

**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 TOF

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS:**

**Jan 1 -  
NO Padre Pio  
Prayer Group  
Gathering in  
January 2022**

**Feb 5 -  
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

JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

## Why Do Catholics Celebrate the New Year?

We are beginning the Year of the Lord 2022. The marking of the dawn of a New Year is no secular holiday because time and history have been drawn into the coming of God into the world. We keep track of our time as either BC (Before Christ) or AD (Anno Domini) to demonstrate that Christ is the center of history, the one through whom we judge all that came before and is going to come. New Year's teaches us how properly to measure time, how to mark the coming of salvation into the world in light of its progressive unfolding in our lives and in human history. St. Paul tells us further that "from this relationship of God with time there arises the duty to sanctify time."

We mark the progression of time as an opportunity to reflect on our own lives in relation to it. Where do we stand within God's plan for history? How can I immerse my own life into God's coming into the world? How can I allow God to shape my own life in time, and, through me, to shape history?

It is not a coincidence that we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary. The Holy Mother of God is a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary that celebrates Mary's motherhood of Jesus on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We close the Christmas octave — the eight days following the birth of Christ — with a day honoring Mary as the Mother of God. This is usually a holy day of obligation, but since it falls on a Saturday in 2022, it is not this year. "Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the

Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the 'Seat of Wisdom.'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 721)

"With his Mother's flesh God clothed himself, / Since from Virginity He was made man."



The Mother of the Redeemer goes before us and continually strengthens us in faith, in our vocation and in our mission. By her example of humility and openness to God's will she helps us to transmit our faith in a joyful proclamation of the Gospel to all, without reservation. In this way our mission will be fruitful, because it is modeled on the motherhood of Mary. To

her let us entrust our journey of faith, the desires of our heart, our needs and the needs of the whole world, especially of those who hunger and thirst for justice and peace, and for God.

In celebrating the Solemnity of Mary Most Holy, the Holy Mother of God, the Church reminds us that our Mother, more than anyone else, received this blessing. In her the blessing finds fulfillment, for no other creature has ever seen God's face shine upon it as did Mary. She gave a human face to the eternal Word, so that all of us can contemplate Him.

**Lord, we ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. We ask you to bring us closer to you each day through Mary. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

As I write this reflection, I am reflecting on my homily for the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. The prayers, Sacred Scriptures and songs all dealt with JOY. I want us to begin the New Year 2022 with JOY! Everyone was saying at the end of the year 2020 that 2021 was going to be better. Well, it sure did not seem so. It appeared that 2021 was worse than 2020 and it does not look like 2022 will be any better; at least in the eyes of the world.



For me, one place that I have seen JOY and experienced it myself, is during the Sacrament of Penance. I cannot tell you the number of times I have seen people who come in, weighed down with sin and all that it does to keep us distant from God and then at the absolution, the change that occurs; JOY has returned. All is well with their soul and are reunited with God, the Church and their neighbor. I see that when we obey God's commandments that are the ways to love God and to love our neighbor, there is JOY. In doing what God has asked us to do, as a good parent would do for their child, God tells us to do His Will and we will find JOY. When we do our own will, we do not find JOY. We end up falling into unhealthy forms of pleasure. The devil lies to us and tells us that we will find JOY in doing what we find pleasurable. Sadly, what we find pleasurable usually is sinful, especially when we over-indulge in the things of this world. By obeying God and dying to self and taking up our crosses, we will find JOY. The paradox that the world cannot see or give is that in giving ourselves to God, we find JOY. The world cannot understand that denying oneself of anything is going to be joyful. Doing whatever one wants and getting the most "toys" during one's life is what will bring us joy. In reality it only gives us pleasure and it does not last. In God we find our JOY!

Here are some quotes from the Saints on JOY. They are long, but they can tell us more about JOY than I could ever do. I am still a work in progress and I am striving for JOY.

**Saint Ephrem:** "In Your sacrament we daily embrace You and receive You into our bodies; make us worthy to experience the resurrection for which we hope. We have had Your treasure hidden within us ever since we received baptismal grace; it grows ever richer at Your sacramental table. Teach us to find our JOY in Your favor. Lord, we have within us Your memorial, received at Your spiritual table; let us possess it in its full reality when all things shall be made new."

**Saint Augustine:** "O Lord, the depths of a man's conscience lie exposed before Your eyes. Could anything remain hidden in me, even though I did not want to confess it to You? In that case, I would only be hiding You from myself, not myself from You. But now, my sighs are sufficient evidence that I am displeased with myself; that You are my light and the source of my JOY; that You are loved and desired. I am thoroughly ashamed of myself; I have renounced myself and chosen You, recognizing that I can please neither You nor myself unless You enable me to do so."

**Saint Gregory the Great:** "What follows is reason for great JOY: *'Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.'* There is here a particular reference to ourselves. We hold in our hearts One we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who only pay lip service, Saint Paul says, *'They profess to know God, but they deny Him in their works.'* And Saint James adds, *'Faith without works is dead.'*"

**Saint Anselm:** "My soul, have you found what you are looking for? You were looking for God and you have discovered that He is the Supreme Being, and that you could not possibly imagine anything more perfect. You have discovered that this Supreme Being is life itself, light, wisdom, goodness, eternal beatitude, and blessed eternity. He is everywhere and He is timeless. . . . O God, let me know You and love

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Develop a More Powerful and Effective Prayer Life

Here are seven ways to improve your prayer life in the new year.

**1. Know to whom you are speaking.** Prayer is a conversation with God, and every conversation begins by addressing the person to whom you are speaking by name. Jesus begins with “Our Father in heaven.” He focuses on a distinct person — the Heavenly Father with whom He has a personal relationship. We share the same right to call God “Father,” and there are times when we need to talk with our Abba Father, Daddy God. But God is three distinct persons in One: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**2. Thank him.** A heartfelt thank you is always a great conversation starter. Like any parent, God loves to see that we have grateful hearts. But more importantly, as we take the time to praise God for all He has done in the past — the answered prayers, the impossible situations overcome, the healings and grace — our faith to believe for even greater answers to prayer grows stronger and more confident. Praise opens the gates of heaven and should always be part of our alone time with God.

**3. Ask for God’s will.** The Lord’s Prayer is not the only place where Jesus role-modeled a heart of obedience and submission to the will of God over his own desires and needs. In the Garden of Gethsemane, only hours before Jesus’ crucifixion, He would once again pray, “not my will, but yours be done.” In a world where right and wrong are frequently confused and the future is so uncertain, it can be hard to know how to pray or what to ask for when difficult circumstances arise. But the one thing we can know with absolute certainty is that God’s plan for those who love Him is

good, and the safest place we can be is in the center of His Divine Will.

**4. Say what you need.** In Jesus’ time, bread was a staple — one of the most basic needs of life — and He did not hesitate to ask God to provide it. But we often hesitate to bother God with the little things we need, thinking He shouldn’t be bothered. And when the big problems come, we try everything we can to solve the problem before we think to pray. The Bible says, “You do not have because you do not ask God.” So never hesitate to ask God for what you need in 2022. Your Father in heaven delights to give you good gifts.

**5. Ask for forgiveness.** James 5:16 reminds us that if we want our prayers to be heard, our hearts need to be right with God and with one another. If you feel your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling, take some time to check your heart.

**6. Pray with a friend.** There is power in agreement when we pray in Jesus’ name. When you have an urgent need to take before the throne of God, call a friend to pray with you. If you don’t already have one, make finding a trusted prayer partner one of your goals in 2022.


**7. Pray the Word.** Jesus did the same when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness (see Luke 4:1-12). He was the Son of God, but He did not use His Divine authority. Instead, He used the authority of the Scriptures. The most important key to a vibrant prayer life is to understand our spiritual



authority in Christ as explained in the Scriptures. The only way to do that is to become intimately familiar with the Bible. Even a few minutes a day in the Word of God will add strength and authority to your prayers in 2022.



# Joyfully Living the Gospels Day by Day/January 2022

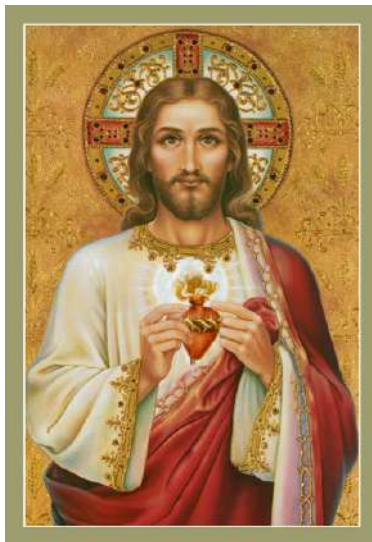
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Almighty God, I open myself to You; comfort me so that I may comfort others.	31 Dear Jesus, I am hopeful, I am grateful, and I am confident thanks to You.					1 Lord Jesus, teach me to be joyful on this, the first day of the year, and on all the days of my life.  The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord <b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> First Saturday
<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	St. John Bosco			<b>Saint Padre Pio</b>		
2 Help me, Lord of my heart, to be of good cheer. I know that You love a cheerful giver, and I have a long way to go.	3 Father in Heaven, teach me how to reject my fears, that I may live in Your joy.	4 Heavenly Lord, increase my love, and my joy.	5 Jesus, help me to be a carrier of Your love. Show me the way to make Your Name known and loved.	6 I love You, my Lord, and my God. Teach me to love You more and more, that my joy may be full.	7 Thank you, Lord, for giving me peace of mind and heart. I rejoice in Your love.	8 Father, let Your light shine in me, that I may give peace and joy to others.
<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	Christmas Weekday The Most Holy Name of Jesus	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	St. John Neumann	Christmas Weekday St. Andre Bessette	Christmas Weekday St. Raymond of Penyafort First Friday	Christmas Weekday
9 Dear Jesus, thank You for guiding me through the narrow gate that leads to a joyful life. Teach me that the secret of joy resides in trusting Your promises.	10 Dear Lord, we reap what we sow. Give me the wisdom to know how to draw joy from sorrow.	11 Teach me, Lord, that You are Unchanging Love, no matter what I might be feeling at any given moment.	12 Jesus, my Lord and my God, what joy I feel when I know I have done something to please You. Help me when I am not so sure of myself.	13 Dear Jesus, You are my defender and guardian. You are my shield in the battle of life. In You I put my trust.	14 Jesus, Your love is the Good News of the Gospel. Help me to relax and enjoy it.	15 Deliver me, O Lord, from the darkness of false teaching. Let me know the joy of loving You with all my heart.
<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	[1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time]	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday St. Hilary	Weekday	Weekday BVM
16 Thank You, Lord, for protecting me in my hour of need. How blessed I am to know that You are always with me.	17 O Lord, I often feel like the man in the Gospels who asked You to help what little faith he had. Fill my heart with Your gift of faith; let my faith be active and living.	18 Lord, I believe; help me in my unbelief. Give me a certain, untroubled faith in Your love.	19 Dearest Lord, I know that the work of transformation in the Spirit takes time. Teach me to be patient.	20 Holy Spirit, soul of my soul, I adore You, comfort me, console me. Let me know Your Will, and give me the courage to follow it.	21 Dear Lord, I know that Your grace is sufficient for me. Help me to forgive myself when I go astray, and not be too hard on myself.	22 Father, I see the splendor of Your creation. I thank You for everything that lives and has being.
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	St. Anthony Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday St. Fabian St. Sebastian	St. Agnes	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
23 Lord, You are the source of my confidence and hope. Help me to put my trust in You fully. Thank You for the Eucharist that nourishes me day by day.	24 Jesus, help me dispel the emotional pain of sadness. I desire to give myself to You in a spirit of joy and thanksgiving. Thank You for assuring me that one day my heart will be full of joy.	25 Dear Jesus, help me to replace my emotional baggage with a forgiving heart. I will feel so much lighter.	26 Lord, help me to be polite when I feel like being rude.	27 Immerse me in Your light, O Lord. Let me feel You in my body, mind, heart, and soul.	28 Dear Lord, I know the joy and celebration that awaits those who persevere. Help me to endure all things and plod along with confidence in reaching my goals.	29 Help me, Lord, to be brave when I feel like caving in. I am very conscious of Your presence in my life.
<b>3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	St. Francis de Sales	THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE	Ss. Timothy and Titus	Weekday St. Angela Merici	St. Thomas Aquinas	Weekday BVM [30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> , Upper Left]

## Take a Stand

Jesus' name is known far and wide, but as a word with which to swear profanely, His name is blasphemed. Take a stand against taking the Lord's name in vain. Turn the channel, turn off the television, or walk out of the movie theater when you hear God's name taken in vain, which has become all too frequent. Vow never to take the Lord's name in vain. Make reparation immediately if you accidentally do or if you hear someone else do so. How can you make reparation? One way is to have this perfect aspirational prayer "Admirable is the name of God." That prayer of praise for the Holy Name of God given to Sr. Marie of St. Peter is also a prayer of reparation for blasphemy. Adopt the pious practice of bowing your head whenever you say or hear the name of Jesus. If only souls knew the riches of just uttering the Sweet Name of Jesus with reverence and wonder, and the happiness which that Name brings to souls so disposed.

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. "In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10).

Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of



the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus". It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "savior." The very name speaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us. The name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and He who bears it is most worthy of all love. He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends. Jesus is our all. In His name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all her sacraments. In His name she offers all her prayers and blesses homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus she casts out evil spirits, and at the hour of our death bids us, "Go forth, Christian soul." She assures us that whoever calls upon this name will be saved. When our soul has departed this life to seek its eternal home the Church asks in the name of Jesus, "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord."

**O GOOD JESUS, according to Thy great mercy, have mercy on me. O most merciful Jesus, by that Precious Blood which Thou didst will to shed for sinners, I beseech Thee to wash away all mine iniquities and to look graciously upon me, a poor and unworthy sinner, as I call upon Thy Holy Name. Therefore, O Jesus, do Thou save me for Thy Holy Name's sake. Blessed be the Most Holy Name of Jesus without end. Amen.**

## Prayers for the Supreme Court

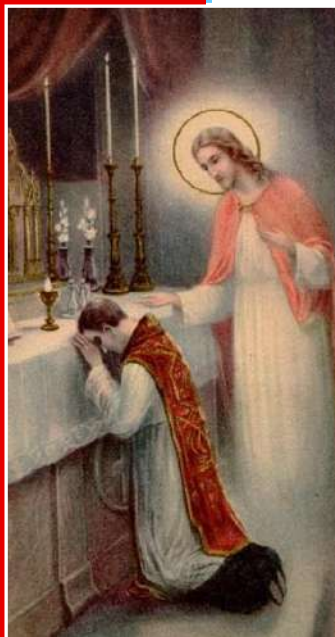


Holy Trinity, Source of Life and Truth, we entrust our nation to You. We ask for mercy for the decades of legalized abortion that has been permitted in our land and for healing for all those who have been wounded by it. We ask that the sacredness of every human life would be protected and upheld both in law and in culture. In a special way we commend to you the Justices of the Supreme Court. Please grant them clarity, wisdom, and courage to judge according to truth and right reason. Overthrow, at last, by Your power, the scourge of abortion in our land and usher in a new era of protection for the unborn. By the power of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, may Your justice be established on earth. Amen.

God please give the Supreme Court the gifts, Grace and Fruits of the Holy Spirit to overturn Row v Wade and Doe v. Bolton in the name of Jesus Christ through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.



**Let them  
love their  
sacrifice  
deeply.**



## Prayers for Priests and Religious Vocations

Let us begin this new year with a renewed desire to pray daily for our priests and for holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

### Prayer for All Priests

My God, I pray for all your priests and beseech you to sanctify them. Let them love their sacrifice deeply so that they may live it lovingly.

I beg you, grant them obedience, a spirit of detachment, a chastity which is constant and true, a spirit of self-denial, humility, sweetness, zeal and dedication.

I beg you that all those who may approach them may leave them with a greater love for you. My God, I pray that through them your kingdom on earth may grow and be strengthened. O Jesus, I promise with all my heart to sacrifice myself with you. Amen

--Canon Formingão

### Prayer For Priests

Dear Lord, we pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession

strengthen them for their ministry. We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen.

--US Catholic Conference of Bishops

### A Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for the Increase of Priestly and Religious Vocations

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Eternal Father, Son of the Virgin Mary, we thank you for offering your life in sacrifice on the Cross, and for renewing this sacrifice in every Mass celebrated throughout the world.

In the Power of the Holy Spirit, we adore you and proclaim your living presence in the Eucharist. We desire to imitate the love you show us in your death and resurrection, by loving and serving one another.

We ask you to call many young people to religious life, and to provide the holy and generous priests that are so needed in your Church today. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. Amen.

*(Continued from page 2)*

You so that I may find my JOY in You; and if I cannot do so fully in this life, let me at least make some progress daily, until at last that knowledge, love, and joy come to me in all their plenitude in heaven."

**Saint Francis of Assisi:** "Here is perfect JOY: above all the grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit that Christ grants to His beloved are to overcome oneself and willingly, for the love of Christ, endure pains and insults and shame and want. In all the other gifts of God we may not glory, since they are not ours but God's as the Apostle says, '*What have you that you have not received?*' But in the cross of tribulation we may boast since it is ours, and therefore the Apostle says, '*I do not glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*'"

Have a Holy and JOY-filled New Year.

## Dear Spiritual Children of Padre Pio



What a way to end our year with our December gathering! Thank you to Fr. Bill Browne for the celebration of the Mass. I don't think there was a dry eye during the blessing of our Baby Brooklyn. I received this updated message about Baby Brooklyn:

"Her blood platelet count has been traditionally in the 90s (it should be in the 900s for most healthy people). Earlier this week, after the Padre Pio Mass, her doctor called and said something must be wrong because her platelet levels were up over 700. This is tremendous news that her platelet levels skyrocketed immediately after attending the Padre Pio Mass. Brooklyn's mother also commented that in the middle of Mass when she was up front at the altar, she actually watched Brooklyn's color change and come back to looking very healthy ... this is the first time she's looked like this since she was born, and this is the first time that she's actually slept very well in a long time. God is great!!! Thank you, Jesus, for your Christmas favor for Baby Brooklyn and thanks to all of you for your prayers. Our Group is an army of Prayer Warriors.



It was quite impressive seeing all our Baby Jesus's on the altar steps with hay for a blessing. The

Christmas gifts of blessed salt and the Padre Pio ornaments were well received. David Carollo, Director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, gave an excellent, enlightened presentation and Karen Godt spoke about Hope for Honduran Children.org. Again, I don't think there was a dry eye as she shared her story. Your generosity to The Honduran Children with clothes and donations was very overwhelming. And last, but not least, I



want to extend my gratitude to my bakers and kitchen elves for the Christmas Cookie Bake Sale. We raised \$725! That's a lot of dough! Ha ha!

I am looking forward to our February gathering retreat. It will be a longer gathering than usual. There will be refreshments.

May God continue to shine His light on you each and every day. Happy New Year!

Pray, Hope and Don't Worry!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Russo TOF, Group Leader

## KEEP OUR SICK SISTERS & BROTHERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

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

Mario Bruschi  
Sarojini Bruschi  
Gia Cefaratti  
Virginia DeJesus  
Serena DiCillo  
Roy Evans  
Margie Ferfolia  
Michele Ferrara  
Cynthia Fonseca  
Oscar Fonseca

Marty Franck  
Bob Garcar  
Rose Gullo  
Kyle Hrabusa  
Michael Hurley  
Helen Husky  
Tony Kazmierczak  
Jonathan Lipreads  
Mark Magda  
Fr. Pio Mandato

Fr. Cory Mayer  
Joe Morici  
Fr. Terry O'Connell  
Molly O'Leary  
Eleanor Phillips  
Carmie Pruchnichi  
Steve Pruchnichi  
Judy Purdy  
Brooklyn Russell  
Phyllis Schilling

Regis Schilling  
Mary Smith  
Joseph Wojtyla  
Fr. Chuck Works



### † OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED †

Barbara Bilinovich  
Monsignor Bill Bonczewski from Our Lady of Cedars

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

## Powerful Healing Prayer 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.

**BEST WISHES to our Spiritual Children celebrating birthdays and special occasions in the month of January!**

**WEBSITE: [WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG](http://WWW.PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG) CONTACT US: [INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG](mailto:INFO@PADREPIOCLEVELAND.ORG)  
FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PADREPIOCLEVELAND) TWITTER: [@PADREPIOCLEVEOH](https://twitter.com/PADREPIOCLEVEOH)**