

Padre Pio Prayer Anthology

Our first parish prayer anthology will include many types of prayers. We will begin our collection with prayers that you can use to develop a relationship with God that is more personal and intimate.

Prayer #43:

Focus Point: As the season of Lent will now be shortly upon us, we might be asking ourselves how to make *this* Lent more meaningful to our hearts, more beneficial to our souls, and more impactful on our lifestyle. We have all heard the quote from scripture, “**Repent** and be saved”. That might be a good place to start. Examine your life, recognizing your faults and selfish choices. Make an *active* decision to help meet the needs of others. **Remember** to do what Jesus would do, as new opportunities to be helpful arise. **Reflect** upon the times in your own life when you needed help and be thankful that God has always been your steadfast source of help and comfort. And most importantly, **recognize** the magnitude of the choice that Jesus made by fulfilling His Father’s will. His agony and death on the cross provided each of us with the *opportunity* to receive the gift of eternal life in heaven. May we be worthy of this gift by the merit of the way we live our lives. As Fr. Joy explains it, “We should do the best we can in our daily lives to help those less fortunate. Pray hard that we will be inspired by the Lord to achieve this for our world!”

Prayer to Repent, Remember, Reflect and Recognize

Dear Lord, help me to set aside time to spend with You this Lent. As I look back at the weak moments in my life, help me to **repent** and be sorry that I did not make choices that were more pleasing to You. Help me to **remember** that You never stopped loving me during those times, but instead, inspired me to try to do better. Each day, may the example that Jesus set in His sacrifices be forefront in my mind, giving me the courage to make the right choice, as difficult as that might be. Help me to gain strength with each good decision that I make and to **reflect** upon the joy and peace that fills my heart each time I act with kindness and generosity toward others. Help me to **recognize** the impact of Your love for me, the sacrifice that You made for my salvation, and Your willingness to always be at my side, even when I am undeserving. Help me to love You more and more each day! Amen.

Closing thoughts: Tell Jesus what is in your heart. Thank Him for your gifts and most of all, thank Him for loving you with His most sacred heart!