'Ambrose
Catlin Dean
Virginia DeJesus
Christine DeMauro
Vincent DeVentura
Kelly Morici Diaz
Bob Dodds
Tim Doherty
Steve Fiata
Bernie Flechler

Marty Franck
Louise Frein
Richard Frein
Kathleen Graham
Heather Gunde
Marquette Hovan
Valerie Hawkins
Helen Husky
Karen Kazel
Ray King
Carol Kriebel
Cookie Laba

Lori Landfear
Laura Lang
Dave Limbo
Carol Limming
Dave Limming
Del Malloy
Shirley Marsh
Ann Miller
Jennifer Minniti
Joe Morici
Florence Palmer
Eleanor Phillips

Peggy Pongracz
Frank Raso
Susie Sawyer
Abbot C. Schwartz OSB
Joe Trapani
Beth Whelan
SPECIAL INTENTION



† OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Pray for All Souls in Purgatory

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

We will start a new Sick List in January 2020. Contact Helen Husky if you need to place someone on the list.

A Childhood Passion for the Nativity Creche



Young Francesco Forgiore practiced this great devotion to the crib, which is so reminiscent of Saint Francis, even as a child when he lived with his parents. At his home in Pietrelcina, he always wanted to prepare the crib himself. He would

start work on it as early as October. While he pastured the family's flock of sheep with his friends, he would search for the clay which he would use to fashion the small statues of shepherds, sheep, and the other characters for the crib scene. He became very quick at making them and would prepare statuettes for his friends, too. He would take particular care when making the model of the Baby Jesus. He would make and re-make the Christ-child

continually. When he had finished he would place the statue on the palm of his hand and say: "It isn't as I wanted it." He would then roll the statue into a ball of clay again, and make another statue more to his liking. He wanted his crib scene to be as beautiful as possible. He also wished to light it up to make the scene as evocative as possible. At that time in Pietrelcina, there was no electricity and it was necessary to use oil lights. They had to be very small to enable Francesco to insert them in the moss, next to the tiny houses and beside the flocks of sheep. The ingeniousness of the young boy was remarkable for those times. Francisco and his friends had learned to make lights made from snail shells. They would look for empty shells in the fields, clean them well, fill them with oil, add a wick and they would thus have a magnificent little lantern. For Padre Pio, every Christmas was an occasion for spiritual renewal. It helped him and encouraged him to nurture within himself that unconditional love for humanity that the occasion symbolized, above all his love for the most humble, the poor and the suffering.

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](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVELAND)**