

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



PASTOR'S CORNER

What is the real meaning of Jesus's resurrection? Recently, I came across the following reflection, which can help us decipher a bit of this mystery:

I received a letter from a young mother who described her delight in watching her new baby awake to more awareness. Her words: "She's beautiful. She's starting to vocalize a bit and smiles a lot when we talk to her. This morning, while her six-year-old sister and I were having breakfast, I looked into the baby's eyes and said: 'Are you talking to me?' She replied with something that sounded like 'Yeah!' Her sister was so excited: 'Mommy, she talked!' I didn't have the heart to tell her that it was just a random utterance."

This is a wonderful image, I believe, to describe what it will be like for each of us when we are born again into heaven. The maternal side of God will be looking us in the eyes, smiling, and trying to coax a smile and some words out of us, but we will be a bit too overwhelmed and underdeveloped to speak. The saints will be following our progress with joy, delighting in each of our little breakthroughs, as we awaken and struggle to learn the language of heaven.

C.S. Lewis wrote a brilliant little book on heaven, hell, and purgatory, entitled, *The Great Divorce*. In that book he stresses the moral continuity between this world and the next. However, because Lewis wanted so much to emphasize that the way we shape our hearts in this world will determine how we respond to love in the next, the reader can easily get the impression that heaven is a lot like here, only nicer, that heaven will simply be our present life beautified. No doubt this is true, but our faith cautions us not to think of this too literally.

Heaven is going to be wonderful, no doubt. However, it isn't going to be a simple extension of this life. Rebirth will be as much of a stretch for us as was first birth. We will, I believe, wake up in heaven, like an infant again, too overwhelmed to speak, needing to be coaxed into a new language and a new consciousness by God's smile and the delight of the saints. Some of this - learning this new language and consciousness - is already possible for us here. Perhaps it might be through our intimate relationships within marriage and family, where words at a point become superfluous; or perhaps it will be in our loneliness and solitude, where silence breaks through both so painfully and peacefully; or maybe it will be through the very tediousness of our daily tasks, where burdens often reduce us to silence; or perhaps it might be through teaching our own baby how to speak.

Jesus told us that each of us needs to be born twice, once from below and once from above. We need also to be taught twice how to speak. Our mothers once gave us birth, from below, and they also coaxed, cajoled, and lured us into speech. Each of us has a "mother-tongue" (not ineptly named). Our second birth, our rebirth, our birth from above, will, I suspect, be somewhat similar. There will be time of having to leave the womb, the familiar, this life, and then a lonely journey down an unwanted birth canal into the greatest of all unknowns. Light, love, and community will greet us upon arrival. However, it will be somewhat overwhelming, beyond language and imagination, for as St Paul tells us: "...eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor is the human person even capable of imagining what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9).

Fr. Slawek

MAY 4, 2025



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Holy Spirit Conference

"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us the spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God."

St. Vincent
de Paul

By remembering our neighbours who ask for help through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we are all touched by God's love and build up His Kingdom on earth.

Please remember the POOR BOX on your way out of the Church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!



Parish Summer Camp Grade 1—8

July 7-11 and July 14-18
from 9 am to 3 pm.

More information to follow

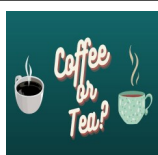
2026 Photo Album for Holy Spirit's 70th Anniversary

Holy Spirit Church will be celebrating it's 70th Anniversary in 2026!! As was done 10 years ago, Holy Spirit will be creating a Photo Album/Directory FREE of charge for those parishioners who sign up to have their portrait taken. Single, couples and families are encourage to sign up at the Church office. We want to thank those who have already signed up. Please help to make this 2026 photo album for our 70th Anniversary a success!



ARE YOU MOVING? OR HAVE YOU MOVED ALREADY?

Please contact the parish office so your records can be updated.



COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Everyone welcome

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 6

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Ellen & Timothy
Hanly req. by Bridget Murphy.

Wednesday, May 7

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Rian Luu Kim req. by
Kim Luu.

Thursday, May 8

9 a.m.. Private Intentions.

Friday, May 9

9a.m. Intentions for Ana Rivera req. by Maria
Valerio.

Saturday, May 10

7:30p.m Private Intentions.

Sunday, May 11

9 a.m. Intentions for all Parishioners.

11 a.m. Repose of the soul of the deceased
member of Legion of Mary.

ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH

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.

