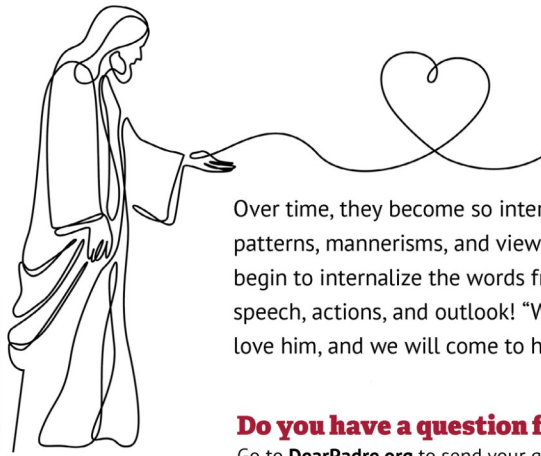


Dear Padre,

Why does my parish priest preach about love practically every Sunday?

“Through the course of the liturgical year, the homily sets forth the mysteries of faith and the standards of the Christian life on the basis of the sacred text” (*Lectionary*, 24). A translation of the English word “love” appears in the Bible more than 500 times; by comparison, “sin” appears approximately 400 times. Thus, insofar as the homily “should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from sacred Scripture” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 65), God’s word on “love” is far too prevalent to overlook.



Pope Francis called God’s word “a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best.” In the Bible, this God who desires to bestow his love on us (See 1 John 3:1), is essentially telling us, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.” How we love God in return may be likened to two partners in a committed relationship.

Over time, they become so intertwined that they can even assume each other’s speech patterns, mannerisms, and views. Likewise, for those who love God, over the years we can begin to internalize the words from God’s “love letter” and reflect them in our Christian speech, actions, and outlook! “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him” (John 14:23). ●

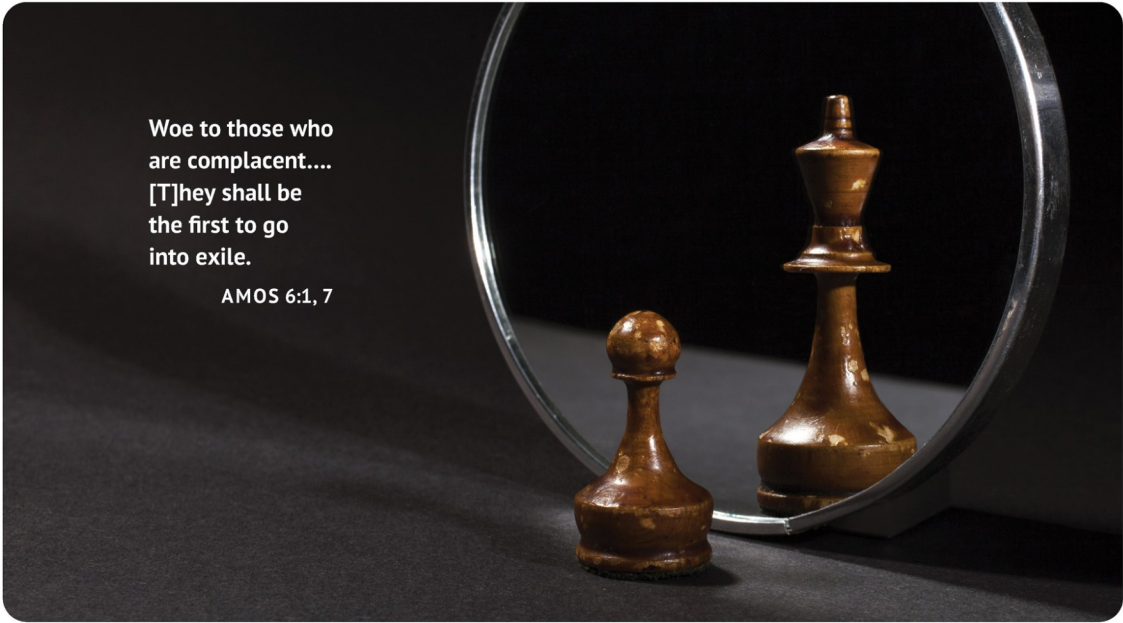
Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 28, 2025
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Amos 6:1a, 4–7 / 1 Timothy 6:11–16 / Luke 16:19–31



Woe to those who
are complacent....
[T]hey shall be
the first to go
into exile.

AMOS 6:1, 7

Adrift

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge found himself confronted by the person he had become: someone forced to accept the reality painted by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. Scrooge hadn’t realized how he had slowly drifted into becoming an uncaring and greedy person, unable to show compassion because he never really saw someone else’s pain. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge is the story of the rich man in this Sunday’s gospel who was unmoved by poor Lazarus, sitting at the gate of the rich man’s sumptuous life. They are both stories of human beings drifting into emptiness.

St. Thomas Aquinas suggested that our motivations in life can ultimately be reduced to eight different categories. If we’re interested in understanding what sort of people we are becoming, we might ask

ourselves which of these questions best describes our motivation: Am I making my decisions and choices about life based on wealth? Or am I looking to be admired by others and be praised? Is it lasting glory that I seek? Or power so that I can be noted for “making a difference?” Is what I seek a life of ultimate pleasure and comfort? Is it health that I look for? Or perhaps something related to my inner life—some intangible good, like virtue or knowledge? Or is it to see God already in this life what I truly want? It is always a challenge to know our true selves because all too often we may be adrift, unaware of who we are becoming. ●

Reflect

Which of St. Thomas Aquinas’ questions describes me and my choices?



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In our day, there is a widespread thirst for justice, a desire for authentic fatherhood and motherhood, a profound longing for spirituality, especially among young people and the marginalized, who do not always find effective means of making their needs known. There is a growing demand for the Church’s social doctrine, to which we need to respond.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025



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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

Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 28, 2025

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: stsmariyoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmariyandjoseph
Rev. Lou Leonhardt (retired priest); PO Box 454, Lone Tree, IA 52755 319-629-4339
Bulletin deadline: 10am Tuesday. Contact Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324 or Lora Sieverding, 319-530-5560
Hills Church entry: Lora Sieverding, 319-530-5560 or Judy Stebral, 319-331-8727

Music Ministry: St. Joseph, Hills: Lily Westemeyer, Robynn Anderson.
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

Cluster Mass Intentions September 27 to October 5, 2025

Saturday	September 27	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Gayle Kaalberg
Sunday	September 28	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Gayle Kaalberg Janet Michel
Monday	September 29	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Rosella Attig
Tuesday	September 30	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Corinne Murphy Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	October 1	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Gayle Kaalberg No Intention
Thursday	October 2	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Patricia Greubel No Intention
Friday	October 3	8:30 AM	Atrium	Bob Mellecker
Saturday	October 4	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Kevin Welter
Sunday	October 5	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Darlene Sieren Filomena Winegardner

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!*

Comments from Father David Paintsil:



I'LL KEEP YOU IN MY PRAYERS. PLEASE PRAY FOR ME TOO, AS I TRAVEL TO MY COUNTRY

As I mentioned earlier, during the month of October, I will be traveling to my home country, Ghana. This will be my very first visit back since I arrived in Iowa in early 2023. I look forward to spending time with my family. I come from a large family—we are eight siblings—and I am grateful that both my parents are still living in Ghana, along with many nieces and nephews. It will be a blessing to reconnect with them after this long absence.

Another important reason for this trip is to renew my visa, which has expired. As you know, immigration requirements are quite strict at this time, so it is necessary that I have all the proper documentation in order to be able to continue serving you and also traveling in and out of the United States.

While in Ghana, I have also been invited to speak at three Rosary Congresses in three major Archdioceses: Accra, Kumasi, and Tamale. Each of these gatherings is expected to draw thousands of Catholics from across the country. This is the very first Rosary Congress of its kind in Ghana, being organized in collaboration with the *Daily Rosary Channel – Global Rosary Network with Fr. Paintsil*. God willing, some of the sessions will be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook, depending on internet availability. The schedules are as follows:

Tamale: October 9–11, 2025

Accra: October 16–19, 2025

Kumasi: October 30 – November 1, 2025

In addition, my own Archdiocese of Cape Coast will be celebrating its 75th anniversary as an Archdiocese from October 24–26, 2025, and I will be blessed to take part in this milestone celebration. As you can see, it will be a very full and grace-filled time for me back home.

Please keep me in your prayers during this period of travel and ministry. Be assured that I will also keep you all close in my prayers, and I will happily carry your greetings and love to my family. May God bless you abundantly.



Classes begin THIS WEEKEND!

Registration forms are on church entry tables & online.

Religious Education will resume on September 27, after the 4pm Mass in Lone Tree and before the 10am Mass in Hills on September 28. Registration forms are on the church entry tables and on our website: stsmarijoseph.com under the bulletins and forms tab. Questions may be directed to Nancy Waldschmidt at 319-331-2077.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet October 8 & 22 at *Atrium Village*, 2nd floor study/lounge at 6:30 PM. Contact Melody Hobert-Mellecker—319-936-3287, call or text — if you are interested, or just come!

The 25-26 ADA campaign has begun. Envelopes and QR cards will be located at entrances of the church. Your generosity supports the missions and ministries that serve parish communities across our diocese.



Eucharistic Rosary Congress

The Iowa City Deanery Eucharistic Rosary Congress, a seven-day perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with an Hourly Rosary, will be held October 4-10 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Iowa City. Hourly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at the Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel with the Rosary prayed aloud at the start of each hour, followed by silent prayer for the remainder of the hour. Confession and Mass will be offered each day. Please consider participating as we join dioceses throughout the United States, simultaneously invoking Our Lady’s intercession before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and to offer reparation to God through Our Lady, for the spiritual renewal of our diocese, for our families, our church, and our country! For more information, please contact Christine Martin (irish3721@mchsi.com) or Fr. Paintsil (paintsild@diodav.org). You can sign up for the hourly Adoration on <https://forms.gle/ktXLze9ZPhfSFbhYA> or by using the QR code:



St. Joseph, Wellman
Annual Pork Loin & Fried Chicken Buffet Style Dinner
Sunday, October 5th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Homemade dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, noodles, cranberry salad, green beans, rolls, desserts and drinks.
\$15 for Adults
\$6 for Kids 4-10

Healing Mass
October 4, at St. Joseph, Hills
9:00 AM Confession
9:30 AM Rosary
10:00 AM Healing Mass
Hospitality to follow, provided by St. Joseph, Hills.
Next Healing Mass: November 1

St. Wenceslaus, Iowa City
Annual Fall Dinner
Sunday, October 5th
11:15 AM - 2:00 PM
Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, Czech green beans and rolls from Texas Roadhouse.
\$15 for Adults
\$5 for Kids

Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle C Reading						
	09/27/2025 Fr. David	10/04/2025 Fr. Lou	10/11/2025 Fr. Lou	10/18/2025 Fr. Lou	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Bernie Lorack	Carter Parrish	Nancy Ford	Bernie Lorack	Envelopes	\$1,002.00
Lector	Judy Grothe	Landon Parrish	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Offertory	\$40.00
Cross Bearer	Glen Gerot	Logan Parrish	Glen Gerot	Joel Yedlik	Fuel	\$1,000.00
Servers	Jerry Ford	Trudi Westfall/Maggie Anderson	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola		
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Nancy Ford	Judy Grothe		
Eucharist	Nancy Ford	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Glen Gerot	Dani Parrish	Betty Gerot	Joel Yedlik		
	Betty Gerot	Dani, Carter Parrish	Glen Gerot	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Betty, Glen Gerot	Dani, Carter Parrish	Betty, Glen Gerot	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Jerry Ford	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle C Reading						
	09/28/2025 Fr. David	10/05/2025 Fr. Lou	10/12/2025 Fr. Lou	10/19/2025 Fr. Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Envelopes	\$890.00
Lector	Tom Barr	Renetta Burlage	Tom Barr	Tom Barr	Offertory	\$50.00
Cross Bearer	Adam Gauger	Michael Burlage	Adam Gauger	David Ollendick	Religious Ed	\$35.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Fuel	\$300.00
Eucharist	Tom Barr	Tom Barr	Tom Barr	Tom Barr		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger	Joe Harper	David Ollendick		
	Dennis Truesdale	Kory Kaalberg	Dennis Truesdale	Andrea Ollendick		
Gifts	Cindy Massey	Bruce & Margaret Matt	Brent & Meaghan Peters	Dennis Truesdale		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle C Reading						
	09/28/2025 Fr. Lou	10/052025 Fr. Lou	10/12/2025 Fr. Lou	10/19/2025 Fr. Lou	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Choir	Robynn Anderson	Lily Westemeyer	Lily Westemeyer	Envelopes	\$200.00
Greeter	Thom & Carol Kirkpatrick	Gus & Lenore Manrique	Liz & Rich Lockhart	Judy Stebral	Offertory	\$97.25
Lector	Bob Jenn	Bob Jenn	Mike Waldschmidt	Mike Waldschmidt		
Server	Mike Sieverding, Messi Akodegnon	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry	Jean Burr, Messi Akodegnon	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry		
Eucharist -host	Deanne Eden	Jolene VanEschan	Mike Sieverding	Jolene VanEschan		
Eucharist - cup	Kristee Malmberg	Carol Kirkpatrick	Deanne Eden	Bob Jenn		
Eucharist - cup	Emy Rivera	Kristee Malmberg	Kay Evans	Carol Kirkpatrick		
Collection	Mike Waldschmidt	Jim Mills	Bryan Moran	Emy Rivera		
	Nancy Waldschmidt	MaryInn Mills	Alyssa Moran	Aboumou Akodegon		
Gifts	Janet Michel Family	Bob & Renita Rummelhart Family	Janet Michel Family	Volunteers		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Joyce Gauger	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding		

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

Cluster Parish Announcements

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.

St. Joseph Church, Hills.

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.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting: October 20, 6:30 PM.

Parishioners are welcome to attend council meetings. Please see a council member if you have agenda items. Members include: Rick Cole, Kay Evans, Karen Karr, Thom Kirkpatrick, Kristee Malmberg, Shelagh McDonald, Brian Moran, and Jim Schneider (President).

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Connie Deatsch who passed away last week. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Shirley Streb, Marvin’s wife, who passed away this week. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Alyssa Lenz will be having a bake sale in the Parish hall during coffee & donut hour, please be generous and help support her efforts to fund her trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference in November.

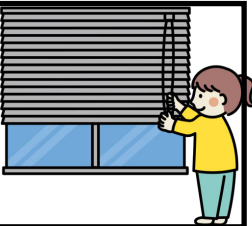


Please join us in the parish hall for coffee and donuts after Mass today.

Marvin and Katie Simon enjoyed the company of their family on Sunday, as they were celebrating a girls weekend!



ALL rectory windows will be replaced in October, while Father David is in Ghana. The contractor is removing all blinds, curtains and hardware....making it an excellent time to do some cleaning. We are in search of volunteers willing to help clean blinds and curtains. For more information please contact Carol Kirkpatrick at 319-331-0921. Thank you to Jean Burr and Marcia Mellecker who are spearheading this project.



St. Mary Church, Lone Tree and Nichols

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

Nichols Parish Council & Finance Council: New officers were elected: Adam Gauger, President, Michael Burlage, VP, Carol Kaalberg, Secretary. Thank you to Kory Kaalberg, who retired as council president, but will now serve as treasurer of Finance Council. Next meeting will be in November.

Lone Tree Parish Council: Next meeting will be November 15th, following Mass at the church hall. A light luncheon will be served to all attending Mass that Saturday. Plan to join us for the hospitality.

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Tom & Sue Squiers, on the loss of Tom’s mother, Ruth Squiers. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Hi, My name is Alyssa Lenz. I am a senior at West Liberty High School and parish-ioner at St. Mary’s, Nichols. I have the opportunity to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana this November with other youth from the surrounding area. I will be having a **BAKE SALE after Mass at Lone Tree on Saturday, October 4th, and after Mass at Nichols on October 5th**, to help fund my trip. I am extremely eager to have this opportunity to deepen my faith before moving on to college next year. *Thank you for all your prayers and support.*

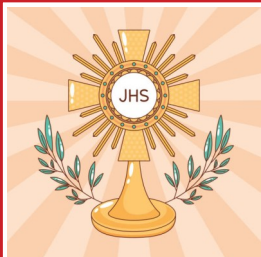
What is National Catholic Youth Conference? Catholic youth, high school age, from all across America will gather for three days in Indianapolis and will have the opportunity to hear multiple inspiring speakers, take advantage of many breakout sessions, attend mass and adoration, along with lots of singing and worshipping. It is a great time to gather with other Catholic students and grow in our faith.



ALTAR SERVERS

SEPTEMBER 27, ST. MARY LONE TREE, AFTER MASS
SEPTEMBER 28, ST. JOSEPH HILLS, AFTER MASS

Altar Server training will take place following Masses and Lone Tree and Hills this weekend. We have a great need for more altar servers. Please consider volunteering your time and talent to help our parishes in this need.



Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday 6 PM—7 PM St. Joseph, Hills



Life in the Spirit Seminar Concludes this Sunday St. Joseph, Hills 3:00 PM Hospitality to follow.