



MASSES

Saturday [anticipated] 4:30 pm

Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

Mass Tuesday-Friday in the chapel at 9 am

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 7-7:30 pm

Saturday 3-4 pm

in the chapel

& ST IGNATIUS ST LUKE'S

20 September 2020

PADRE PIO

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (born Francesco Forgione), was an Italian friar, priest, stigmatist and mystic. His reputation and holiness were a matter of significant controversy during his life.

Francesco Forgione was born on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina (in the southern Italian region of Campania) to devout peasant farmers. The Forgione family was deeply religious: they attended Mass daily, prayed the Rosary nightly, and abstained from meat three days a week in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Although Francesco's parents and grandparents were illiterate, they narrated Bible stories to their children. He stated that by the time he was five years old, he had already made the decision to dedicate his entire life to God.

In 1903, at the age of 15, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin friars at Morcone, taking the Franciscan habit and the name of Fra (Friar) Pio, in honor of Pope Pius I, whose relic is preserved in a chapel in Pietrelcina. He was soon sent to the friary of St. Francis of Assisi in Umbria to study for the priesthood. Once there, he had several bouts of serious illness and religious ecstasy. Friars would report that strange noises would come from his cell. Padre Pio had frequently spoken about attacks from the devil, and it was there where these battles had taken place. Although he was very ill, he was still ordained a priest in 1910 at the Cathedral of Benevento in southern Italy.

In 1916, Padre Pio moved to San Giovanni Rotondo, which was situated in the Gargano Mountains near the Adriatic coast. There he taught the students at the seminary and prayed alongside the townspeople. The celebration of the Holy Mass was for Padre Pio the center of his spirituality. Due to the long pauses of contemplative silence into which he entered at various parts of the Holy Sacrifice, his Mass could sometimes last several hours. A reputation for holiness began to grow and people flocked to attend the Masses he offered and to have him hear their confessions.

In August of 1918, he began experiencing a painful stigmata* that would come and go over a period of weeks. This would soon become permanent, and remain on his body for the next 50 years, only disappearing a few days before his death. Countless experts and doctors looked at his wounds with no clear explanation. Some questioned the authenticity of the wounds, and others could not find a sure diagnosis. As his fame grew, church authorities became concerned. From 1921 to 1922 he was prevented from publicly performing his priestly duties, such as hearing confessions and saying Mass. From 1924 to 1931, the Holy See made statements denying that the events in

Pio's life were due to any divine cause.

Apostolic visitations were made in 1921 and 1960. Some popes, such as Benedict XV and John XXIII, were dubious of the claims made about Padre Pio; others had a more favorable impression. In 1933, Pope Pius XI ordered a reversal of the ban on Padre Pio's public celebration of Mass, arguing, "I have not been badly disposed toward Padre Pio, but I have been badly informed." In 1934, the friar was again allowed to hear confessions. Pope Pius XII, who assumed the papacy in 1939, even encouraged devotees to visit Padre Pio. In 1947, Father Karol Józef Wojtyła (later Pope John Paul II) visited Padre Pio, who heard his confession. Finally, in the mid-1960s Pope Paul VI (pope from 1963 to 1978) dismissed all accusations against Padre Pio.

On 23 September 1968, Pio made his last confession and renewed his Franciscan vows. At around 2:30 am, his rosary in his hands, he said, "I see two mothers," taken to mean his mother and Mary. He whispered, "Maria!" with his last breath and died. He was 81 years old.

Despite the controversy arising out of his stigmata and reputation for miracles, Padre Pio's greatest gift was as a spiritual director. He developed five rules for spiritual growth: weekly confession, daily Communion, spiritual reading, meditation, and examination of conscience. He compared weekly confession to dusting a room weekly, and recommended the performance of meditation and self-examination twice daily: once in the morning, as preparation to face the day, and once again in the evening, as retrospection. His advice on the practical application of theology he often summed up in his now famous quote, "Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry." He directed Christians to recognize God in all things and to desire above all things to do the will of God.

*Stigmata (*Ancient Greek: στίγματα, plural of στίγμα stigma, 'mark, spot, brand'*), are the appearance of bodily wounds, scars, and pain in locations corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ, such as the hands, wrists, and feet. Many stigmatics show some or all of five Holy Wounds as recorded in Scripture: wounds in the wrists and feet, from nails; and in the side, from a lance. Some stigmatics display wounds to the forehead similar to those caused by the Crown of Thorns.

Many stigmata show recurring bleeding that stops and then starts, at times after receiving Holy Communion; a significant proportion of stigmatics have shown a strong desire to receive Holy Communion frequently.

While in Galatians 6:17, Saint Paul says "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus," St. Francis of Assisi is considered the first recorded stigmatic.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list.

Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEW PROJECT

The refinished sample pew is back in place near the baptismal font. We continue taking pledges and contributions for the refinishing of all the pews. Interested in sponsoring a pew? Donation forms are available in the back of the church and in the auditorium entrance.

HURRAY!

Many of you may have noticed that the sidewalk leading to the church has been repaired. A Prince George's Co. work crew showed up at the parish house door asking for a blessing for the work, as they were afraid that they might disturb the graves nearby when they dug out the stump. Fr. Vidal was happy to go offer prayers over the site.

All the thanks go to Don and Diana Gritz, who dedicated months of phone time to getting this done! We are all grateful for their service to the parish.

NOTE TO ST. IGNATIUS PARISHIONERS

Many thanks to parishioners who have donated to the 2020 Annual Appeal. Our parish currently stands at 56.3% of our 2020 goal of \$56,000. If you have not yet made your gift to the 2020 Annual Appeal, it is not too late. Visit appeal.adw.org to make your gift today. On behalf of Archbishop Gregory, we thank you again for your support of the Annual Appeal.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 19 September

Ember Saturday

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Lorraine LaValley + [Don and Diana Gritz]

Sunday, 20 September

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am special intention [Rosemary Coller]

11 am Michael McNelly + [Steve and Jane Lawrence]

Monday, 21 September

Matthew, Apostle

9 am *no public mass*

Tuesday, 22 September

Feria

9 am Daniel S. Brennan + [Edwin Smith]

Wednesday, 23 September

Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

9 am James Donovan [Jane Slattery]

Thursday, 24 September

Our Lady of Walsingham

9 am Albert Corrao + [Steve and Jane Lawrence]

Friday, 25 September

Feria

9 am Leslie Lee + [Lester Lee]

Saturday, 26 September

Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm John Leishear + [Rosemary Coller]

Sunday, 27 September

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Lorraine Killion [Jane Slattery]

11 am Robert Matlack + [Steve and Jane Lawrence]

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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historic
ST IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Administrator, St. Ignatius
Pastor, St. Luke's

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Joseph Chancio • Rosemary Coller

Fran Doyle • James Guinivan

Ada Okafor • Elizabeth Shivone

Connie Somerville

Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*

Susan White - *ex officio*

St. Luke's Finance Council

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Nicole Crawford • Mario Enzler

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