

Padre Pio Relics

Following the historic tour of the United States in 2017, relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina – better known as Padre Pio – will resume touring several Archdioceses and Dioceses in the United States of America.

The relics will be at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (1007 Superior Ave) of the Diocese of Cleveland, from 1:30pm until 5:30pm on Sunday, March 4 and 6:00am until 5:00pm on Monday, March 5.

The relics of Saint Pio available for public veneration will be the following:



Cotton Gauze with Blood Stains



Crusts of the St Pio's Wounds



St. Pio's Glove



St. Pio's Handkerchief



Lock of St. Pio's Hair



St. Pio's Mantel

Who was Padre Pio?

The Saint Pio Foundation, which is sponsoring the tour on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his passing, will sell books and items related to Padre Pio in the entryway of the cathedral.

St. Pio was born on May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy, and baptized Francesco Forgione. He first expressed his desire for priesthood at age 10. In order to pay for the preparatory education, his father, Grazio Forgione, emigrated to the United States in 1899 and he worked here for several years.

The future saint entered the Capuchin order at age 15, taking the name Pio. He was ordained a priest in 1910 at the age of 23. During his lifetime, Padre Pio was known as a mystic with miraculous powers of healing and knowledge, who bore the stigmata for fifty years.

Stigmata is the term the Catholic Church uses to speak about the wounds an individual receives that correspond to the crucifixion wounds of Jesus Christ. They can appear on the forehead, hands, wrists and feet.

Padre Pio's stigmata emerged during World War I, after Pope Benedict XV asked Christians to pray for an end to the conflict. Padre Pio had a vision in which Christ pierced his side. A few weeks later, on Sept. 20, 1918, Jesus again appeared to him, and he received the full stigmata. It remained with him until his death on Sept. 23, 1968. Pope John Paul II canonized him St. Pio of Pietrelcina in 2002. This year marks the 50th anniversary of St. Pio's death.

For more information about St. Pio:

- [Bio from Vatican website](#)
- [Bio from Saint Pio Foundation](#)

SPONSORED BY THE SAINT  **PIO**
FOUNDATION

Veneration Schedule

Sunday, March 4

Veneration from 1:30pm until 5:30pm

*The cathedral has Mass at 5:30pm

Monday, March 5

6am until 7:15am

Veneration of St. Pio's Relics

7:15am Mass

Veneration paused during Mass

8am until 12pm

Veneration of St. Pio's Relics

12pm

Veneration paused for

Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop emeritus Roger Gries, OSB

1pm-5pm

Veneration of St. Pio's Relics

Please note that the line queue to venerate St. Pio's relics will be closed 30 minutes before each days' closing time.



About relics

In the Catholic Church, relics are physical objects associated with a saint or candidate for sainthood – part of the person's body or something with which he or she was in contact. Relics are not worshiped, but treated with religious respect. Touching or praying in the presence of such an object helps a faithful individual focus on the saint's life and virtues, so that through the saint's prayer or intercession before God, the individual will be drawn closer to God.

What is a saint?

Many popular devotional practices involve veneration of the saints. The saints have a special place in the Body of Christ, which includes both the living and the dead. Through Christ we on earth remain in communion both with the saints in heaven and with the dead who are still in Purgatory. We can pray for those in Purgatory and ask the saints to pray for us. Through their prayers of intercession, the saints in heaven play an integral role in the life of the Church on earth. "For after they have been received into their heavenly home and are present to the Lord, through Him and with Him and in Him they do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, showing forth the merits which they won on earth through the one Mediator between God and man." The saints, the members of the Church who have arrived at perfect union with Christ, join their wills to the will of God in praying for those in the Church who are still on their pilgrimage of faith.