

## Relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina to visit the Archdiocese of Baltimore



*"The relics of Padre Pio"* SAINT PIO FOUNDATION

Saint Pio's crusts of the wounds; Cotton-gauze with Saint Pio's blood stains; A lock of Saint Pio's hair; Saint Pio's mantle; Saint Pio's handkerchief soaked with his sweat hours before he died;

A mass in honor of Saint Pio will be celebrated at 6:15 p.m. on Friday, June 14, 2019, by The Most Reverend William Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore. The Saint Pio Foundation, which is sponsoring the tour, will provide books and items related to Padre Pio in the entryway of the Church.

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 in the United States on 1899, where he worked 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. 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.

Relics of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina – better known as Padre Pio – will resume touring several Archdioceses and Dioceses in the United States of America from April 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> (first part), and from September 15<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (second part). The relics will also be touring in Dominican Republic and Canada. The 2019 tour follows the last two years sensational and headline-making tours that attracted an estimated of more than 500,000 faithfuls. In addition, some of the most important secular media covered this event, including FOX NEWS, NBC, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times, to mention just a few.

The relics will be visiting the Basilica of Assumption of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, on Friday, June 14, 2019 (from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.), and on Saturday, June 15, 2019 (from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

The relics of Saint Pio available for public veneration will be the following (here on the picture): Saint Pio's glove;

His 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 September 20, 1918, Jesus again appeared to him, and he received the full stigmata. It remained with him until his death on September 23, 1968.

Pope John Paul II canonized him in 2002.

## **ABOUT THE 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.

## **ABOUT THE SAINT PIO FOUNDATION**

The Saint Pio Foundation is a premier national charitable organization that promotes awareness of Saint Pio and his mission by working with institutions and individuals who share the same vision to serve “those in need of relief of suffering.” Funds raised by the Saint Pio Foundation are used to provide grants to American Catholic healthcare, educational, social, religious, and cultural partner organizations. More information about Saint Pio Foundation can be found at <http://www.saintpiofoundation.org>.