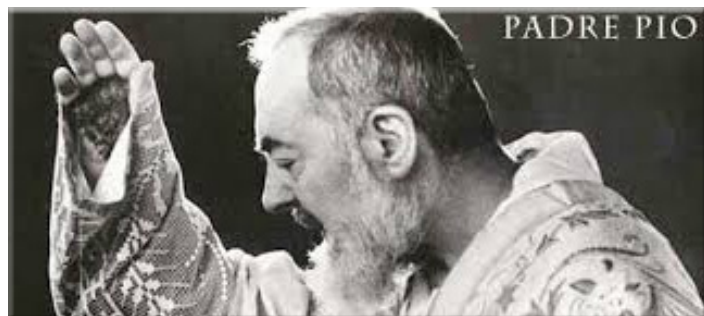




SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

CELEBRATE ST. PADRE PIO - SEPTEMBER 23

Countless souls, both Catholic and non-Catholic, sought his counsel.



From childhood his life was devoted to prayer, remaining a humble and obedient servant of God until his last breath. As the only priest to have the stigmata of Christ – wounds to his hands, feet, and side suffered during the crucifixion – the faithful remain in awe of him.

On Sept. 23rd, we celebrate his life and legacy with the memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, affectionately known as Saint Padre Pio.

He was born Francesco Forgione in Southern Italy on May 25, 1887, to peasant farmers Grazio and Maria Forgione. By age five, he announced to his parents that he wanted to dedicate his life to God. His parents were poor and young Francesco lacked a formal

education. However, knowing his calling was genuine and his son's devotion to his faith was unbreakable, his father left his family to find temporary work

in the United States and other countries to earn enough money to pay for required schooling. It was in 1903, just before he turned 16, he became a novitiate of the Capuchin Franciscan friars, and given the name Pio. He was ordained in 1910.

However, he returned home for six years because of battles with his health.

Despite these physical struggles he remained focused on Christ's will for his life. He was devoted day and night to conversations with God.

"In books we seek God, in prayer we find Him," he said. "Prayer is the key which opens God's heart."

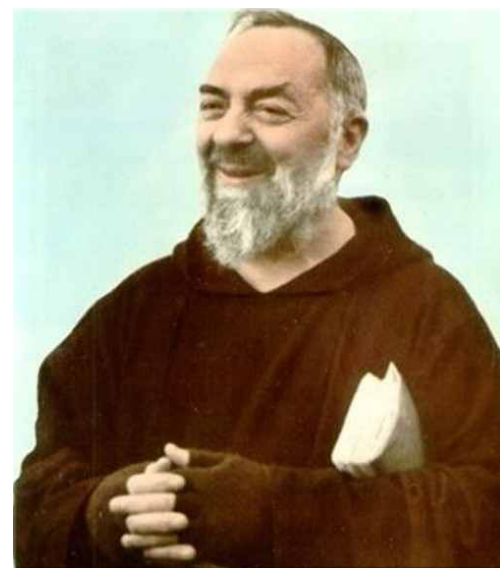
According to the Vatican, St. Pio "exercised to an exemplary degree the virtue of prudence, acting and counselling in the light of God. He treated everyone with justice, frankness, and great respect.

"He understood very early in life that his would be the way of the Cross, and he accepted it at once with courage and out of love. For many years he experienced spiritual sufferings. For years he endured the pains of his wounds with admirable serenity."

In 1916 he was sent to serve in the Italian town of San Giovanni Rotondo

in Apulia. There he spent more than 50 years evangelizing. It is recorded he would spend up to 12 hours a day hearing confession. He was described as kind and sincere, and celebrated Mass with "extraordinary devotion."

According to the book *Padre Pio Under Investigation* by Vittorio Messori and edited by Fr. Francesco Castelli (the historian for the beatification cause of Pope John Paul II), the Holy See had Bishop Raffaele Rossi of Volterra visit and interview St. Pio about the stigmata.



In 1921, Bishop Rossi was with St. Pio for more than a week to discover as much as he could about the priest and the circumstance that could not be medically or rationally explained.

According to what Bishop Rossi wrote, Padre Pio said it was on Sept. 20, 1918, after celebrating Mass the unexplainable happened. In St. Pio's words he said, "while I was giving thanks to the choir, I was repeatedly overcome by trembling. Later I became calm again and I saw our

CONTINUE...



Lord as if He were on the cross.... He was showing that He was suffering and that He desired to unite souls to His Passion. He invited me to enter into His sufferings and to mediate upon them; and at the same time to concern myself with the health of the brothers. Immediately I felt full of compassion for the sufferings of the Lord and I asked Him what I could do. I heard this voice: 'I unite you to my Passion'. And immediately, the vision having disappeared, I came to and I saw these signs from which blood was flowing. I did not have them before."

Bishop Rossi concluded the wounds were "true stigmata."

Saint Padre Pio often hid his wounds with gloves. His wounds brought pain and bled day after day. Doctors had no

medical or scientific explanation.

He passed away on Sept. 23, 1968 at the age of 81 with a rosary in his hands and repeatedly saying, "Jesus. Mary."

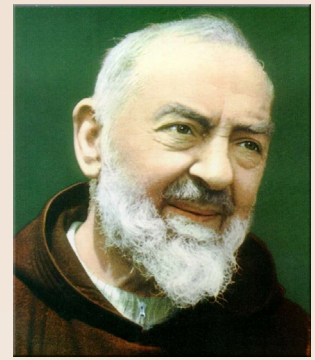


Miraculously, upon his death his wounds that did not heal for five decades were no longer visible.

More than 100,000 people attended his funeral. On June 16, 2002, he was declared a saint by Pope St. John Paul II.

He was quoted many times telling his superiors and the faithful, "After my death I will do more. My real mission will begin after my death."

Let St. Padre Pio enter our hearts and minds, stirring within us a true humility and sincere love of prayer, the rosary, and the sacraments.



THE HEALING PRAYER WRITTEN BY ST. PADRE PIO:

Heavenly Father,

I thank you for loving me. I thank you for sending your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the world to save and to set me free. I trust in your power and grace that sustain and restore me. Loving Father, touch me now with your healing hands, for I believe that your will is for me to be well in mind, body, soul and spirit.

Cover me with the most precious blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Cast anything that should not be in me. Root out any unhealthy and abnormal cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild and replenish any damaged areas.

Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection by the power of Jesus' precious blood. Let the fire of your healing love pass through my entire body to heal and make new any diseased areas so that my body will function the way you created it to function. Touch also my mind and my emotion, even the deepest recesses of my heart.

Saturate my entire being with your presence, love, joy, and peace and draw me ever closer to you every moment of my life. And Father, fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to do your works so that my life will bring glory and honor to your holy name. I ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

SEPTEMBER 21 - FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

As we honor St. Matthew on his feast day, Sept. 21st, let us recall the eight beatitudes Jesus gave us at the Sermon on the Mount. St. Matthew recounted these in his Gospel (5:1-10). They reveal Jesus' thinking - how we should all think. He is telling us we should not regard power and prestige as blessings, but instead consider being humble, pure, and merciful as gifts to be embraced. So, let us help those who are in need for in giving we receive.

St. Matthew the Apostle, pray for us!

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



*I received
from the Lord
what I also
handed on to you.*

"The catechist
walks from and
with Christ."
—Pope Francis

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2020

By Daniel Maul, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

On a yearly basis, human beings celebrate – at least once – the things most precious to them: their children's births, their marriages, the Resurrection of our Lord, etc. Anniversaries reveal to us what is most important in our lives. Accordingly, this weekend, the Church celebrates Her catechists and the ministry that they do. Most specifically, I'm referring to the volunteer, lay women and men (the vast majority being women!) – including our vowed-religious sisters and brothers – who tirelessly give of their precious time and energy (and usually of their treasure, too) to teach the Catholic faith and form our people – young and old – in Christian living. These are the individuals who constitute our parish catechetical programs, in the areas of religious education (catechesis, PSR, CCD, faith formation), the RCIA process, adult faith-formation, youth and young-adult ministries, marriage and family-life ministries, campus ministry, and evangelization. Catechists are the backbone of the parish; they and their ministry are essential to Christ's mission. It is through them that our Faith gets handed on to the next generation. They are true ministers in our Church. We are indebted to their service, and this weekend we applaud them, thank them, bless them, and pray for their renewed energy and determination to be the ones who primarily do the work of formally teaching our faith.

On a regular basis, our catechists strive to live out the cardinal virtues, in our parishes. That's right: justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude. First, for example, they must be fair: to students, participants, families, parents, and clergy.

Rules must apply to all people equally, but special circumstances must be taken into consideration. While some people complain that parents don't make time for the parishes, catechists will argue that the parishes should adapt and try to make appropriate time for families, working with and according to their schedules. Next, they must make wise decisions: what lessons and presentations to prepare, how to present an issue to a particular audience, or how much is reasonable to expect of people. Then, they must maintain a balanced approach – just as God does – between mercy and exigency. They must shun anger, yet not hesitate to offer correction humbly. And, finally, they must persevere and never give up, even when all looks lost. They are not afraid to minister to our youth. They refuse to be cynical, despondent, or negative about this generation and the next. They maintain hope for the future. In short, catechists must be the best of us, and they certainly are.

This year will be, due to COVID-19, of course, a singularly difficult year running our religious education programs. But, our catechists are up for the challenge. They take courage and are willing to be our "front-line" and "essential workers." So, thank you, dear catechists. God bless you and keep you. We pray you will continue running the race, fighting the good fight, and keeping the faith, until one day you hear these sweet words of our Lord: "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF AUTUMN

~SEPTEMBER 22~



O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

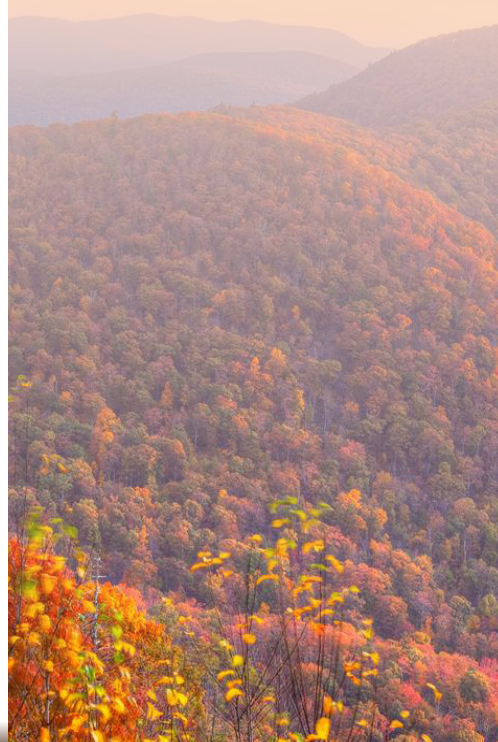
May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary, and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.



THE LATEST AND UPCOMING NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC *Spirit*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA:

MISSION MOMENT - FATHER PERSEVERES TO REACH GOALS

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist

Michael Brooks began the journey to achieve his High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma at age 58. He sought assistance from the Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) McDowell County Adult Education Instructor, as well as the CCWVa Case Manager.



Michael Brooks Gives a "Thumbs Up" along with Adult Education Instructors Gwenn Mayhew and Jared Cantrell.

Michael had no computer skills, which immediately placed him at a disadvantage, as the class work and the HSE exam are computer-based. He did not have a home computer or internet, and depended on the classroom computers to complete his lessons. With assistance from his instructors, Michael was able to overcome these obstacles and gain the skills necessary to navigate the computer.

The Catholic Charities McDowell County Adult Learning Center provides services to help adults pass the HSE exam, learn basic computer skills, prepare for vocational program testing or conduct a job search.

Read the full story in the Sept. 18 issue of The Catholic Spirit. Sign up to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail to CROWAN@DWC.ORG.

For more news and information from The Catholic Spirit visit THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG or follow on Facebook at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECATHOLICSPIRITWV

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!

You are invited to join our new e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. To be added to the e-list, send an e-mail to Colleen Rowan, CROWAN@DWC.ORG, with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please let us know your preference saying: "E-mail only, and remove me from print mailing list" or "I would like both print and e-mail versions."

By joining the e-mail list, you will receive an e-mail on each issue date of The Catholic Spirit with a link to the full issue.

The Catholic Spirit will now be available under "Downloadable Spirit" at

THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG.

SHAPING PEACE TOGETHER



First established in 1981, the United Nations declared Sept. 21st as an International Day of Peace. Twenty years later by a unanimous vote the UN designated the day as a 24-hour cease-fire. Today, the UN encourages everyone to take part in an act of peace and kindness, as we face a

world full of conflict and an exhausting virus that has halted our way of life.

As Catholics we pray that Mary Queen of Peace embrace all of us - children of God throughout the world. We ask that she intercedes for us, calling upon her son Jesus to calm the storms brewing in the leaders of our world, settle the differences among all people, and erase all illnesses that keep us apart.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY PRAYER

Good and gracious God, we ask you to make us, like St. Francis, instruments of peace.

For those who govern nations and people, we ask you grant them wisdom; for those who are faithful to the struggle of justice, we ask you grant them fortitude; for those willing to explore the roots causes of conflict, we ask you grant them understanding; for the trust You place in us all to bring about Your peace, we express our gratitude.

Today and always, let me be attentive to the many ways I am able to sow peace in the world.

Amen.

MASS READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading ISAIAH 55:6-9

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 PSALMS 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

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

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 near to all who call upon him.

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 near to all who call upon him.

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. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Second Reading 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. Alleluia

ACTS 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."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may strive always to conduct ourselves in way worthy of the gospel of Christ, we pray . . .

For political leaders of every level, that they may be compassionate toward the most vulnerable, to those who have been overlooked or forgotten, we pray . . .

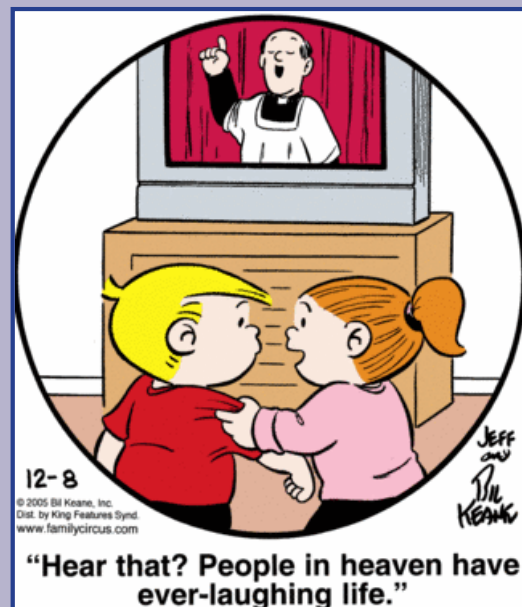
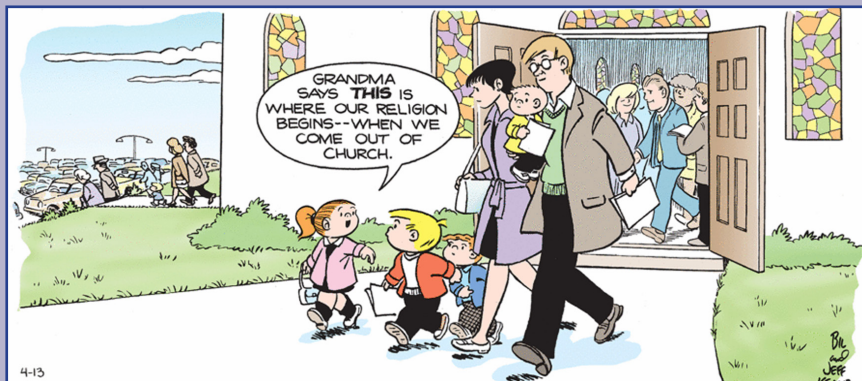
For all those who are experiencing natural disasters, especially the fires in California and the hurricanes and tropical storms in the South, that they may know healing and hope, we pray . . .

For an end to the Coronavirus, for those affected by it, and for protection and safety against contracting it, we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer



A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.7
~Also Streaming in WV at www.rdo.to/WLOL ~		
WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org		

Enroll Today

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



For a list of WV Catholic Schools go to:

🌐 wvcatholicschools.org

MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: [HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)