

Dear Padre,

At a recent gathering, a relative questioned my family's continued participation in the Catholic Church because of the sexual abuse cover-up. What is the best way to address this question?

Resist the temptation to argue or make any response that is not respectful. Choose to respond with empathy and understanding; perhaps something like this: "I understand and respect your feelings. Some have made the difficult choice to leave the Church. Others find the choice to remain also difficult."

"As a mature and discerning person, I am not making excuses for behaviors that are inexcusable. I cannot and will not defend behavior that should not be defended. I choose to remain in the Church because I choose to remain in a relationship with Jesus, and that relationship includes my reception of the sacraments of the Church. I value the sacraments even as I remain vigilant about the conduct of those who have been entrusted with celebrating those sacraments. I retain my practice of the sacraments and, at the same time, I retain my responsibility to be alert to abusive behavior. This is not acceptance or approval of what most certainly happened. It is continuing to participate in what is beautiful and wise and true so that, in the company of other believers, I may become more like Christ."

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



Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



19th Annual
Catholic Daughters of St. Anthony's
Fall Rummage Sale

Friday, Oct 3 ♦ 8:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, Oct 4 ♦ 8:00am – 12:00noon
\$2.00 Bag Sale on Saturday

Mueller Civic Center
801 S. 6th Street ♦ Hot Springs

Drop Off New or Gently Used Items
Thursday, Oct 2 ♦ 8:00am – 3:00pm
No televisions, electronics, encyclopedias,
boots
or shoes will be accepted.

For more information:
Email: kaybirkholt@gmail.com

All Voices Welcome!!
Hallelujah Choir Practice
every Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30



Celebrate Priesthood Sunday - September 28, 2025

Join us in celebrating Priesthood Sunday, a special day dedicated to honoring the priesthood and promoting vocations. Much like Father's Day, this is an opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to the spiritual fathers who guide, serve and pray for us every day. Take a moment to let your pastor know how much you appreciate his ministry — whether it's through a thoughtful note, a phone call, a home-cooked meal, or a gift card to his favorite restaurant. And don't forget about our retired priests and those who have served our parish in the past. This nationwide celebration is sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International and the Serra International Foundation. For more ideas on how to recognize and support our priests, visit the Serra Club's website: <https://serraspark.org/tools-new/priesthood-sunday/>

Welcome to Our Parish Community
Sunday ~ September 21, 2025



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 ~ 5:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD

When Life Is
on Empty

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Reflect
What emptying am I experiencing?
Can I accept it as becoming more like Jesus?

Wanting to Be Wanted

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

More than anything, we want to be wanted. As infants, we reach out, wanting to be wanted. When we begin school and discover others who might be friends, we want to be wanted. As teenagers discovering the stirrings of something new and deep, we want to be wanted. And when we grow old, then still we want to be wanted.

The parables Jesus told were always about how God moves in our lives, how God is powerfully intertwined in all that is. Jesus told parables to give us a hint of where to find God. This Sunday's parable is about a rich man with a steward about to be dismissed. The steward then finds ways to ingratiate himself into others' lives so when he is dismissed, he won't be left

out in the cold. It's not the rich man who is the God-person in the parable. The rich got rich by abusing the poor. Rather, it is the steward who is the image of God—a God who, like the steward, is desperate to be accepted, to find a way into our lives. We might say clever...or even sneaky. It is God who finds a way into our lives when we are afraid, when we face the loss of love, when our worlds are falling apart, when we go looking for him. There, then, is God, eagerly wanting to be wanted.

Reflect
What do I do when I'm feeling unwanted?
Do I recognize that God wants me?



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.