

Dear Padre,

My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (*Code of Canon Law*, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents" (CCL 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●



Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.

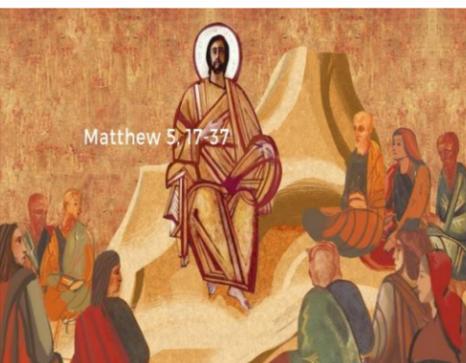
HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Lenten Regulations:

- ❖ **All Fridays of Lent** are days of abstinence from meat and meat products. This law obliges everyone who is 14 years of age and older.
- ❖ **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence (one full meal, two lesser meals, no meat, no eating between meals.) The law on fasting obliges all persons between the ages of 18 and 59.
- ❖ Follow **other penitential practices** for Lent:
 - Almsgiving
 - Fasting
 - Prayer
 - Participate in the sacramental life of the church, especially Eucharist and Reconciliation

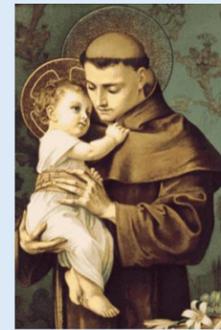
A SAFE ENVIRONMENT // FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Catholic Diocese of Rapid City is firmly committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for our children and young people. To report allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel, contact **Victim Assistance Coordinator, Irene Lee**. To ensure confidentiality in our outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately at 605/209-3418 (cell). Alleged victims are advised of their right to report alleged abuse to civil authorities. In accordance with diocesan policy, all allegations of sexual misconduct involving children, young people, and vulnerable adults by priests, deacons, lay employees, or volunteers serving the Diocese will be investigated. The diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Code of Conduct are posted at www.RapidCityDiocese.org.



Welcome to Our Parish Community

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 15, 2026



St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Hot Springs, SD

Parish Office: ~ St Anthony Parish

Office Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm
(closed for lunch ~ noon – 1:00pm)
Street Address: 538 University Ave
Mailing Address: PO Box 969
Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone: 605-745-3393
After Hours: 605-745-3278
Email: sohillscatholic@gwtc.net
Website: www.stanthonyhotsprings.org

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor:
Rev Collins Igwilo
cigwilo@diorc.org
Deacon:
Dcn. Craig Pearson
605-891-9164
Office Manager / Bookkeeper:
Susie Hayes
605-745-3393

Parish Office: ~ St James Parish

Street Address: 310 3rd Ave
Mailing Address: PO Box 568
UPS/FedEx: 308 3rd Ave
Edgemont, SD 57735
Funeral Contact:
Linda Tidball 605-685-4301
Office Manager / Bookkeeper:
Lynn Westberg 703-869-0886
lfwestberg@gmail.com
Mass Information:
Greg Lacey 605-662-5048

Weekend Mass Schedules:

Saturday ~ 5:30pm	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 8:00am	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 10:30am	St Anthony of Padua Church ~ Hot Springs, SD
Sunday ~ 2:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD

“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’” (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

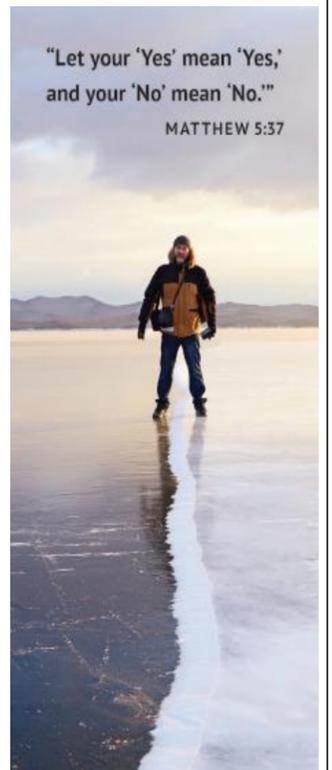
That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, "And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be" (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple "Yes" or "No"? Do you want to say, "Yes, but... I can't do it now." Or "I can't forgive this particular person." Or "I can't welcome this particular stranger." Or "I can't love him or her or them."

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●

Some Walk Away

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR



"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.'"
MATTHEW 5:37



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What teachings of Jesus are too hard to consider?



Welcome to our Catholic faith community. If you are a new parishioner interested in becoming part of our parish community, please stop by the Parish Office and register or call for more information.