

PENTECOST SUNDAY



“Father, Please Skip the Daily Homily.” This is the title of the following reflection written by a lay person:

The Code of Canon Law favours the daily homily by the phrase “strongly recommended,” given extra emphasis “especially during the time of Advent and Lent or on the occasion of some feast day or sorrowful event.” If I had the pope’s ear, I would have him change “strongly recommended” to simply “permissible.” While this wouldn’t deter a priest from giving a homily at daily Mass, it would allow him a clear conscience to omit doing so. And I think it would be good if many did. Allowing a priest to omit a homily would be good first for the sake of the priest. Imagine a stand-up comedian having to come up with fresh material every night. That, in a way, is the position of the priest—not that he is a stand-up comedian but that he feels obligated to come up with something every day. He hopes to touch the hearts of at least some of those in the pews. Moreover, he must also be careful that he doesn’t cross the doctrinal or pastoral line. If the reading is straightforward, he struggles for a “fresh take.” If the reading is obscure or problematic, some research and threshing out is required. These are no small demands on a man who already has many demands on his time.

A priest faced with these demands often falls into one of two traps: One, he “wings it” (or “goes with the Spirit”), with the result that the homily can be rambling and either rather milquetoast or inadvertently crosses a line. As a teacher, I know the perils of trying to be “relevant” on a daily basis. And this is exacerbated by the lectionary, with two readings and a psalm for each day. Many priests feel the need to tie these all together, which would be difficult for even the most erudite biblical scholar and gifted orator. He often ends up with a (lengthy) patchwork quilt that can leave you wondering just what the point was. If he wants to tie in the saint of the day, you can be in for a long ride.

We—and the priest—must also face the fact that not all priests are gifted homilists; nor should we expect them to be. That is not the nature of the Catholic priesthood, as distinguished from Protestant clergy. A priest, by definition, is one who offers a sacrifice—not necessarily one who preaches. A man is called to the priesthood to administer the sacraments, and, while this may shock some, homiletics is not a sacrament. While some orders (e.g., the Dominicans) are distinguished by being called to preach in addition to offering the sacrifice of the Mass, homiletics is not the *raison d’être* of the priesthood. I do know priests who give good daily homilies, but they are few. I think most priests would feel relieved at not having to face a crowd each morning with something special. Time spent preparing a daily homily could be given to preparing the required homily for Sunday and would also allow them to give their full attention to what is their purpose: to offer the sacrifice of the Mass. There is a problem in this area, and one reason for it is that too many Catholics think the Mass is about the preaching. Many leave the Church based on the comparison of the Protestant preacher and the Catholic priest because the distinction between the two has been blurred by the emphasis on preaching. While it is a wonderful and blessed thing to hear a good homily, we have to remember that the Mass is not a “Bible study.” As the saying goes, “God’s language is silence; the rest is translation.” Two or three minutes of stillness and silence after the Gospel would be a good thing. We don’t have enough of those two necessities in our lives, and Mass would be a good place to start. While some may say in favor of the daily homily that “something is better than nothing,” that isn’t the dilemma. You can get Scripture study outside of Mass. What you can’t get outside of Mass is the Eucharist.

Fr. Slawek

MAY 24, 2026

Attention All Parishioners.



Only animals that certified as a guide dog or a service dog are permitted in the Church. Their owners must carry proper certification on them.



All pets that do not fall under these guidelines are not permitted.

Please respect the Church and all Parishioners.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 26

9 a.m. Intentions of Neil Noranho req. by the Noranho family.

Wednesday, May 27

9 a.m. + Repose of the soul of Janina & Ludwik.

Thursday, May 28

9 a.m.. + Repose of the soul of Frank Ficar Jr. req. by the Ficar family.

Friday, May 29

9 a.m. Intentions of Sierra Popescu

Saturday, May 30

4:30 p.m. Intentions of all Parishioners

Sunday, May 31

9 a.m. + Repose of the soul of Remedios & Rodolfo Castillo.

11 a.m. + Repose of the soul of Francisco Sr. & Francisca Anchuelo req. by family.



Parish Summer Camp

from 9 am to 3 pm.

DEADLINE: All forms and payment must be handed to Claudia Marzo NO LATER THAN JUNE 14, 2026

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

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

Summer Camp days – Week 1 - June 28– July 3

Summer Camp days – Week 2 - July 6– July 10

Summer Camp days – Week 3 - July 13– July 17

Registration forms available from Claudia Marzo



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Fundraiser.



Holy Spirit Conference

Holy Spirit Church

BUNDLE UP– JUNE 6-7, 2026

WE ONLY ACCEPT – All Clothing, All Footwear, All Bedding any condition. Drapery/Towels. NEW TOYS ONLY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!



Holy Communion is available for home-bound registered parishioners at Holy Spirit Church. To receive the Eucharist in your home, contact the parish office and request a Home Visit Form and further information.



Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday

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



COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Everyone welcome

Let the Holy Spirit consume you and set you afire!