

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus is a friend to sinners, but never a friend to sin. This phrase is often repeated, and for very good reason, because Jesus never downplayed the deadly seriousness of sin. Still, sinners were drawn to Him and that tension is what makes the Lord so compelling. So how should we view sin? I have three basic suggestions:

1. Sin is Serious: We should always perceive sin as something deadly serious. Jesus understood the dangers of sin so acutely that he sacrificed his very life to hold back the consequences of sin. To ignore sin is to ignore the grave results of sin, not only in the next life, but in this life as well, for as St. Therese of Lisieux would sometimes pray in this way, *“My Lord and my God, punish me with a kiss.”*

2. Sin is a Sickness: We must see sin as a Pandora-virus loosed upon creation from the very beginning. Sin is a cancer of the soul, and obesity of the will, and a mental illness. Sin is caught, and it is taught. It is the result of heredity and the result of behavior. To the degree we see sin as sickness, we will see Jesus the Physician, and we will offer ourselves to him for his heavenly remedy of hope.

3. Sin Is Foolishness and Vanity: Sin never satisfies; it only intensifies. Sin is like drinking salt water: those who drink will thirst again with a maddening thirst. Greed leads to idolatry, rage leads to violence, and sensuality leads to hopelessness. By contrast, a healthy relationship with the Creator means drinking deeply of God’s Spirit, which satisfies and transforms us into a source of fresh water for others who may be living in the state of mortal sin.

This is why we should never agree with those who try to convince us that we should love the sinner and ignore the sin, because ignoring sin is like saying, *“God loves you, and I really don’t care whether you are headed for heartbreak or destruction.”* But to be able to do so, first you must renounce the slavery of blinding illusion, refuse the blackmail of peer pressure, resist the glitter of false appearances, repudiate the domination of useless activities, and reject the dictatorship of hypocrisy, for as someone once said, *“Lent is a six-week inconvenience in an otherwise abundant year, during which we have to somehow please God with voluntary minor suffering, because the best often lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.”*

P.S. So perhaps it is true that we work out our salvation always on the edge of uncertainty, especially when we put up a fight with every fiber of our energy against sin. And we do need this, basically, daily fight to remain alive in the love of God on the cross so that we may truly embrace the meaning of this phrase:

*“Expectation has often brought me disappointment.
Disappointment has frequently brought me wisdom.
And acceptance of these two has always brought me fulfillment.”*

Fr. Slawek

MARCH 22, 2026

Pre-Authorized Giving Plan—Pre-Authorized Giving is a very simple procedure. When you participate in Pre-Authorized Giving, your offering will be withdrawn from your account on or about the 20th of the month. This amount will then be deposited to the Parish's account.

This amount will be receipted at the end of the year for tax purposes.

Application forms are on the table at the back of the church.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 24

9 a.m. + **Rest of the soul of** Ludwik Glowacz.

Wednesday, March 25

9 a.m. + **Rest of the soul of** Lourthamma Anthony req. by Paxsala Anthony.

Thursday, March 26

9 a.m.. + **Rest of the soul of** Janina Glowacz

Friday, March 27

9a.m. + **Rest of the soul of** Dan & Berty req. by the Noranho family.
+ **Rest of the soul for** all deceased who have served req. the Noranho family.
+ **Rest of the soul of** Philomena Dacruz req. by Beatrice & Derrick.
+ **Rest of the soul of** Mary Karen Garcia req. by Mercy Camantigue.

Saturday, March 28

4:30 p.m. **Intentions of** all Parishioner.

Sunday, March 29

9 a.m. **Palm Sunday.**

11 a.m. **Palm Sunday..**



HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH 2026 SUMMER CAMP

Registration forms are available from Claudia Marzo.

Forms with payment must be returned
no later than June 14 /15 to Claudia Marzo

**Maximum 60 children ages 4 – 13 years old
per camp week**

Summer Camp days – Week 1
June 28– July 3, (9 a.m. -3p.m.)

Cost
\$100 per child • \$175 with 1 sibling

Summer Camp days – Week 2
July 6– July 10 (9 a.m. -3p.m.)

Cost
\$100 per child • \$175 with 1 sibling

Summer Camp days – Week 3
July 13– July 17 (9 a.m.- 3 p.m.)

Cost
\$100 per child • \$175 with 1 sibling



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Holy Spirit Conference

Turning concern into action

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord” - (Psalm 33.5)
Let us spread this goodness by reaching out to those who depend on us for the basic and material needs. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul relies totally on the generosity of benefactors like YOU in their mission to help our neighbor-in-need get their basic needs.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE POOR BOX AFTER MASS**



COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Everyone welcome



Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday

9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Masses.

