



NOV/DEC
2018

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

THE ST. PADRE PIO RELIC TOUR REMINDS US THAT EVERY PERSON CAN BE HOLY

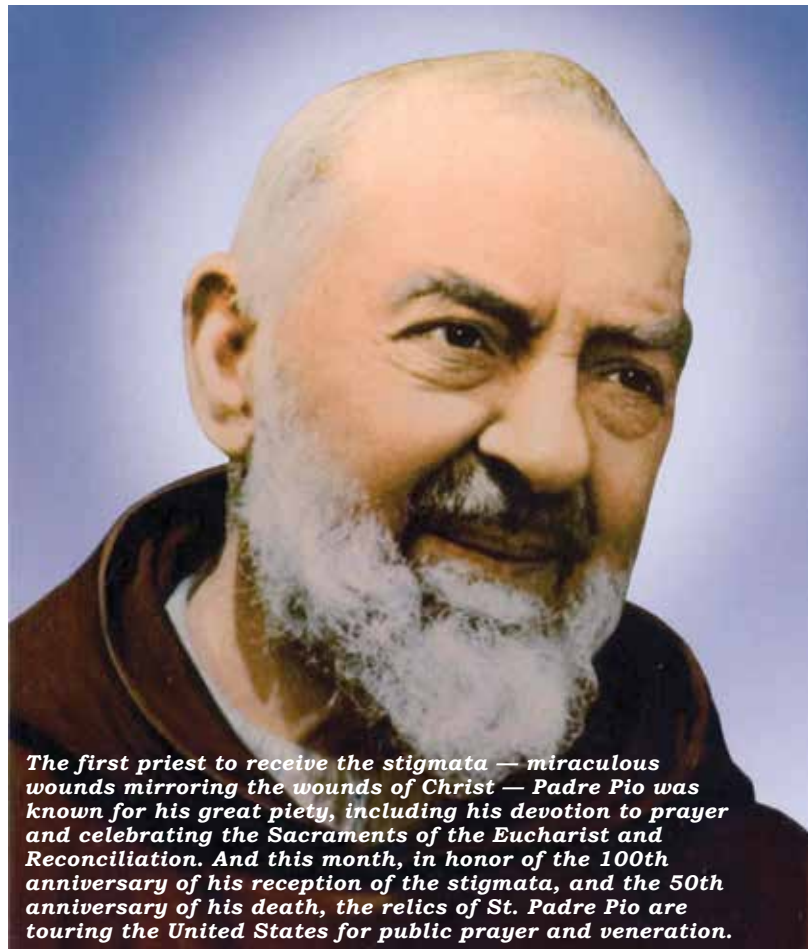
In a small Italian village in 1887, Francesco Forgione was born into a family of peasant farmers. Although his parents were devout Catholics who recognized his deep faith from an early age, they never could have imagined that their son would grow up to become one of the most well-known saints in the world — St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina.

The first priest to receive the stigmata — miraculous wounds mirroring the wounds of Christ — Padre Pio was known for his great piety, including his devotion to prayer and celebrating the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

This month, in honor of the 100th anniversary of his reception of the stigmata, and the 50th anniversary of his death, the relics of St. Padre Pio are touring the United States for public prayer and veneration.

A uniquely Catholic practice, the idea of viewing and honoring the relics — parts of a saint's body or belongings, which are kept for veneration — may initially seem unusual to some. However, relics are meant to serve as reminders of the saints as human beings who lived great holiness in the midst of their daily lives. The relics coming to Maui include St. Padre Pio's glove,

continued on page 2



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The St. Padre Pio Relic Tour continued from front cover

cotton gauze with his bloodstains, a lock of his hair, his mantle, and more.

“Relics are the closest way you can be in touch with the saint,” says parishioner Joy Ollero. “By looking at [St. Padre Pio’s] life and venerating the things that are part of his earthly life, in the relics, your faith will be strengthened. By being aware that this person devoted his life to being holy, we’re reminded it’s possible for every person to be holy, as well.”

Over the years, Joy’s knowledge and appreciation of St. Padre Pio’s example has grown and become an important part of her practice of the faith.

“I had known of him when I was younger — I went to Catholic school and I learned about him,” Joy says. “But when I was sick, in 2009, there were a lot of events in our family that made me look at all the saints. I read about St. Pio’s life more and I learned of his devotion and his sacrifices and hardships.”

St. Padre Pio’s example of offering his prayers and sufferings for the conversion of others became an inspiration to Joy.

“Whenever I have suffering, I look at his suffering and realize mine is not even comparable,”

Joy says. “I cannot endure what he endured, but my small suffering throughout my life might help the conversion of people I am praying for and the cleansing of my soul and my family. I’m praying that maybe my little sacrifices, like Padre Pio’s, will work for their conversions.”

Joy hopes that all parishioners will take advantage of this opportunity to come and view St. Padre Pio’s relics and ask for his intercession.

“We can pray directly to God, but these saints have lived a life of holiness and they’re already there, glorifying God and they can pray for us,” Joy says.

“This doesn’t happen every day,” she adds, regarding the relic tour. “These relics are coming to Maui — you don’t have to travel to Europe where the relics are or where St. Padre Pio’s body is. They’re coming here — take advantage of the opportunity!”

Joy shares just how excited she is for this unique opportunity.

“I want to share it with every person,” she says. “I want everyone to have the blessing you will get... I don’t want anybody missing it.”

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If you would like more information about the St. Padre Pio relic tour coming to Maui, please visit www.saintpiofoundation.org. The tour will come to Holy Rosary Church in Paia, 954 Baldwin Ave., Paia, Hawaii, 96779. The viewing of the relics will be available Thursday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. For information about the public veneration, please call 808-585-3342 or email ealmuena@rcchawaii.org. A Mass in honor of St. Padre Pio will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 8, at Holy Rosary.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

November:

A Time of Faithful Celebration and Sharing in Thanks

Dear Parishioners,

As I look over the calendar for November, my mind is filled with thoughts of thanksgiving. These aren't just thoughts about Thanksgiving Day, although I look towards it with happy anticipation — more than that, they are thoughts filled with a variety of reasons for why we should be thankful.

The month begins with a great celebration that should be a day of thanksgiving for all of us — All Saints' Day. This is a great feast celebrating the great company of Christians now in heaven — a company we shall eventually join, whether or not we're formally canonized, if we remain faithful to Christ.

And the communion of saints — the sharing of spiritual goods by those in heaven to us who are still in our pilgrimage — is a great cause for thanksgiving. We read the lives of the saints to be encouraged and inspired by their examples. Plus, we are strengthened by their fellowship in the Body of Christ, and we are aided by their prayers.

And then, the very next day, we celebrate All Souls' Day. Although

this day commemorates all the faithful departed who are being purified in Purgatory, it is natural for us to concentrate on the members of our own family and our friends who have died. While we pray for them, that they may soon experience the joys of heaven, at the same time we also are thankful for the love they gave us and for the faith they passed on to us.

Then, later in the month comes Thanksgiving Day, the national holiday celebrating all the things for which we are thankful. The fact that it comes toward the end of autumn reminds us that it was originally a harvest festival. For Christians today, it's a wholesome reminder that we should thank God for everything we receive, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Why not participate in the Church's Great Thanksgiving, the Holy Eucharist, on Thanksgiving Day? It's the ultimate way to give thanks.

A reminder — while much of our attention this month may be drawn to the often contentious goings-on in our country,



we need to remember that God is in charge of the universe, even though He has given us free will. If we trust in His loving care, demonstrated by returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us, we can withstand the troubles of life. It's a good principle to follow in this month of thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Roland Bunda

Fr. Roland Bunda, S.M.

BRINGING FAMILIES AND IN PRAYER THIS

Throughout our everyday lives, we busily prepare for holiday gatherings, outings with family and friends, and even for sporting events. So, naturally, it should follow suit that we prepare for the important events of our spiritual lives, too. Here at St. Anthony, we offer some exciting opportunities during Advent to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

As a parish community, we have had a fun and busy season, with events including our St. Anthony Parish Fair, our annual Healing Mass, and children's Halloween celebrations in October. In November, we celebrate All Saints' Day, and celebrate our Luminary Mass on All Souls' Day to commemorate our deceased loved ones.

In December, we are excited to bring parishioners and families together in prayer as we get ready for the Christmas season.

"One of the goals of our five-year pastoral plan is to focus on marriage and family life," says Fr. Roland Bunda. "The family has the first responsibility in promoting faith in the lives of their children. Here at St. Anthony, we are trying to stress the role that parents have in faith formation, and we want to bring these families out to pray together before Christmas."

On Thursday, Dec. 13, we will hold our Advent Penance Service at 6 p.m. In addition to a family event, this is also a greater community event, as many local priests from other parishes



PARISHIONERS TOGETHER

ADVENT SEASON

will come to hear confessions as well. Then, on Saturday, Dec. 15, we will begin our Simbang Gabi novena — nine days of evening Masses leading up to Christmas.

Simbang Gabi, a Filipino tradition which translates to “night Mass,” will be a slight variation on the Misa de Gallo novena of Masses the parish has done in the past. Misa de Gallo, which translates to “Mass of the rooster,” typically takes place in the early morning.

“Both Simbang Gabi and Misa de Gallo honor our Blessed Mother in the days leading up to the birth of Jesus,” Fr. Roland says. “Because of our pastoral plan, this year we decided to do an evening Mass instead of an early morning Mass, to make it easier for families to attend together. This will be a great way for families to pray together for nine days before Christmas.”

From Dec. 15 to Dec. 23, the parish will come together each day for an evening Mass. On the Saturdays and Sundays of the novena, the Simbang Gabi Masses will coincide with the regular 5 p.m. vigil and Sunday Masses. From Monday, Dec. 17 to Friday, Dec. 21, the Masses will be held at 6 p.m.

In addition to bringing families together, Simbang Gabi will also bring the community together. As in the Advent Penance Service, priests from other local parishes will preside at several of the Simbang Gabi Masses. It will also be an opportunity for parishioners who attend different weekend Mass times to worship together, and get to know each other during the fellowship opportunities following the Masses.

“We have five weekend Masses, so people usually attend one Mass time and don’t usually see people who attend other Masses,” Fr. Roland says. “But with Simbang Gabi, they will be able to come and participate together. We also invite

other choirs from Maui parishes to sing for the Masses, so we will have them participate in addition to our four main choirs.

“When we did Misa de Gallo, we had a big breakfast after the Mass,” he adds. “Now we will be doing a potluck dinner after the Masses, where the families will be able to socialize. Parishioners will see each other, get to know each other and celebrate together.”

*“One of the **goals** of our five-year pastoral plan is to **focus on marriage and family life**. The family has the **first responsibility** in promoting **faith** in the lives of their **children**. Here at St. Anthony, we are trying to stress the role that **parents** have in **faith formation**, and we want to bring these families out to **pray together before Christmas**.”*

— Fr. Roland Bunda, pastor

Please join us for these special activities this Advent! If you’d like to get involved and help out, please contact the parish office at 808-244-4148.

LIVING OUT *Gratitude* AND *Stewardship* DURING THANKSGIVING AND BEYOND

Every November, as the holiday season fast approaches, we are filled with a deep sense of sentimentality and gratefulness for all the goodness of the past year. At the same time, we encounter many wonderful ways to give — to cheerfully share our own gifts — during this time of Thanksgiving.

It is with this spirit of gratitude that we can truly live out the stewardship way of life. This Thanksgiving, there are plenty of opportunities to do this in a direct way. Is there a new neighbor you haven't met, or someone who might be spending the holiday alone? Invite them over for Thanksgiving dinner. Perhaps you may volunteer at a soup kitchen, or you might donate a Thanksgiving meal to a family in need who wouldn't have one otherwise.

If you go shopping on Black Friday, make it a point the next day to donate old clothes that you or your family members no longer need. And as the winter draws closer, you might participate in — or even organize — a drive to collect essential items for those in need, and then gather a small group to go out into the community to give those items to homeless

shelters and people in need during the winter months. There are countless such opportunities to live in gratitude and thanksgiving — opportunities that go beyond just having a meal with family and friends on the fourth Thursday of November.

Of course, we must remember that this spirit of thanksgiving does not end after Thanksgiving, nor does it end following Advent and Christmas. We must always consider how to give, even as the sentimental glow of the holiday season fades after the New Year. In January, if there is space at your table, fill it. In February, if there is abundance in your closet, give away from that abundance. In March, if there are volunteers needed at the soup kitchen, rally a team and give of your time. We need a renewed spirit of stewardship and thanksgiving that lasts the whole year so that our giving becomes habitual, and not just seasonal.

This Thanksgiving, ask the Holy Spirit where He is calling you to give. And may the joy of the Thanksgiving season flow into our lives as good stewards, every day and throughout the entire year.

BIBLE STUDIES

Keeping Parishioners Grounded in Faith

For God, there is no time — and this becomes clear to us when we read the Word of God. By studying the Bible, we are able to apply the stories and lessons of yesterday to our lives, today.

“I feel personally that it’s through the Word of God that we find meaning for our lives, and direction,” says Martha Haleakala, who leads Bible studies at the parish along with Br. Fred Silbereis. “In this day and age, things are often the opposite of what our faith teaches and what we were raised to believe. You need to be rock solid in your faith to know that you are on the right path, even if the world is not. The truth is in God.”

Since 2010, our parish has offered Bible studies for adult parishioners of all ages using Ascension Press’s Bible study programs. Recently, we started a second study that repeats some studies for parishioners who didn’t get the chance to join in when they were first offered. Last month, we started two new programs — a 20-week study on the Acts of the Apostles, led by Br. Fred, and an

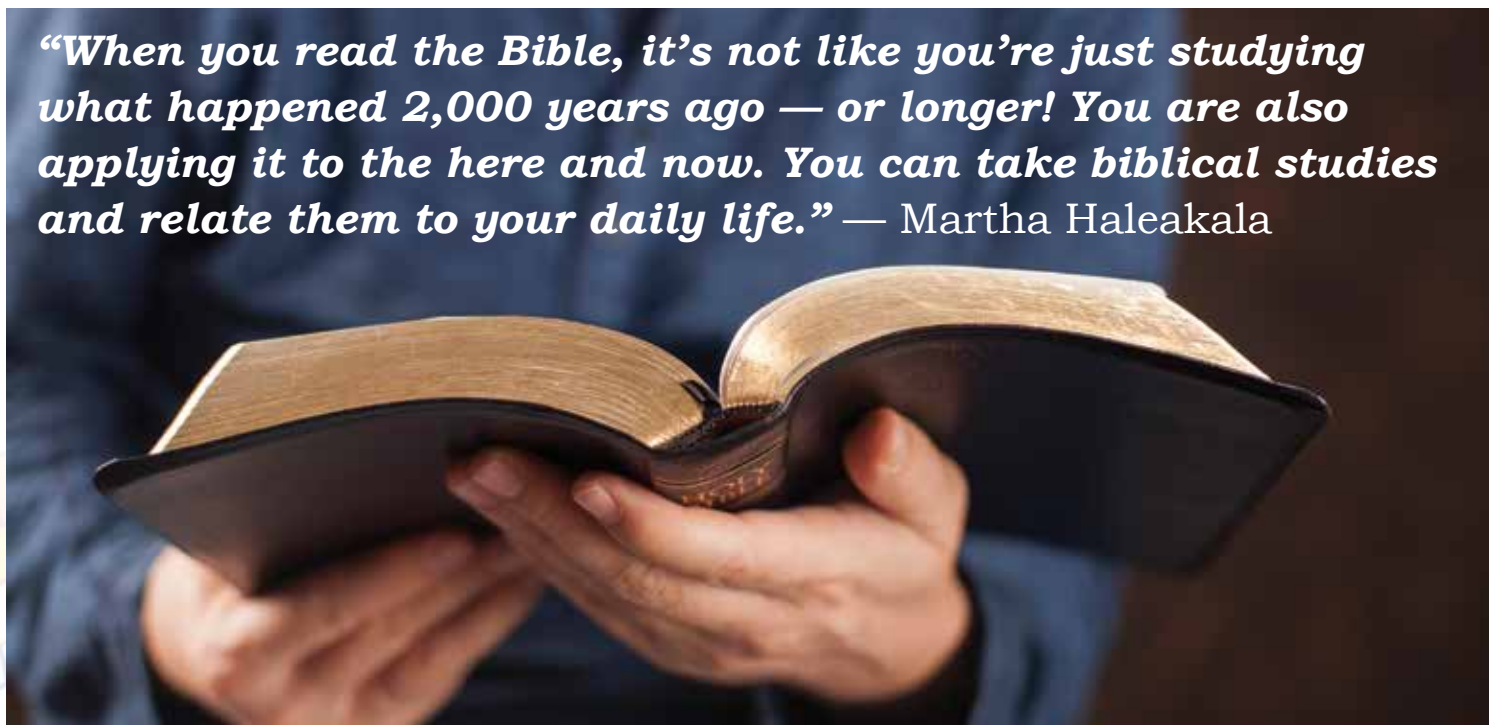
eight-week study on the Book of Wisdom, led by Martha. The Acts study is held on Wednesdays, and parishioners can attend either the 8:30 a.m. session or the 6 p.m. session depending on their availability. The Wisdom study is held on Tuesdays, with the same morning and evenings options available. After the conclusion of the Wisdom study in December, the Tuesday group will begin a new eight-week study for the spring.

Each study follows a similar format, with an assigned Scripture reading, a journal or workbook, and a video series. At meetings, the group goes over and discusses the journal prompts or workbook questions, and watches the relevant video together. Any adult above high school age is welcome to join the study. Martha has enjoyed the mix of ages over the years.

“We really love having the younger people in our group,” she says. “It’s very important to me that the generations share with each other and walk the walk together. They have a lot to offer

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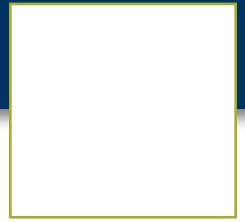
“When you read the Bible, it’s not like you’re just studying what happened 2,000 years ago — or longer! You are also applying it to the here and now. You can take biblical studies and relate them to your daily life.” — Martha Haleakala



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Bible Studies continued from page 7

us, and we have a lot to offer them, and that's a very good thing."

The Bible is also relevant to all different ages, even in today's world.

"When you read the Bible, it's not like you're just studying what happened 2,000 years ago — or longer!" Martha says. "You are also applying it to the here and now. You can take biblical studies and relate them to your daily life.

"These programs have definitely helped us to get more stability in this day and age," she adds.

"When I'm at church or at Bible study, I'm fine, but when I'm at work or out in the world, it's a lot! Our faith is a safe haven, but we also need to take it out into our daily life and be brave. The answers are in the Word of God."

Martha recalls that, before she started the program, the only readings she really read were at Mass on Sunday.

"When I started studying the Bible, I found it to be really rewarding for my prayer life and faith," she says. "We would love to have more people join us!"

Though the Acts of the Apostles and the Wisdom Bible studies started last month, anyone is welcome to join the program at any time. For more information, please contact Martha Haleakala at 808-269-5208 or the parish office at 808-244-4148.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

CHURCH CENTER :: **Saturday** 5:00 p.m. | **Sunday** 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

SAINT DAMIEN CHAPEL :: **Monday - Friday** 6:30 a.m. | **Saturday** 7:00 a.m.