

Dear Padre,

Is it wrong for children to dress up as zombies and devils and other evil creatures for Halloween?

No. It is perfectly acceptable to choose these kinds of costumes and to participate in the festivities of Halloween. Halloween is primarily a secular celebration. Although it is true that the original celebration is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition, that tradition is more properly celebrated during the great feast days of the Church that follow Halloween: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Mythological representations, and the costumes that remind us of these kind of characters, are to be understood with a sense of fun and mischief. There is no difference between a ghost, a goblin, a zombie, Captain America, Superman, or one of the Mario Brothers. They are all fictional characters in the very human stories we share with each other. The meaning we assign to them must be proportional to what they represent. On Halloween, they represent nothing more than a person in costume. It could be an entirely different story under different circumstances in which there might be the possibility of a misunderstanding about the meaning of such a costume. Halloween pretty much blurs that distinction and takes away the misunderstanding. It is meant to be entertaining and fun. That is all. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa. CSsR / DearPadre.or



St. Anthony of Padua

Church Ministries Fair

Learn about opportunities to get involved and share your time and talent.

November 9, 2025 | Following 10:30am Mass

For more information call: 605-745-3393

Join us in celebrating the Installation to the Ministry of Lector for the following Deacon Candidates:

Frank Birkholt
Todd Curtis
Eugene Iron Shell Jr.
John Talcott
Steve Van Mullem

NOVEMBER | 1 | 5:30 PM

Holy Cross Chapel
Terra Sancta Retreat Center

Reception will be held immediately following.



605-343-3541 | tcooper@diorc.org

Congratulation Frank Birkholt in making it to the next step in the Diaconate Program! We are all praying for your success!

Everyone is invited to attend the Mass on November 1st at Terra Sancta

Welcome to Our Parish Community Sunday ~ October 26, 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

For some, going to confession can bring a sense of relief—as if the slate has now been wiped clean; as if we have gotten a do-over with life or the past has been left behind as though it never happened. Our past, however, is always with us—the good and the bad, the joys and the sadness, the grace and the sin. There are no do-overs. We carry with us the marks of our lives simply because every experience, every kindness and cruelty, every moment of generosity and selfishness, all have made us into who are. We are much like a tree that adds a ring to its trunk each year. The ring always bears the marks of that year, whether it has been a year of rain or drought, whether insects have attacked, or whether Mother Nature has been kind. The tree always remembers and carries with it forever the rings of what life has been.

Our lives are the same. The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector tells this tale. Like the Pharisee, we have much good in our lives. We too have prayed and have been generous. We have been kind and honest and cared for the poor. We have tried to be faithful. The Pharisee's downfall was that he forgot about his sinfulness; he forgot he needed God's mercy. The tax collector, on the other hand, remembered his failings. Both were in need of God's love. Only the tax collector seemed to realize it. ●

Like the Rings of a Tree

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

[Jesus said,] "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

LUKE 18:14



Reflect

How has my life been a mixture of sin and grace?



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.