

Dear Padre,

Why is a US secular holiday like Thanksgiving on the Church's liturgical calendar?

Since November 1969, the Proper Calendar offers a Thanksgiving Day Mass for US dioceses. While it also includes Independence Day, no suggestion is made for other civic holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.). Instead, the *Roman Missal* provides "Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions" that are suited to these observances (Ordo #5, GIRM 368-378).

In the United States, November is associated with giving thanks to God. In 1623—three years after the Pilgrims sailed to this land on the *Mayflower*—a severe drought threatened their crops. Consequently, a day of prayer was observed, an abundant rain saved the harvest, and a Day of Thanksgiving was established. In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation for "Thanksgiving and Praise to Our Beneficent Father" on the last Thursday of November (later moved to the fourth Thursday).

However, thanking God isn't just a one-day event; it's meant to be a perennial practice. Recall the lesson of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one of whom returned to thank him. (See Luke 17:11-19.) People who don't take their blessings for granted return thanks to God in prayer. Therefore, offer brief prayers of gratitude to God throughout the day, every day, for such gifts as your health and faith, the freedoms allowed in this country, "thy daily bread," and the Eucharist—a word that means "thanksgiving."

"Become what you pray"—a grateful disciple of our Lord! ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Spreading Christmas Cheer to the Residents of Seven Sisters Living Center:

- Christmas gifts for Seven Sisters Living Center Residents
- Courtesy of Catholic Daughters and parish of St Anthony of Padua
- Pick a resident, buy a gift, wrap it and bring it to Church by December 7.
- OR give a donation and we will shop and wrap for you
- Stop by the table in the Gathering Space before/after Mass to pick a name
- We also need food donations for the party: sweets, treats, snacks etc....
- Text Irma at 605.890.1785 and let her know what you would like to bring

Please join us at the Seven Sisters Living Center
Christmas Party
December 17 at 6:15pm



Welcome to Our Parish Community

Sunday ~ November 23, 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

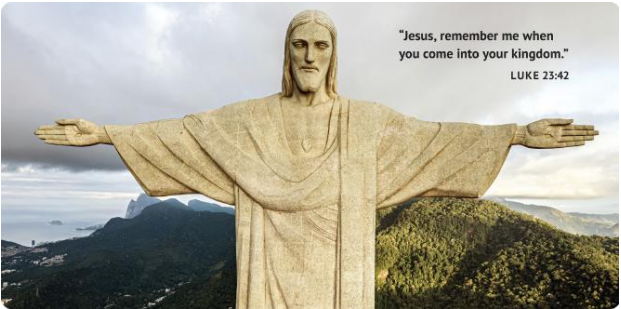
Street Address: 310 3rd Ave
Mailing Address: PO Box 568
UPS/FedEx: 308 3rd Ave
Edgemont, SD 57735

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 ~ 2:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD



The Hero King

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some think of a myth as something once presumed to be true but discovered to be false. For example, we say it's a myth that Christopher Columbus discovered America. There is, however, another quite different meaning to "myth," as in a story that helps us understand life and how to negotiate it. Such myths are often centered around heroes who overcome great odds for the sake of the greater good. *Star Wars* and Luke Skywalker is one such myth. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Frodo Baggins is another. These are myths capturing the need for courage and commitment to the good at the hero's own expense. We often find ourselves wishing we could be like these heroes.

The biblical story of the Hebrew people can be thought of as such a myth, culminating in the story of Jesus. It differs from those other myths in that this story is not fiction. It is a saga that helps us understand and negotiate life as we live it. It culminates with the sacrificial death of the one we call King of the Universe. This King is a servant-king, one who gives his life for us so that we might live. Despite being urged by religious leaders and soldiers and the thief on the cross to save himself, he resists. Saving himself is not what he is about. Jesus is the King whose true myth we tell whenever we come together. ●

Editor's note: This is Fr. Joseph Juknialis' final reflection for *Our Parish Community* bulletins. The new liturgical cycle begins next Sunday, November 30, 2025, and we will welcome three new reflection authors: Miguel Dulick, Ann M. Garrido, and Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR, the president and publisher of Liguori Publications. We thank Fr. Joe for his three years of insightful reflections and wish him well.

Reflect

What does servant-leadership mean to me in my job, my community, my home?



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.