

Dear Padre,

When I was young, my parish covered all the statues during part of Lent. What did it mean exactly? Do any churches still do this?

In 2001, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the practice of veiling statues and crosses during the last two weeks of the season of Lent, beginning on the fifth Sunday of Lent. This practice is optional, at the discretion of the local pastor. According to the Roman Missal, "Crosses remain covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

Covering crosses and statues in violet cloth in the final weeks of Lent indicates a shift in the Church's focus from Jesus in the desert (gospel for the first Sunday of Lent) to Christ during his Passion. Similar to other Lenten disciplines of penance and fasting that align us in solidarity with Christ, the veiling custom is meant to deepen our appreciation for Christ's ultimate sacrifice. It represents our "fasting" from sacred depictions of the cross on which hung our salvation and from images of the saints, who glorify Christ and in whom he is glorified. This concealment creates an absence to make our hearts grow fonder for the Lord, who "bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). ●



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

Welcome to Our Parish Community Third Sunday of LENT ~ March 8, 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
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**Parish Office: ~ St James Parish**  
**Street Address:** 310 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 568  
**UPS/FedEx:** 308 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Edgemont, SD 57735  
**Funeral Contact:**  
Linda Tidball 605-685-4301  
**Office Manager / Bookkeeper:**  
Lynn Westberg 703-869-0886  
[lfwestberg@gmail.com](mailto: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   |

### Are You Listening?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

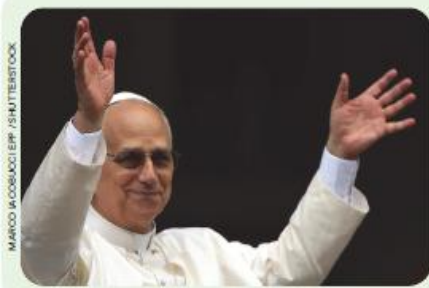
"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (See Psalm 95.) Our psalm prayer invites us to respond to the Word of God. A positive response should be assumed as ordinary; very few among us would deliberately ignore God's voice. The challenge is not in responding "yes" to the invitation of the Lord but rather in "hearing" his voice.

There are so many voices that daily compete for attention. We seem to be bombarded every waking moment with some kind of noise that demands attention and action. At one time, Neil Diamond might have been able to celebrate the "Beautiful Noise" of the city, but it is far more difficult for us today. Frankly, the noise around us is deafening, and most people long for true silence, a break in the pattern, a vacation from the frantic anxiety that seems to be present.

A wonderful Lenten practice—indeed, a spiritual practice that goes well beyond Lent—is to freely choose to disconnect from distraction. Resist the temptation to plug in the earbuds. Refrain from the distraction of social media content. Leave your cell phone in the living room, go sit in the backyard, and pay attention to nothing. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:11), the psalmist reminds us. Listen for God's voice, hear his call, and respond to the invitation. ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY



### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*We feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations!... Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God.*

HOMILY, ROME, AUGUST 3, 2025



**"Lord, empty me...  
fill me... use me."  
~Mother Olga**

**Empty me** of my will, my attachments, my selfishness, my expectations...

**Fill me** with your grace, your mercy, your Holy Spirit, your love, and a spirit of acceptance of your Holy Will...

**Use me** for your Kingdom, for your greater purpose, to love and serve others...

**How is God calling you to be emptied...filled...used...?**



Church Library  
BOOKS, DVDs, CDs & More!



St. Patrick's Dinner

Sunday, March 15

### Suggested Meal DONATION

**\$18.00 Adult**  
**\$9.00 Children (12 & under)**  
**\$9.00 Half Portion**  
**\$40.00 Family (up to 4 people)**  
**11:30am – 1:30pm**

Enjoy Corned Beef and Cabbage or Ham Dinner  
**TAKE OUT AVAILABLE**

The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.  
ROMANS 5:5

### Reflect

*Do I need more silence?  
Do I find silence difficult?*



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.