



Gaudete!

Spring 2024

The Newsletter of Padre Pio Academy, Lakewood OH

Gaudete! Rejoice! He is Risen!

We have spent the past 40 days immersed in reflection, fasting, and prayer, as we prepare our hearts for the Resurrection of Christ.

This period of sacrifice is vitally important, for as Fulton Sheen wrote, "Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday." This is undeniably true; it was only through the ugliness of the crucifixion that the gates of Heaven were opened for all. Similarly, it is through sacrifice (and God's love) that we can empty our hearts of sin and become worthy of Heaven.

And this is the story of Catholicism: that despite our sin and our shortcomings, God comes to our rescue and blesses us with His beauty and goodness over and over again.

The origin of our academy follows a similar path of struggle and sacrifice. When the idea of Padre Pio Academy was conceived twenty years ago, there were no other schools in the area that focused on teaching our children timeless truths and Catholic tradition in an atmosphere of joy and wonder - in the manner that had been successfully practiced throughout history. We had to start from nothing, dust off some classics, consult the wisdom of our ancestors, trust our Lord, and make some mistakes along the way. And through the grace of God, Padre Pio Academy has thrived: our humble academy is a place that understands children are innocent and precious, that their innocence is beautiful, that teaches them to love God, and to think logically and creatively.

Like St. Teresa of Calcutta, we truly believe that "The child is the beauty of God present in the world, that greatest gift to a family." And we are so grateful for every moment that we are able to share with students and families.

Thank you to the parents who trust us with your precious children, and thank you to our many friends who have so selflessly supported our mission and made it possible. We are so blessed to be celebrating our twentieth school year, and look forward to many more. All glory to God!

Happy Easter! Pax Christi!

"The most beautiful act of faith is the one made in darkness, in sacrifice, and with extreme effort."

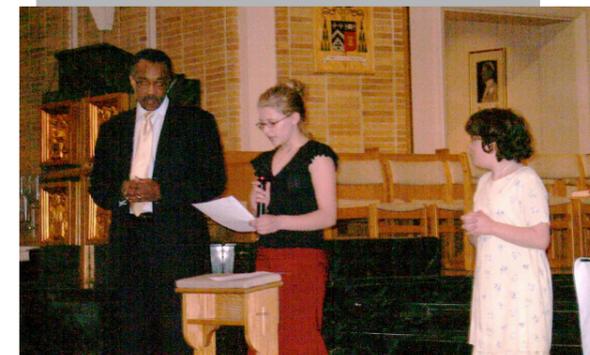
- St. Pio

Sign up for our quarterly digital newsletter at pioacademy.org

Celebrating 20 Years of Classical Catholic Education



The first official photo of the school from October 2003.



The first graduating class: Grace Waters and Kate Schnieder. (Grace is now a proud PPA Parent.)



One of the many PPA trips to Gettysburg, PA.

**"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS;
AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE!"
(PHIL 4:4)**

- Two Decades and Counting
- Excellence in Writing
- Growing in Holiness

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Gaudete!



Padre Pio Academy
12920 Madison Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

TURN YOUR TAX DOLLARS INTO TUITION ASSISTANCE!

You still have time to make a donation to receive a tax credit on your 2023 State of Ohio tax return.

You have until **April 15, 2024**, to make a donation to the Ohio Scholarship Fund (DBA Every Child Every Family - designate Padre Pio Academy as the beneficiary). These funds will help us award need-based scholarships to Padre Pio students.

1. **Estimate your tax liability.** (Your liability is shown on Line 8c of Form IT 1040).
2. **Make your contribution** to the Ohio Scholarship Fund (designate Padre Pio Academy as the beneficiary).
3. **Complete your State of Ohio income tax return** and include your contribution receipt to claim the tax credit.

Receive a dollar-for-dollar refund up to \$750 for an individual or up to \$1,500 for married couples!



Visit pioacademy.org/sgo to learn more, or contact Katie Butler at kbutler@pioacademy.org



Alumni News

Padre Pio Academy is thrilled to welcome back two alumni!



Michael Merimee Class of 2009

Coach Merimee has returned to teach physical education and facilitate competition for the students. He's also using his web design skills to help update our website. Michael and his wife, Nicole, are expecting their second child this summer.

Mary Therese Coyne Class of 2015

Mary Therese has returned home to her alma mater to assist with our theater program, mathematics tutoring, and to help in the classrooms. Mary Therese is a graduand of Christendom College and her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy will be conferred this May.





Growing in Holiness

Perry Smith,
Latin & Religion Teacher

The Church so cherishes the science of growing in holiness that it's a field in which one can receive a doctorate. Regrettably, spiritual theology does not receive the same excitement as systematic, biblical, or moral theology. Yet, it is one of the most important sciences: making intelligible how to fulfill the very purpose of our life. Daily meditation is necessary to reach the heights of holiness that all are called to attain, as is repeatedly proclaimed by the great spiritual theologians. Thus, this Lent, Padre Pio Academy has started school-wide meditations to help bestow students with this often neglected form of prayer. When most people hear meditation, they think of the Buddhist clearing his mind so it is empty. Catholic meditation is the opposite, only seeking to empty the mind to fill it with God. The great mystics refer to mediation as a conversation with Christ. Like all conversations, they increase in depth and fervor as the relationship is strengthened. If you do not speak with God daily, like any friendship, it will slowly decay. Thus, instilling our students with this tool is extremely important in developing their spiritual life and holds a special place at our Academy.



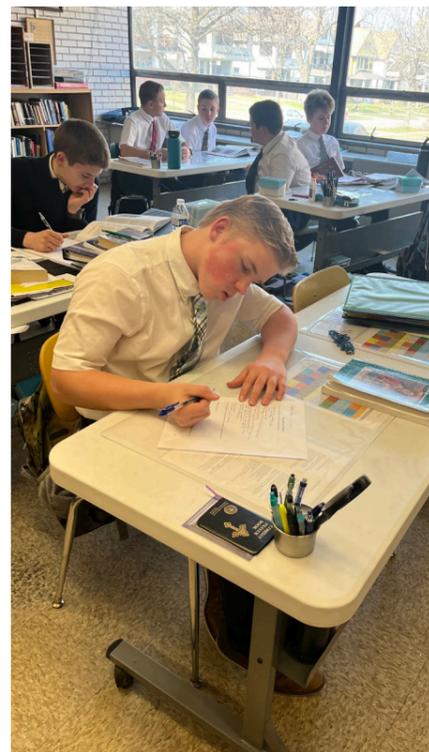
Excellence in Writing

Christine Joyce,
Dean of Curriculum

At Padre Pio Academy, even the most reluctant writers learn to write well!

Our **Teaching Writing with Structure and Style** program, first introduced in 2022, has guided our students into becoming skillful, confident writers. Published by the **Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW)**, the program lays the groundwork for excellent writing by utilizing structural models, textual analysis, and stylistic techniques.

Mirroring what Benjamin Franklin called a 'method in the arrangement of thoughts,' the IEW approach first teaches through imitation, then by emphasizing the canons of classical rhetoric: invention, arrangement, elocution, memory, and delivery. In the process, students at Padre Pio Academy are learning how to think clearly and to write effectively, thereby preparing them for a lifetime of successful communication.



**"Through the study of books one seeks God;
by meditation one finds Him."**

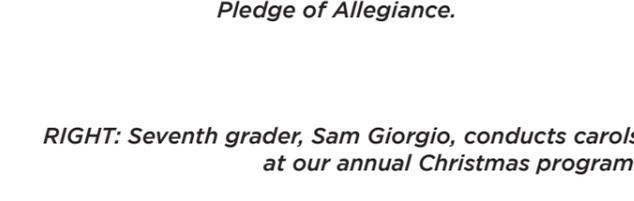
- St. Pio



Two new classrooms were built above the gym to accommodate our growing student body.



ABOVE: Students begin their days with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.



RIGHT: Seventh grader, Sam Giorgio, conducts carols at our annual Christmas program.



Students perform in the sold-out spring musical, "Singin' in the Rain Jr."



Alumni joined PPA high school students for our annual Homecoming party.