

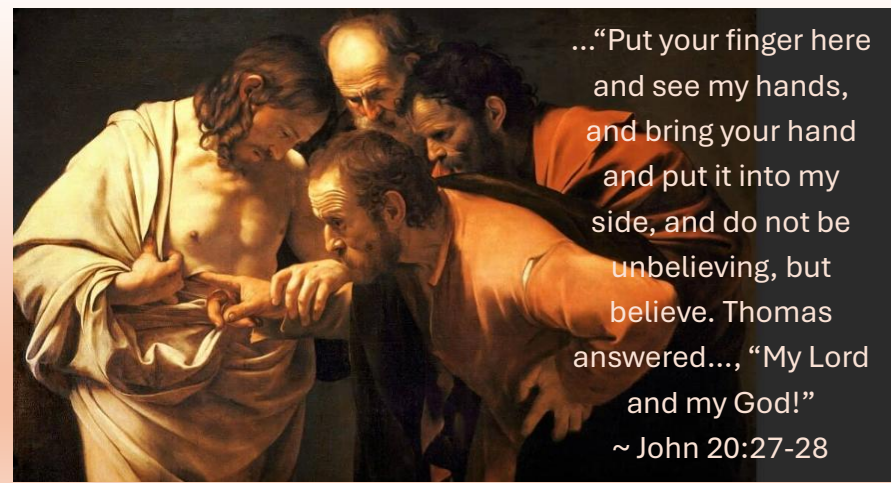
# Dear Padre,

**We are told that when we receive the Holy Eucharist, our venial sins are washed away. Does the same thing happen when we receive spiritual communion?**

Yes, and there are many other ways that venial sins can be forgiven. First and foremost is each of the sacraments of reconciliation: baptism, Eucharist, penance, and anointing of the sick. In addition to the sacraments, an Act of Contrition will also suffice, as will a simple prayer of intercession, such as, "Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Forgiveness of venial sins is directly dependent on one thing: the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit at work in our world and in each one of us. Forgiveness is not merited; it is a gift, and, as a gift, it requires only that we ask and gratefully receive.

It is true that we are all sinful. We are also all blessed. As wonderful as forgiveness is, and there truly is no greater gift of God's love, an equally wonderful gift is gratitude. Perhaps, with every Act of Contrition that we pray, we should also offer a prayer of thanksgiving. It might help us find balance if we remind ourselves not only how we may not have measured up but also that we are blessed and graced. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



...“Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe. Thomas answered..., “My Lord and my God!”  
~ John 20:27-28

## 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](http://www.RapidCityDiocese.org).

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Lord shows us his wounds and says: Peace be with you. Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us,

too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, OCTOBER 1, 2025

## Church Library



BOOKS, DVDs, CDs & More!

# Welcome to Our Parish Community DIVINE MERCY Sunday ~ April 12, 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](mailto:sohillscatholic@gwtc.net)  
**Website:** [www.stanthonyhotsprings.org](http://www.stanthonyhotsprings.org)

## Pastoral Staff:

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

## Parish Office: ~ St James Parish

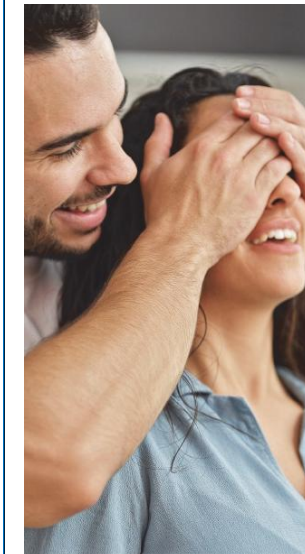
**Street Address:** 310 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 568  
**UPS/FedEx:** 308 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Edgemont, SD 57735  
**Funeral Contact:**  
Linda Tidball 605-685-4301  
**Office Manager / Bookkeeper:**  
Lynn Westberg 703-869-0886  
[lfwestberg@gmail.com](mailto:lfwestberg@gmail.com)  
**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 ~ 5:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD

## The Importance of Trust

ANN M. GARRIDO



Jesus said [Thomas], “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”  
~ John 20:29

----- REFLECT -----  
When has doubt served a purpose, and when has it gotten in my way?

**W**e can readily understand Thomas' insistence upon seeing things with his own eyes. Would you believe it if someone told you that a friend whose funeral you had attended was now walking through walls?

At some time or other, all of us have been tricked into believing something we later found out was untrue and remember how foolish we felt. Haven't our parents told us not to believe everything we hear? Haven't our teachers taught us to do our own research? Doubt serves a valuable purpose, and we would be naïve to disregard it.

At the same time, we know that doubt can become a way of life, overstepping its usefulness. During the COVID pandemic, for example, some refused to believe even the most knowledgeable medical voices in the nation. Like Thomas, they insisted that unless they'd "done their own research," they wouldn't believe. Such a stance ignores that unless you are a scientist working in a medical lab, even "your own research" will be based on an act of belief that what you are reading of others' research is correct. Doubt is good, but only in combination with a healthy dose of humility. In the end, the world turns on an axis of trust.

At the close of today's gospel, Jesus names as "blessed" those able to discern what is true and believe not only because of what they have seen with their own eyes but also because of what they have heard through their ears from sources worthy of their trust. ●



**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.**