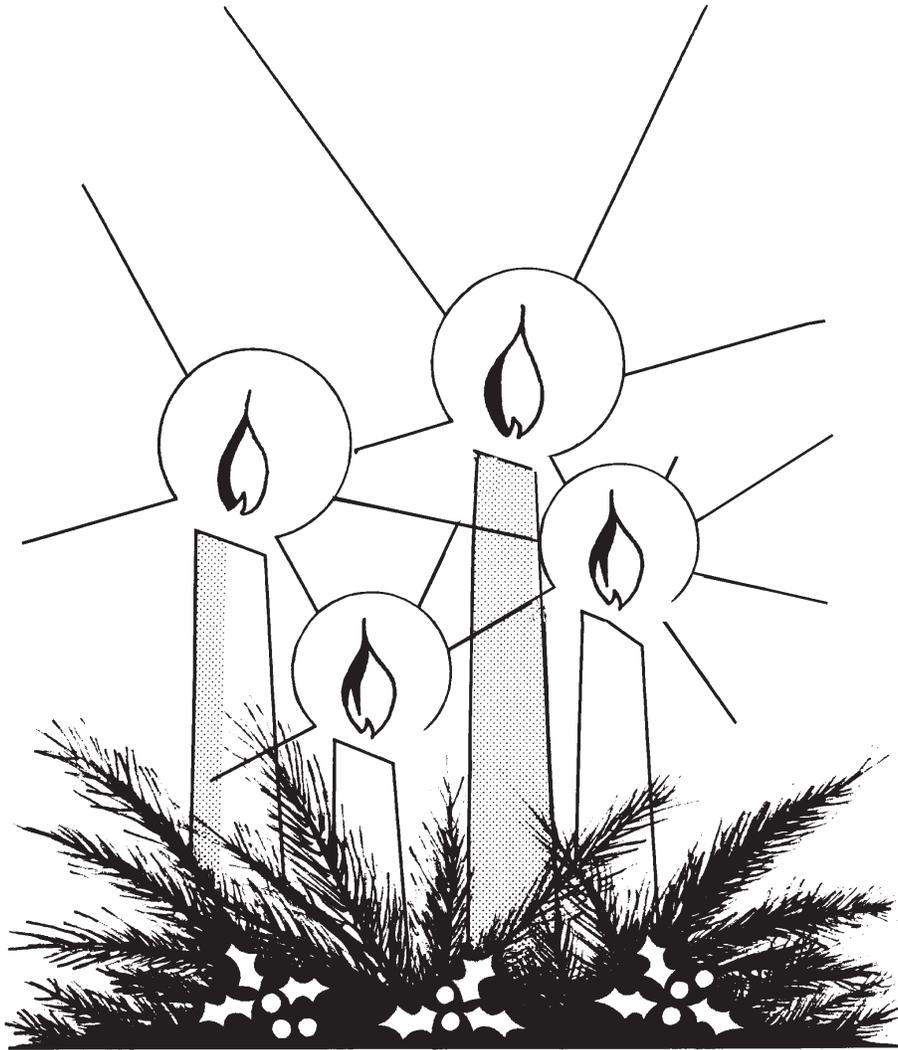


The Parish Community of St. Padre Pio

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PARISH TEAM:

Monsignor Gregory Ace, C.H.H. - Pastor
Deacon Gary Thibodeau - Deacon Assistant
Deacon Curtis Boone - Deacon Assistant



Advent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Feast Days This Week

Mon. Dec. 21 – **St. Peter Canisius**, priest, doctor of the Church
Wed. Dec. 23 – **St. John of Kanty**, priest
Thurs. Dec. 24 – **Christmas Eve** – The Nativity of the Lord
Fri. Dec. 25 – **Christmas Day** – The Nativity of the Lord
Sat. Dec. 26 – **St. Stephen**, the first martyr

Covid Lockdown

The entire Region of York is now in lockdown because of the increase in infections. This also has an impact on our churches. By law, we must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people. Sadly, due to these measures, by order of the Cardinal, Masses are temporarily cancelled until January 11th. This includes the whole of the Christmas season. Priests will continue to celebrate private Masses for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from the coronavirus. The church is open for private prayer during the normal times, but again, only 10 people are allowed in the church at any one time. The 10:30am Mass on Sunday mornings, Christmas morning and New Year's morning will be livestreamed on our parish website: www.stpp.church. We will continue to update you as the situation evolves. You can check on our website or Instagram. This is a very difficult sacrifice we are making for the greater good. We pray that all of us will remain safe and healthy during this time.

Times of Church Being Open

The church is open for private prayer 8:00am to 7:30pm on weekdays **except for the following days:**

Thurs. Dec. 24	6:00pm to 8:00pm
Fri. Dec. 25	11:30am to 1:00pm
Sat. Dec. 26	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Sun. Dec. 27	11:30am to 1:00pm
Thurs. Dec. 31	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Fri. Jan. 1	11:30am to 1:00pm
Sat. Jan. 2	5:00pm to 6:00pm
Sun. Jan. 3	11:30pm to 1:00pm

During the above times there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Only 10 people at a time are allowed in the church.

Baptism – We offer our congratulations to the parents of the children baptized last weekend:

Nina Michelle Estrada
Gabriel Alejandro Gutierrez
Mya Sofia Gutierrez
Nicholas Francesco Locurto

Thank you to all involved in the virtual Christmas Concert: Choir director, musicians, choir members and

all who assisted with the set up etc. We would also like to thank our generous donors for their support of the parish.

An Advent Service for the Home

A member of the family lights all four candles on the Advent wreath **Leader:** Rejoice the Lord is at hand.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

(A family member reads the suggested bible passage for the day)

Third Week of Advent:

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25
Monday	John 1:1-5
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Luke 1:39-45
Thursday	Luke 1:46-56
Friday	Luke 2:1-14
Saturday	Malachi 3:1-2

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who sent prophets to prepare the way for the coming of your Son, help us to hear their warning and their measure of joy which was given for all people; so that at the birthday of your Son, our redeemer, we may receive Him more joyfully into our hearts. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen

All: Our Father, who are in heaven...

Leader: May the Almighty and merciful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

All: Amen

Blessing of a Christmas Tree – Gather the family together to say a little Christmas prayer together.

"Dear Lord, the evergreen branches of this tree are symbols of your everlasting light; the sparkling lights and decorations, reflections of your presence; the gifts beneath it, reminders of your many gifts to us. Help us to keep the peace and joy of Christmas in our hearts all through the year." Amen

Blessing of a Nativity scene – Make it a family project to put up your Christmas Nativity Scene. When the Manger is in place, plan to have a candlelight crib procession. Gather in the room farthest from the crib and turn out all the lights in the house. Mom or dad or an older child can carry a lighted candle and light the way as you process to the crib. You might like to sing 'Silent Night'. A younger child can carry the infant Jesus and place Him in the manger. Then kneel at the crib and read the Gospel account of the first Christmas:

(Luke 2:15-20) and say this prayer:

"Dear Jesus, bless this crib that we have set up in memory of your birth. Help us to remember each time we look at it that you came down to us at Bethlehem because you loved us. Remind us too that the presents we give and receive are given and received in the memory of your love. Bless our family and our world with peace and joy." Amen

Now process to the kitchen and have a birthday party for Jesus! Use the leader's candle to light the candles on a birthday cake (on which is written, 'Happy Birthday Jesus.' Sing the birthday song together, blow out the candles, turn on the lights and have a party. Talk about the first Christmas and what you think it might have been like, how Mary and Joseph looked or felt. Discuss what you could do as a family to give Jesus a birthday present.

Year of St. Joseph

With the Apostolic Letter 'Patris Corde' (With a Father's Heart'), Pope Francis recalls the 150th Anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a 'Year of St. Joseph' from December 8th 2020 to December 8, 2021. He has also given this new prayer:

'Hail, Guardian of the redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil.' Amen.

Blessed Christmas

The season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. But it is not just an historical celebration. Jesus continues to be born in our hearts today. He is forever, Emmanuel, God-With-Us. And with all the angels, we sing out our joyful proclamation, "Joy to the World", the Lord is Come!

Parish Donations - We are happy to announce that you can now make your weekly envelope donation on the church website at www.stpp.church/home.html by using the *Parish Donations* blue donor box. Please indicate your envelope number on the form. A receipt will automatically be e-mailed back to you. For those watching the livestream of the mass at 10:30 am on Sundays, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day, please consider making your Sunday offering through this secure portal. Thank you for your generosity.

Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) – Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). It is a convenient, easy and automatic way

to support your parish. This allows the parish to meet its monthly obligations, such as hydro, heat, payroll etc. All donations are tax deductible and can be stopped at any time. Donations can be directed to your weekly or building fund offering, or both and will be deducted from your bank account on the 20th of the month. Thanks to all our parishioners who give so generously.

Nativity Scenes –St. Padre Pio presents its tenth Annual Display of Nativity Scenes, entitled 'Joy to the World.' Because of the pandemic, no new nativities will be displayed this year. Nativities from the previous nine years will be displayed again. They represent many different countries and cultures, artistic styles and materials. All of them present the different ways that artists have interpreted the birth of Jesus through the ages. Jesus was born for all people, so his birth is depicted reflecting the different artistic styles found in many cultures. The display, in the cabinets at the side entrance of the church, will continue until Sun. Jan. 10/21, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and the end of the Christmas season.

Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during Coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,
You always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of your children, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

Christmas Greetings –Deacon Curtis, Deacon Gary, the Office staff and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a most joyous Christmas! May the Lord's presence and peace be in your hearts as we celebrate His coming among us!

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