

# The Relics of Padre Pio

- ① *Saint Pio's crusts of the wounds*
- ② *A piece of Saint Pio's mantle*
- ③ *Gauge with Saint Pio's blood stains*



- ④ *Saint Pio's handkerchief soaked with his sweat*
- ⑤ *A lock of Saint Pio's hair*

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**SAINT PIO**  
FOUNDATION



*November 14-15, 2022*

*Cathedral of St. John Berchmans*

# BERCHMANS PRESS

November 2022

The Cathedral of St. John Berchmans  
939 Jordan Street  
Shreveport, LA 71101



## **Padre Pio Relics Schedule: Cathedral of St. John Berchmans**

### **Sunday, November 13**

**6:30 p.m.** Parish dinner and Documentary film: Fifty Years of Thorns and Roses, The Life of St. Padre Pio (Parish Hall)

### **Monday, November 14 (Cathedral)**

8:15 a.m. St. John Berchmans School Mass

9:30 a.m. Loyola College Prep Mass

10:30 – 12:00 Public Veneration

12:10 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Public veneration

5:00 p.m. Rosary and Litany of St. Padre Pio: Father Dahnraj Narla

5:30 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral

6:15 p.m. Presentation in the Cathedral:

Father Peter Mangum and Dr. Cheryl White

Veneration of Relics

The Mystical Stigmata

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Public Veneration

### **Tuesday, November 15**

8:00 – Noon SJB Ministries/Catholic Center Personnel/Public Veneration

12:10 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Public veneration

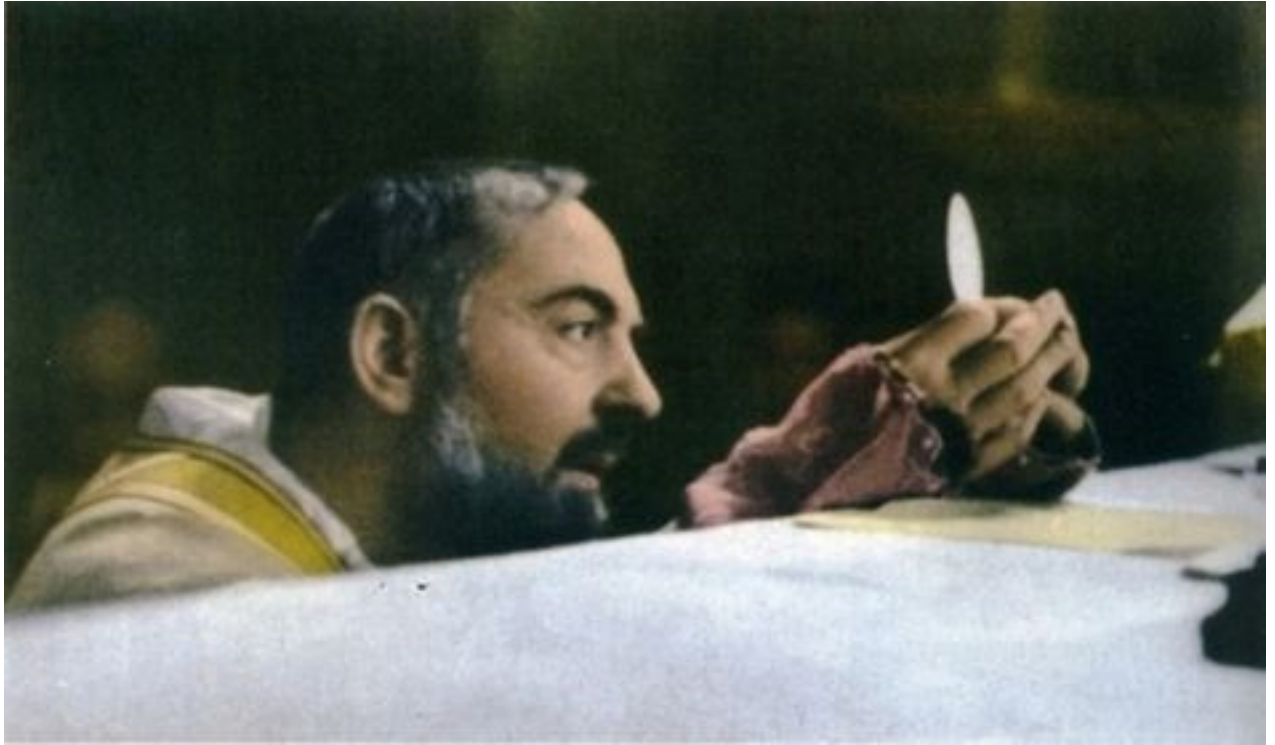
5:00 p.m. Rosary and Litany of St. Padre Pio: Deacon John Basco

5:30 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral

6:15 p.m. Presentation in the Cathedral:

Father Raney Johnson and Sister AnnaMaria Iannetti

The Life and Impact of St. Padre Pio



## A Brief Biography of St. Padre Pio

(From the Padre Pio Foundation of America, reprinted with permission)

Saint Padre Pio was an Italian priest who was known for his charity and love for the people around him. He bore the wounds of Christ (the mystical stigmata), something which still cannot be explained. Francesco Forgione was born May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy. He was the son of peasant farmers Grazio and Maria Forgione. He had three younger sisters (Felicita, Pellegina, and Grazia), and one older brother (Michele) as well as two other siblings who passed away as infants.

Padre Pio was baptized in the Church of Saint Ann in Pietrelcina. He was an altar server in the same chapel. By the time he was five years old, he had already made the decision to dedicate his life to God. He began taking on penances to show his dedication and love for God. While his whole family was devoted to the Catholic faith, young Francesco had a deeper connection.

He worked until the age of ten taking care of a small flock of sheep that the family owned, which delayed his education. When it came time to join the Capuchin order, he was told he needed to be better educated. He began receiving private tutoring at the age of fifteen, and this allowed him to enter the novitiate with the Capuchin Franciscan Friars in Morcone. This is where he took on the name “Friar Pio.” Capuchin priests seek poverty, strictness, and simplicity, trying to live as closely as possible to the ideals of St. Francis.

Once he joined the order, he had several bouts of serious illness, and also experienced periods of religious ecstasy. Friars reported hearing strange noises from his cell. Padre Pio spoke frequently about attacks from the devil, and it was there these battles took place. Although he was very ill, he ordained a priest in 1910 at the Cathedral of Benevento in southern Italy.

In November 1914, World War I began and many Capuchins were drafted into the Italian army. Padre Pio served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Company of the Italian Medical Corps with the title of “Private Francesco Forgione.” His illness persisted, and he took a medical leave to return to his beloved town of Pietrelcina to recuperate.

In 1916, Padre Pio moved to our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary located in San Giovanni Rotondo, in the Gargano Mountains near the Adriatic coast. There he taught students in the seminary and began working and praying alongside the

townspeople. He was later called back into active duty in August 1917, reassigned to the same unit as before in the Italian Medical Corps, and again took medical leave. He returned to the friary at San Giovanni Rotondo, where he remained for the rest of his life.

In August 1918, he began experiencing a painful stigmata that later became permanent and remained visible on his body for the next fifty years. It disappeared miraculously a few days before his death in September 1968. Countless medical experts looked at his wounds with no clear explanation. The wounds bled daily for fifty years.

The visible stigmata brought great pain, but Padre Pio welcomed it. He stated many times that his “greatest wish was to die.” He received many pilgrim visitors wanting to witness the many miraculous manifestations attributed to him.

Padre Pio died of a heart attack at Our Lady of Grace in San Giovanni Rotondo on September 23, 1968. When he died, many of the friars were eager to begin the process of canonization, familiar with the sanctity of his life. Pope John Paul II beatified him on May 2, 1999, and canonized him on June 16, 2002.

Saint Padre Pio, pray for us!

## The Mystical Stigmata

For one to experience the Passion wounds of Jesus made apparent on the human body has long been considered a mystical gift, dating to the first reported account of St. Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century. The stigmata consists of the five wounds of Jesus, although not all may be apparent in any person at any given time: the nail wounds in the wrists or hands and feet, the wound in the right chest, the crowning of thorns, and scourge wounds. They may be visible, or suffered as invisible pain, and there are many examples of this throughout the history of the Christian faith. Those gifted with the stigmata (such as St. Padre Pio) participate and live the Passion of Christ in their bodies, which has a sanctifying effect on others.

St. Paul wrote in his Letter to the Colossians: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s sufferings for the sake of His body, that is, the Church.” (Colossians 1:24) While St. Francis of Assisi is the first reported case in documented Church history, many Biblical scholars believe that St. Paul may have been making reference to the stigmata in this passage. In his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul states, “From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.” (Galatians 6:17).

Although there are hundreds of mystics and saints across the centuries who are believed to have suffered the mystical stigmata, it was not until the modern age that such cases could be verified to the extent of St. Padre Pio. His stigmata has been well-documented by eyewitness accounts as well as surviving photographs and film, and his case was thoroughly investigated by medical experts at the bequest of the Vatican.

The mystical stigmata represents a union with Christ’s sufferings, as a testimony to others, presenting in a profoundly mysterious yet physical way.





## Veneration of Relics (From *New Advent: Catholic Encyclopedia*)

The teaching of the Church regarding the veneration (honoring) of relics is best summarized in a decree of the Council of Trent, which calls upon those in authority to instruct the faithful that “the holy bodies of martyrs and of others now living with Christ...are to be venerated by the faithful, for through these many benefits are bestowed by God on men.” Furthermore, the Council of Trent stated that “in the invocation of saints and the veneration of relics, there is no superstition” in this ancient practice of Christianity.

Recalling the marvels witnessed at the tombs of the martyrs, the Council of Trent credited the “most unexceptionable witnesses” of St. Ambrose and St. Augustine, who declared in their writings that they had not merely heard and read about such miracles but had seen them with their own eyes!

Ultimately, the Catholic belief in honoring the relics of holy people points to the belief in the Incarnation itself when God fully fused Himself with His creation. The belief in the sacred nature of the human body and contemplating the Divine mysteries through Creation has always been an important tenet of the Christian faith. Furthermore, when venerating the relics of saints, Christians today are in complete continuity with the practices and teachings of the past, dating back to the earliest recorded history of the Apostolic Church.

In the *Acts of the Apostles*: “God wrought by the hand of Paul more than common miracles. So that even there were brought from his body to the sick, handkerchiefs and aprons, and the diseases departed from them.” (Acts 19:11)  
It was only by the power and working of God that wrought the cure, through his own Creation.

While we venerate the saints who were so dear to God, we also venerate all that belonged to them, particularly their bodies, which were once temples of the Holy Spirit. One day, the bodies of all the faithful will be conformed to the glorious body of Jesus Christ.



# Litany of St. Padre Pio

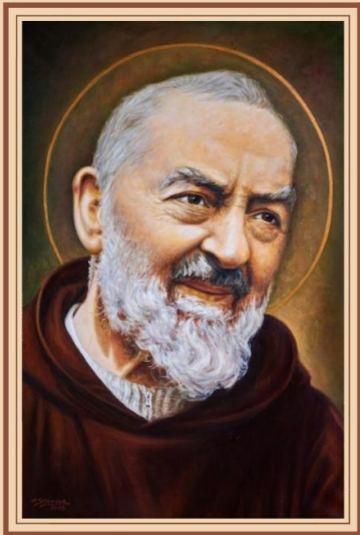
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,  
Have mercy on us.  
God the Son, Redeemer of the World,  
Have mercy on us.  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Have mercy on us.  
Holy Trinity, one God,  
Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Virgin Immaculate, pray for us.  
St. Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for us.  
Beloved of God, pray for us.  
Imitator of Jesus Christ, pray for us.  
Good shepherd of the people, pray for us.  
Model for priests, pray for us.  
Light of the Church, pray for us.  
Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament, pray for us.  
Faithful son of St. Francis, pray for us.  
Marked with the stigmata of Jesus, pray for us.  
Patient in suffering, pray for us.  
Helper of the dying, pray for us.  
Director of souls, pray for us.  
Heard of gold, pray for us.  
Apostle of mercy, pray for us.  
Worker of miracles, pray for us.  
Consoler of the afflicted, pray for us.  
Lover of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.  
Helper of souls in doubt and darkness, pray for us.  
Comforter of the sick, pray for us.  
Example of humility, pray for us.  
Source of wisdom, pray for us.

Mirror of the divine life, pray for us.  
Lover of Jesus Crucified, resigned to the will of God, pray for us.  
Doing good upon earth, pray for us.  
Filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice, pray for us.  
Our hope and help in all our needs, pray for us.  
Vessel of the Holy Spirit, pray for us.  
Leading us to Christ, pray for us.  
Our spiritual father and advocate, pray for us.  
Crowned with glory in Heaven, pray for us.

God, our Father, You helped St. Pio of Pietrelcina to reflect the image of Christ through a life of charity and self-sacrifice. May we follow your Son by walking in the footsteps of St. Padre Pio and by imitating his selfless love.  
Amen.



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"Pray, hope,  
and don't  
worry."  
Worry is useless. God is  
merciful and will hear  
your prayer."  
*St. Padre Pio*  
— — — — —