

Dear Padre,

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See *Code of Canon Law*, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●

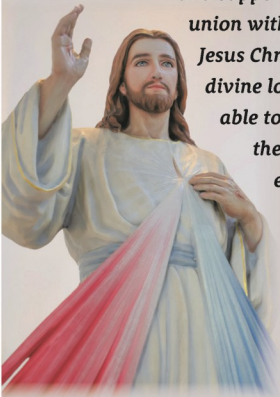
The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



JUCH PHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.



MESSAGE ON WORLD
DAY OF THE SICK,
ROME, FEBRUARY 11,
2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://dearpadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

August 24
St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b–14
Jn 1:45–51

Tuesday

August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17
Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18
Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1–9
Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Cor 1:17–25
Mt 25:1–13

Saturday

August 29
The Passion of St. John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26–31
Mk 6:17–29

Sunday

August 30
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7–9
Rom 12:1–2
Mt 16:21–27

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 23, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20



Who Do You Say That I Am?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do *you* say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response. No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY



Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

MATTHEW 16:16

Reflect

How would you answer if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say that I am?” (He is asking you!)



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"We at St. Mary & Joseph Parishes strive for a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ through Scripture and Sacraments, form missionary disciples, and send them forth to transform the world."



Our Three-Parish Cluster Sts. Mary and Joseph Catholic Churches Lone Tree, Nichols and Hills

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026

Church of St. Mary, 201 Short Street, Box B, Nichols, Iowa, 52766 319-330-5324
St. Mary Church, 216 West Jayne Street, Box 416, Lone Tree, Iowa, 52755 319-629-4225
St. Joseph Church, 209 Brady Street, PO Box 187, Hills, Iowa, 52235 319-679-2271

Sts. Mary and Joseph Cluster Parish Office
209 Brady Street, P.O. Box 187 Hills, Iowa 52235-0187

Father David Paintsil, Pastor; 319-679-2271; email: paintsild@diodav.org
Mrs. Carol Kaalberg, Pastoral Associate; 319-330-5324; email: kaalbergc@diodav.org
Lora Sieverding, Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper; hillsstjosephfin@diodav.org
Nancy Waldschmidt, Director of Faith Formation; 319-331-2077; email: nwaldschmidt@gwaea.org
Cluster Website: stsmarijoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmarijoseph
Rev. Lou Leonhardt (retired priest); PO Box 454, Lone Tree, IA 52755 319-629-4339
Bulletin deadline: 10am Tuesday. Contact Lora Sieverding: hillsstjosephfin@diodav.org
Hills Church entry: Lora Sieverding, 319-530-5560

Music Ministry: St. Joseph, Hills: Haylee Osmonson
Church of St. Mary, Nichols: Jean Mengel and Rhonda Meredith
St. Mary, Lone Tree: Steve Moore.
St. Joseph Prayer Line: Lucille Duwa 679-2404; Joan Gringer 679-2406
Church of St. Mary, Nichols Prayer Line: Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324
St. Mary, Lone Tree Prayer Line: Nancy Ford, 319-430-0882

*In your prayers
please remember the
sick and suffering,
those having surgery
and other health
issues from our cluster
and beyond.*

Cluster Mass Intentions August 22 to August 30, 2026

Saturday	August 22	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	August 23	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Paul Yedlik Bob & Renita Rummelhart
Monday	August 24	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Henry Leonhardt
Tuesday	August 25	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	MonicaLeonhardt Joanne Murdock Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	August 26	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Bill Leonhardt Keith Stevens
Thursday	August 27	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Gary Hotka Martin Warson
Friday	August 28	8:30 AM	Atrium	Liv & Dec of Draker Family
Saturday	August 29	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Mildred Lovetinsky
Sunday	August 30	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Jennifer Saleminck Maynard Rayner

Atrium , Atrium Village Chapel,
Atrium Village, Hills.

PP CC, Pioneer Park Care Center
located at Pioneer Park Villa,
Lone Tree.

Lone Tree R, St. Mary Rectory in
Lone Tree.

Confession Schedule

*Father David is available to
hear confessions before
Mass at these times:*

St. Mary, Lone Tree

Saturday 3:30 to 3:50 pm

Church of St. Mary Nichols

Sunday 7:30 to 7:50 am

St. Joseph, Hills

Sunday 9:30 to 9:50 am

*Let us come to reconcile to God
and others!*

DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

A Journey with Mary: A Rosary Walk for Evangelization and Vocations

All are warmly invited to participate in a special Marian pilgrimage/Rosary walk in our Diocese on Saturday, October 10, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Iowa City. Together, we will walk prayerfully to Hills, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary and asking our Blessed Mother to renew us in faith and to revive our Diocese through evangelization and an increase in vocations.

Inspired by the theme, "And Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah" (Luke 1:39), this Rosary Walk invites us to follow Mary's example of bringing Christ to others with faith, joy, and missionary zeal. The pilgrimage will conclude with Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Dennis Walsh at approximately 11:00 a.m. at Hills City Park. Those who are unable to participate in the walk are warmly invited to join us for Mass and lunch.

Come and walk with Mary. Pray for peace. Pray for vocations. Be renewed in faith. Bring your family and friends as we journey together in hope.

For more information, please contact:

Fr. David Paintsil – paintsild@diodav.org

Fr. Andrew Rauenbuehler – RauenbuehlerA@diodav.org

Important Note:

In order to plan accordingly for seating, food and more, please be sure to RSVP as soon as possible. Use the QR code at the bottom right of this page. Use your cell phone in camera mode and point to square QR code, a link will appear in your screen, click on it, a google form will appear for you to complete. It has 5 questions for you to complete.

*Thank you for helping
us plan accordingly.*



DIOCESE of DAVENPORT

A Journey with Mary

A Rosary Walk for
Evangelization and Vocations
to Conclude the Eucharistic Rosary Congress

St. Mary's, Iowa City to St. Joseph, Hills

Saturday, October 10th, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Pilgrimage will end with Mass at Hills City Park
with Bishop Dennis Walsh at 11:00 AM.
Lunch and hospitality will follow.
Those unable to walk may
join for Mass and lunch.

Please use the QR code to RSVP for the walk
so we can have an accurate count for lunch.

And Mary arose in those days and went
into the hill country with haste, into the city of Judah
(Luke 1: 39)



Bulletin deadline Tuesday at 10:00 am. Contact Lora Sieverding at 319-530-5560, hillsstjosephfin@diodav.org or Carol Kaalberg at 319-330-5324 or kaalbergc@diodav.org.

FOOD PANTRIES

Lone Tree Food Pantry is open each Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-5:00 PM. For more information, please call 319-629-4900.

St. Joseph Food Pantry is open each Wednesday morning from 10 am to noon. Mike and Lucy Parker direct our food pantry and can be reached at 319-679-2420.

PARISH COUNCILS

Meeting Minutes

Minutes are posted at all church entries.

Nichols Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting to be announced, as needed.

Lone Tree Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting Monday, August 24 at 6PM, parish hall.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, September 21 at 6:30 PM. Finance Council meeting Thurs., September 17, 2026, 6:00 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet August 25 at **Atrium Village, 1st floor conference room** at 6:30 PM. Contact Melody Hobert-Mellecker—319-936-3287, call or text — if you are interested, or just come!

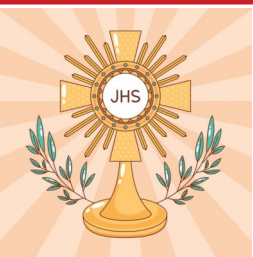


Prayer Corner

Kind words take less breath than harsh words.



Back to school is just around the corner. If you need assistance with Catholic school tuition, please let your parish office know.



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday,
August 26, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

ALYSSA MORAN,

319-330-3676

amwaldschmidt@gmail.com

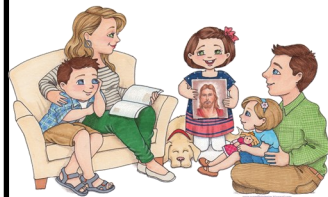
Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle A Reading						
	08/22/2026 David	08/29/2026 Lou	09/05/2026 Lou	09/12/2026 David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Envelopes	\$565.00
Lector	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Offertory	\$74.00
Cross Bearer	Joel Yedlik	Glen Gerot	Jerry Ford	Joel Yedlik	ACH	\$215.00
Servers	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola		
Eucharist	Paula Moore	Jerry Ford	Carol Kaalberg	Paula Moore		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Nancy Ford	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Joel Yedlik	Glen Gerot	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik		
	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Betty Gerot	Nancy Ford	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Glen Gerot, Betty Gerot	Lynn Bland, Nancy Ford	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Carol Kaalberg	Sherry Nicola		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	08/23/2026 David	08/30/2026 David	09/06/2026 Lou	09/13/2026 Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Envelopes	\$325.00
Lector	Tom Barr	Missy Lenz	Renetta Burlage	Tom Barr	Offertory	\$31.40
Cross Bearer	Adam Gauger	David Ollindick	Michael Burlage	Adam Gauger	ACH	\$250.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Tom Barr	Missy Lenz	Jeanne Green	Tom Barr		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Wayne Mengel	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	Wayne Mengel		
	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale	Joe Harper	Dennis Truesdale		
Gifts	Cindy Massey	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger	Julie Elder		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	08/23/2026 Lou	08/30/2026 David	09/06/2026 Lou	09/13/2026 David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	\$990.00
Greeter	Marcia Mellecker	Lee & Katheryn Campion	Janet Goss	Marcia Mellecker	Offertory	\$74.00
Lector	Kezie Atitse	Bob Jenn	Bob Jenn	Mike Waldschmidt	Assumption	\$92.00
	Jean Burr,	Messi Akogegnon,	Josh Ayelazuno,	Jean Burr,		
Server	Mike Sieverding	Emy Rivera	Mike Sieverding	Josh Ayelazuno	ACH	\$410.00
Eucharist -host	Deanne Eden	Jolene Van Eschen	Kristee Malmberg	Jolene VanEschen		
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Mike Sieverding	Kay Evans	Arlene Johnston		
Eucharist - cup	Kristee Malmberg	Kristee Malmberg	Deanne Eden	Bob Jenn		
Collection	Jim Frantz	Marcia Mellecker	Mike Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker		
	Hope Frantz	Brian Moran	Nancy Waldschmidt	Jim Mills		
	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family		Bob & Renita Rummelhart family			
Gifts		Maynard Rayner family	family	Mary E Rummelhart family		
Commentator	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald		

If you are unavailable for the above ministry assignment, please find your own replacement. Thank you.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY GROUP FORMING



Anyone interested in joining, please sign up at the church entry or reach out to

Alyssa Moran, amwaldschmidt@gmail.com or text 319-330-3676.



LovefromLevi is seeking volunteer sewers/crafters to help create customized felt hospital books for children ages 3–5 facing cancer and other serious illnesses. No advanced sewing experience is needed—all skill levels are welcome. To learn more or volunteer, contact Beth Rundlett at beth@lovefromlevi.com or visit www.lovefromlevi.com.

Healing Mass Schedule

September 5, at St. Joseph, Hills

9:00 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Celebrant is Rev. Tim Regan

Catholic Radio Station
In Kalona – 89.5 KMHV

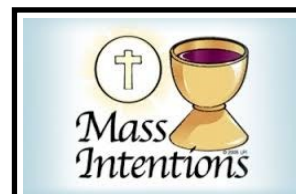


A Unique Way to Strengthen Your Faith!



Coming Soon!
Please contact Fr. David Paintsil or Carol Kirkpatrick if interested.

Page 3
August 23, 2026



Friendly Reminder:
All requested
Mass Intentions are
now \$10 each.

2026 dates are now full
at Lone Tree and Nich-
ols. Get your 2027 date
requested to the office
soon.



THANK YOU...

To Joel Yedlik for getting and pulling our float in the Lone Tree Fall Festival Parade. Thank you to all those who rode on the float and tossed out religious bracelets and candy during the parade. Your co-operation was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Colton & Vivian Kaalberg who donated 20 dozen eggs to the egg toss.

All these efforts helped to make the Fall Festival successful.



National Rosary Congress Pilgrimage

September 2 & 3, 2026.

24 Hour Adoration

Please use the QR code to sign up, or use the sign up sheet at the church entry.

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August 23, 2026



WED. SEPT 2, 2026	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
9:00 AM	Carol Kaalberg	Jeanne Green
10:00 AM	Ann Draker	Judy Stebral
11:00 AM	Mary Ann Waldschmidt	
NOON	Lura Loan	Joan Davis
1:00 PM	Kay Evans	Lynn Bland
2:00 PM	Emy Rivera	Carol Lively
3:00 PM	Ama Kezia Atitse	Catherine Simon
4:00 PM	Emy Rivera	
5:00 PM	Sandra Reese	
6:00 PM	Piham Adjeye	
7:00 PM	Sue Lehmann	Mary Anderson
8:00 PM	Shelagh McDonald	Renetta Burlage
9:00 PM		
10:00 PM		
11:00 PM	Marcia Mellecker	
THURS. SEPT 3, 2026	THURS. SEPT 3, 2026	THURS. SEPT 3, 2026
MIDNIGHT	Jim & Louella Schneider	
1:00 AM	Nancy Waldschmidt	
2:00 AM	Carol Kirkpatrick	
3:00 AM	Carol Kirkpatrick	
4:00 AM	Jean Burr	
5:00 AM	Jean Burr	
6:00 AM	Trudi Westfall	
7:00 AM	Fr. David Paintsil	
8:00 AM		