

# January 2016

*He was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2: 16-21)*  
*We saw his star..and have come to do him homage..And they offered...gold, frankincense,and myrrh. (Matthew 2: 1-12)*

*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (Luke 3: 15-22)*

*Do whatever he tells you. (John 2: 1-11)*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor..(Luke 4: 14-21)*

*No prophet is accepted in his own native place. (Luke 4: 21-30)*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Lord bless you and keep you!*

*The Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you!*

*The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!*

*We adore, O Christ, and bless you! ... O Wisdom of God, you are our wisdom ... O Root of Jesse, you are the vine and we are the branches ... O Lord of lords, you are the newborn child ... O Key of David, you are the key to the gates of heaven ... O Dayspring, you are the light of the world ... O Ruler of the world, you are the Lord of lords ... O Emmanuel, you are God-with-us ... May all the world rejoice in your*

\*\*\*\*\*

1  
Try to dwell on the goodness of the heavenly Father in giving you his Only Begotten Son, on the beauty of our holy faith, on the happiness reserved for us in paradise, on the resurrection of Jesus, on the glory he enjoys in paradise and which, if we remain faithful to him, he has reserved one day for us.

2  
Let your speech be edifying...

3  
God who has bestowed so many benefits on us, is satisfied with such a very significant gift as that of your free will.

4  
Let us offer (our free will) to him along with the Divine Master himself in that most sublime prayer, the Our Father...

5  
Don't make an offering like those children who, when they have been given away something precious as a gift, immediately or very soon regret what they have done and begin to cry and ask to have it back...

6  
Get rid of all those doubts which are clouding the heavens in your soul...you yourself are the only obstacle in the way of perfection...

7  
You must be careful and always keep a vigilant watch over yourself especially as regards the abominable vice of vainglory, which is the woodworm, the consuming moth, of devout souls.

8  
You must watch out for this vice (vainglory), all the more so since it is easier for it to enter the soul and make headway unobserved and hence it is much less easily recognized.

9  
We must always be on guard, and we can never fight too hard against this tireless enemy, who is always there on the doorstep of our every action.

10  
Take heart, then, my dear daughter, even when you feel oppressed by the great number and the atrocity of your offences.

11  
Come to the feet of Jesus Christ, who is fighting and enduring agony for us in the Garden.

12  
Humble yourself, weep, entreat with him, and like him ask with loud cries for God's mercy - his forgiveness of your faults - for help to walk all the time in his sight.

13  
Have no doubt that this merciful and clement God will stretch out a compassionate hand, as he always has done, to lift you up out of your poverty and spiritual desolation.

14  
Infinite praise and thanks to Jesus, King of souls.

15

If Jesus manifests himself, thank him, and if he remains hidden, thank him just the same.

16

When I know that a person is afflicted in soul or body, what would I not do to have the Lord relieve him of his sufferings!

17

Willingly would I take upon myself all his afflictions in order to see him saved, and I would even hand over to him the benefits of such sufferings if the Lord would allow.

18

I urge you to pray continually to the heavenly Father that he may always keep you close to his divine heart, that he may make you hear his loving voice more and more clearly, and lead you to correspond with increasing gratitude.

19

Ask Jesus with boundless confidence...to draw you after him...wherever he goes.

20

Calm your anxiety with regard to your spiritual state, for this seems to me to be a real waste of time on our way to eternity...all our good actions are invariably soiled...by a certain lack of confidence in God's goodness.

21

Anxiety over one's spiritual state, actually a lack of confidence in God's goodness...is a very slender thread...which keeps the spirit tied down, but it prevents the soul ...from taking flight in the way of perfection and from acting with holy freedom.

22

May the good Jesus always console you and give you even more strength to overcome and defeat our common enemy, who is always intent on laying traps for us, in order to make us betray trust.

23

Do not fear him at all; trust more and more in the most sweet Lord, our Jesus Christ, who never leaves you alone.

24

Let us adore in silence God's designs when he allows... situations to continue as a further test of faithfulness...Pray to the Lord that all may work out for his glory and for the good of souls.

25

Anyone who refuses human remedies exposes himself to the danger of offending the Lord. And do you not know that God tells us through the Sacred Scriptures to love the physician for love of himself?

26

In the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist, in this sacrament of love, we have true life, a blessed life, and true happiness.

27

In (the sacrament of the Eucharist) we receive not only those graces that perfect us but the very author of these graces.

28

For ourselves who have been called, through the goodness of the Most High God, to reign with the divine Bridegroom, whose minds are enlightened by God's true light, let us fix our gaze constantly on the splendor of the heavenly Jerusalem.

29

Let the consideration of all those good things to be possessed in that realm provide us with delightful food for our thoughts.

30

Enchanted by these eternal delights, our minds will then inflame our hearts with love for them.

31

Only then, despite the fact that we are pilgrims...surrounded by apparent beauty, by enticements and illusions...shall we be able to repeat with full conviction along with the indomitable martyr St. Ignatius: *Oh, how worthless is the earth when I look at heaven!*

Following the regular prayers to Padre Pio suggested for each month, are two prayers: ***The Universal Prayer*** attributed to Pope Clement XI and the ***Prayer for the United States of America*** composed by Archbishop John Carroll, first Archbishop of the United States of America. They are written in such a way that you might print them out and keep them in a prayer book. Let us remember at the beginning of this New Year 2016 that we must always pray for ourselves and also for God's blessings on the nation and those we elect to govern us in a God-centered manner.

## ***Prayer to Padre Pio***

(every day)

Padre Pio, I thank you and praise God in you for making His Name known more profoundly in our hearts. You bore the marks of the Savior's saving Passion and became a refuge and support for all who sought your guidance. Your patient ministry of reconciliation brought numberless souls back to God, so that rescued from the evil one, they could praise and glorify God in their lives. From your place in heaven watch over us and keep your hand on each one of us that we may always walk the path that leads to God, the Source and Goal of all life, who lives and reigns Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### ***Thanksgiving Psalm - Psalm 111 (adapted)***

#### ***Sunday***

We thank You Lord with all our heart. Great are Your works. They are to be pondered by all who love You. I thank you and praise you for the gift You have given us in Padre Pio. Lord, Your compassion and love help us to remain faithful to our Baptismal promises, deliver us from evil, and strengthen our love for You. As we journey each day this week with Padre Pio, our Spiritual Father and Guide, help us to praise Your Name in all that we do. As Spiritual Children of Padre Pio may we live each day in prayer, sacrifice and service to all. We praise You and give glory to the You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as in the beginning, now, and forever. Amen.

### ***Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas (Adapted to Padre Pio and every day of the week)***

#### ***Monday***

Almighty ever-living God, I am privileged and blessed to approach you in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, especially in His Divine Presence in the Eucharist. I thank you for giving me Padre Pio as Spiritual Guide and living image of your Suffering Son. May his prayers keep me always faithful and lead me close to You. Amen.

#### ***Tuesday***

Eternal Father, I come as one sick to the doctor of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the radiance of eternal light, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Padre Pio offered many the opportunity of experiencing your healing grace. Grant that I may always seek and work for that spiritual wholeness that comes from You and You alone.

#### ***Wednesday***

Lord Jesus, You are King of kings and Lord of lords. With humble reverence, with purity of faith, with repentance and love, and the determination that will help to bring me to salvation I place myself in your presence. Padre Pio urged us to seek You always in all things. Grant that your Servant Pio may be the sure guide that leads me to You and through You to the Father.

#### ***Thursday***

Lord Jesus, with reverence, gratitude, and adoration, I recognize your loving presence in my life and its power to transform me. Padre Pio sought that transformation every moment of his life through his intimate relationship with You. Help me to live a life of active prayer that allows me to be in Your presence wherever I am and whatever I do.

## **The Universal Prayer**

#### ***Friday***

Holy Spirit of the Father and the Son, I acknowledge our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary, as my Lord and Savior, and know that in You and through Him I am numbered among the beloved children of the Eternal Father. Padre Pio desired that we live as sisters and brothers, children of the same Father. May I always allow your love to shine through in my life for all.

#### ***Saturday***

Holy Spirit, on my earthly pilgrimage, I receive the precious Body and Blood of my Savior Jesus Christ under the mysterious veil of the Eucharistic Sacrament. Padre Pio celebrated with abandonment to your presence and was transported to the heights of intimacy with God. May I one day see You, my God, face to face in glory. You live and reign for never and ever. Amen.

### ***Concluding Prayer (everyday)***

#### ***Holy Virgin Mary,***

Mother of God and my Mother.

#### ***Daughter of the Eternal Father,***

pray that we recognize our unity as children of the One Father.

#### ***Mother of the Only-Begotten Son,***

pray that we accept each other  
as sisters and brothers in the same Jesus.

#### ***Spouse of the Life-Giving Holy Spirit,***

pray that we be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, leading  
us to the fullness of life.

#### ***Mary, Virgin Made Church,***

Mother of the Mystical Body of Christ,

First Tabernacle, First Monstrance,

be with us in life's journey,

and help us see and follow Jesus.

## Prayer for Government

Composed in 1791 by Archbishop John Carroll

Lord, I believe in you: increase my faith. I trust in you: strengthen my trust. I love you: let me love you more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow.

I worship you as my first beginning, I long for you as my last end, I praise you as my constant helper, and call on you as my loving protector.

Guide me by your wisdom, correct me with your justice, comfort me with your mercy, protect me with your power.

I offer you, Lord, my thoughts: to be fixed on you; my words: to have you for their theme; my actions: to reflect my love for you; my sufferings: to be endured for your greater glory.

I want to do what you ask of me: in the way you ask, for as long as you ask, because you ask it.

Lord, enlighten my understanding, strengthen my will, purify my heart, and make me holy.

Help me to repent of my past sins and to resist temptation in the future. Help me to rise above my human weaknesses and to grow stronger as a Christian.

Let me love you, my Lord and my God, and see myself as I really am: a pilgrim in this world, a Christian called to respect and love all whose lives I touch, those in authority over me or those under my authority, my friends and my enemies.

Help me conquer anger with gentleness, greed by generosity, apathy by fervor. Help me to forget myself and reach out towards others.

Make me prudent in planning, courageous in taking risks. Make me patient in suffering, unassuming in prosperity.

Keep me, Lord, attentive at prayer, temperate in food and drink, diligent in my work, firm in my good intentions.

Let my conscience be clear, my conduct without fault, my speech blameless, my life well-ordered.

Put me on guard against my human weaknesses. Let me cherish your love for me, keep your law, and come at last to your salvation.

Teach me to realize that this world is passing, that my true future is the happiness of heaven, that life on earth is short, and the life to come eternal.

Help me to prepare for death with a proper fear of judgment, but a greater trust in your goodness. Lead me safely through death to the endless joy of heaven. Amen.

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope N., the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, N., all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his/her administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he/she presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his/her excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives, and friends; *of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance* [italicized can be recited for a religious and his/her community, or for a specific parish community]. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.