

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



Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Feast Days This Week

Mon. Dec. 28 – **The Holy Innocents**, martyrs
Tues. Dec. 29 – St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr
Thurs. Dec. 31 – **St. Sylvester**, pope
Fri. Jan. 1 – **The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**
Sat. Jan. 2 – **St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen**, bishops, doctors of the Church

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, 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. 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.

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.

A Blessing for Families

Blessed are you, eternal God, King of the Universe; You have called us in Jesus to be your beloved people, living pure and blameless lives in your sight. Bless our family who ask for your grace. Let your Spirit guide our words and deeds, so that our light may shine before all and lead all who know us to give you praise. May our home be filled with the Spirit of Love, with obedience and the strength of hope. Father all-holy, we praise your name, and ask this blessing through Christ Our Lord. Amen

January 1st has a triple celebration. It is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. It is the first day of the New Year. This is a time when we review the past year in both repentance and thanksgiving. We look forward in faith to beginning a new year in the service of God, the Church and the world; and we pray for peace in the word.

New Year's Day

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker and ruler of the universe; you have brought us to the beginning of another year in service. Remember your love for us in Jesus Christ and help us to live for your honour and glory for the salvation of all. Jesus Christ hear our prayer, for you are Lord forever."

World Day of Peace

"Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, bring peace into the world. You died to save us all; raise us to new life with you and help us to be peacemakers. Lord Jesus Christ hear our prayer, for you are Lord forever."

Prayer at the end of the year

"All praise and glory are yours, Father of heaven and earth, Lord of all ages; you brought us to the end of another year in service. We praise you for the gifts you have given us and for the ways we have been left to use them for your people and your world. Forgive us, Father, for our failures this

year; for neglecting your word; for failing to listen to your Spirit, for refusing to love you in others. As we begin a new year in your service, let your Son be our leader and your Spirit be our guide, your Word a lamp for our feet and strength to our hearts. Help us to work for your honour and glory and for the salvation of all your people. Praise and honour and glory are yours, Father through your Son, our Lord and brother, in the love and unity of your Holy Spirit, now and evermore." Amen

A Reminder that the 10:30am Mass on Sunday is available to watch on our website: www.stpp.church

Offertory Envelopes for 2021 are available for pick up in the Narthex. Envelopes are sorted alphabetically. Please do not touch all the boxes and sanitize your hands after picking up your box. PLEASE DO NOT REARRANGE THE BOXES.

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

A Prayer Amid an Epidemic

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us.

Best wishes – for the coming year! Deacon Gary, Deacon Curtis and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our very best wishes to everyone for a very happy New Year! Also, thank you so much for the kind Christmas greeting we received over the holidays.

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