

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

September 20, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we have the last of our “make up” First Holy Communions. Presiding at these is certainly a joy and brings back happy memories of my own First Holy Communion. We thank Mrs. Joanne Roberts and her catechists for all they do in preparing our children for this moment. We also congratulate our First Holy Communicants and their families, and we are so happy that these children are now sharing in the beautiful promises of the Eucharist: *I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world.....Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will have life because of Me. (John 6: 51, 54-57)*

This coming week we celebrate the Feast of one of our most popular saints, and a saint who absolutely loved the Eucharist: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, better known as Padre Pio. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione to a very pious family of shepherds in southern Italy. At the age of five he would hear a voice coming from the tabernacle promising him: *You will be scourged and crucified for love of men, but you will bring back many souls into my flock.* Quite a promise and a promise that would be fulfilled.

This small Capuchin Friar was then endowed with giant supernatural gifts including the Stigmata, bilocation, prophecy, and the power to read mind and souls. These gifts were a confirmation from God that Padre Pio was something special. These gifts were also a confirmation that a supernatural world does exist around us.

In our age of skepticism, our belief in the supernatural is being constantly challenged, and so we need Padre Pio more than ever. Through his intercession, may we always be faithful believers in the supernatural and always open to all of the gifts that God desires to rain down upon us.

I have included in this week’s newsletter Padre Pio’s Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus along with an instruction by him on the purpose of trials in our lives.

Let us continue to pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet for our country, for first responders and teachers, and for an end of the pandemic.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr Michael J. Pawelko



Efficacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



I. O my Jesus, you have said: “Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you.” Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of... (name your request)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be to the Father...

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you!

II. O my Jesus, you have said: “Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.” Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of... (name your request)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be To the Father...

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you!

III. O my Jesus, you have said: “Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.” Encouraged by your infallible words I now ask for the grace of... (name your request)

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

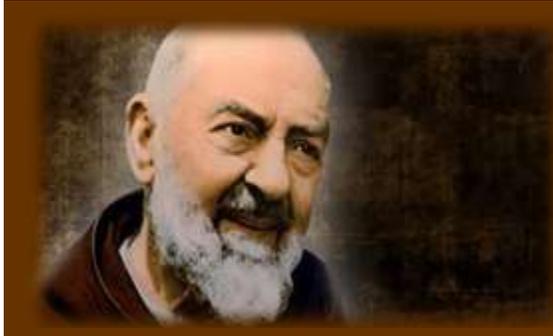
Glory Be to the Father...

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you!

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours.

[Hail, Holy Queen...](#)

St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us!



From a Letter by Padre Pio

With unceasing blows of healing chisel and careful stripping away, the divine Artificer seeks to prepare stones to build an eternal dwelling – as our mother, the holy Catholic Church, full of tenderness, sings in the hymn of the office for the dedication of a church. And that is true.

Every soul destined for eternal glory can be considered most aptly as a stone for building an eternal edifice. The builder who seeks to put up a dwelling in the best way should first polish the stones that will be used in the construction. He does this with blows of hammer and chisel. In the same way, our heavenly Father works on chosen souls who, from all eternity, by his supreme wisdom and providence, have been destined for building up the eternal dwelling.

The soul, if it wants to reign with Christ in eternal glory, must be polished with hammer and chisel strokes, which the divine Artificer uses to prepare the stones, that is, the chosen souls. What are these hammer and chisel strokes? Darkness, my sister, fears, temptations, sadness of spirit and spiritual fears, which reek like a sickness, and bodily discomfort.

Give thanks to the infinite piety of the eternal Father who, in this way, leads your soul to salvation. Why not glory in these benevolent conditions from the best of all fathers? Open your heart to the celestial doctor of souls and, full of confidence, surrender yourselves into his most holy arms: as a chosen one, he leads you to follow Jesus closely on Mount Calvary. With joy and emotion in my soul I ponder how grace is working in you.

Do not forget that the Lord has arranged everything your souls experience. Do not fear causing God harm or injury. It's enough that you know that in your whole life you have never offended the Lord who, on the contrary, has been honored more and more.

If this benevolent Spouse of your soul hides from you, he does so not, as you think, because he wants to take revenge on your wickedness, but because it tests your fidelity and constancy even more, and, besides, heals you of some diseases not considered as such by carnal eyes, that is to say, those diseases and faults to which not even the just person is immune. Indeed, Scripture says in the book of Proverbs: "Seven times a righteous man falls".

Believe me, if I did not see you so afflicted, I would not be as happy, because I would think that the Lord wanted to give you fewer gems. Get rid of, as temptations, the doubts that assail you. Also expel the doubts with regards to the purpose of your life: to do that is not to listen to the divine summons, and to resist the sweet invitations of the Bridegroom. All these things do not come from a good spirit but from a bad one. These are diabolical ploys that try to separate you from perfection or, at least, hinder the journey towards it. Do not lose heart!

Whenever Jesus shows himself, give him thanks. If he hides, give him thanks: all are touches of his love. I wish you to give up your spirit with Jesus on the cross, when he says: "It is accomplished".



Sunday Mass Readings

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1: [Isaiah 55:6-9 \(133A\)](#)

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous
in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways,
says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above
the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18](#)

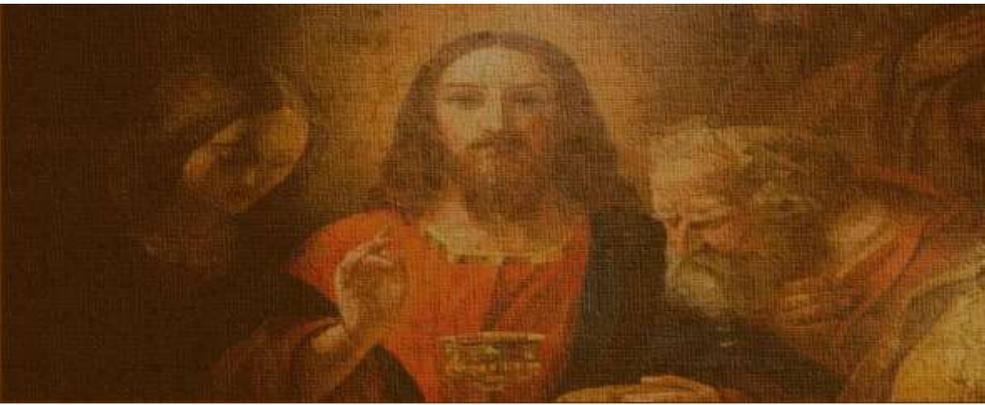
R. (18a) **The Lord is near to all who call upon him compassion.**

- ▶ Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever
and ever.
Great is the LORD and highly
to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable. **R.**
- ▶ The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

- The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward
all his works. **R.**
- ▶ The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call
upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth. **R.**

Reading 2: [Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a](#)

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.



Sunday Mass Readings

Alleluia: [cf. Act of the Apostles 16:14b](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

► Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: [Matthew 20:1-16a](#)

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o’clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o’clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’ When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’ He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?’ Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”



OLSH
YOUTH

Teens 13 ~ 18
group

You're invited!

✦ Bring your mask

✦ If you are new and want to know about our future activities, please contact Judy Anthony & Ken McGinnis:

olshyouthhilltown@gmail.com

September 26, 2020

2:00 ~ 3:30 PM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Cafeteria