Dear Padre,

What happens to the sacred treasures in a deconsecrated Catholic church?



LUIS SANTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

When a diocesan bishop deconsecrates a church, he issues a decree that removes a church's dedication and relegates it to "profane but not sordid use" when it "cannot be used in any way for divine worship and there is no possibility of repairing it" (*Code of Canon Law*, 1222). The impossibility of repairing a badly damaged church doesn't mean only an architectural impossibility. Inadequate finances to maintain the church properly, an insufficient number of parishioners to foster ecclesiastical vitality, and a shortage of priests are also grave causes for a church's closure. Decorative appointments and sacred treasures in these relegated churches often find new homes in other churches and religious institutions.

This traditional custom of dissemination is a sign of solidarity with the broader Church and in continuity with its rich heritage. It honors the faith and sacrifices of the charter members when the church was built and the generations that followed. Remaining religious items in a relegated church, such as an unmovable altar, "lose their dedication or blessing if they have been destroyed in large part, or have been turned over permanently to profane use by decree of the competent ordinary or in fact" (*CCL* 1238). Stained glass windows, mosaics, and other sacred art that remain in a repurposed church don't lose their aesthetic beauty and evocative power, however. "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever," wrote the poet John Keats. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 9	November 10	November 11	November 12	November 13	November 14	November 15
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	*St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church*	*St. Martin of Tours, Bishop*	*St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr*	*St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin*	*Weekday*	*Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12	Ti 2:1–8, 11–14	Ti 3:1–7	Phlm 7–20	2 Jn 4–9	3 Jn 5–8	Prv 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31
1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17	Lk 17:7–10	Lk 17:11–19	Lk 17:20–25	Lk 17:26–37	Lk 18:1–8	1 Thes 5:1–6
Jn 2:13–22						Mt 25:14–30 or 25:14–15, 19–21

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



FABRIZIO MAFFEI

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Brothers and sisters support each other in hardship; they do not turn their back on those who are in need; and they weep and rejoice together in the active pursuit of unity, trust, and mutual reliance. The dynamic is that which Jesus himself gives to us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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Keep Your Light Burning Bright

ANN M. GARRIDO

We have entered that time of year when the readings turn our attention toward the "end of time"—that moment we await in which all of God's dreams for us will be realized. The "kingdom of God come." Jesus, like prophets before him, compared this moment to a wedding feast. In Jesus' time, marriage was the most decisive event of one's life, and the wedding feast was the greatest feast families ever celebrated. There was nothing better than a good wedding party—and nothing more embarrassing than a bad one. So much at stake!

In the parable in today's gospel, Jesus focuses on the role of the bridesmaids in making the wedding feast a spectacular event—or not. They are trusted to provide a parade of light to greet the groom as he arrives at his family's home with the bride, but it turns out that not all have prepared adequately.

The parable forces us to consider our own commitment to the Christian life. In baptism, we, too, were given a special role to serve the coming kingdom of God. We, too, were entrusted with a light and told to "keep it burning bright" until that time in which we "come out to greet him." At the beginning of our faith journey, we often embrace this role with much fervor. But we forget that the Christian life takes a good bit of endurance and involves a lot of waiting. We will need oil to keep that light burning bright—the oil of prayer, participation in the sacraments, time spent in study and renewal. No one else can nourish your relationship with God for you. It is something you will need to do yourself. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*



Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her.

WISDOM 6:12

Reflect

What are you doing to keep your light of faith burning bright right now?

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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

32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time **November 8, 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: stsmaryjoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmaryandjoseph
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 November 7 to November 15, 2026

Saturday	November 7	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Luther & Norma Hartley
Sunday	November 8	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Leo & Lyla Truesdale Bob & Renita Rummelhart
Monday	November 9	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Raymond Herring
Tuesday	November 10	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Prayer Service Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	November 11	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Harry Attig Prayer Service
Thursday	November 12	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Kathy Fortune Martin Warson
Friday	November 13	8:30 AM	Atrium	Marvin Simon
Saturday	November 14	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Keith Grothe
Sunday	November 15	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Marie Kaalberg Kevin Mahanna

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!

While Fr. David is in Ghana, we will continue to share photos from the Journey to Mary Pilgrimage...



Hills Fire & Rescue helped with safety along the pilgrimage route.











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.

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: Wednesday 10 am to noon. Directors: Mike and Lucy Parker 319-679-2420. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PARISH COUNCILS



Minutes are posted at all church entries.

Nichols Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting to be January 24, 2027, following Mass. We will be planning for our pancake breakfast, Sunday March 7th.

Lone Tree Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting will be Monday, February 8, at 6PM in the Lone Tree parish hall. We will be planning for our pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 7th.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, November 16, at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet November 10 & 24 *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!



Swallowing your pride occasionally will never give you indigestion.

Meeting November 8.

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Please contact Fr. David Paintsil or Carol Kaalberg if interested.



Eucharistic Adoration
Every Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30 PM.
Join us for some "quiet time" in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
***No Benediction* while Fr. David is in Ghana, only prayers and reflection.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
will meet November 11 & 18th.
At the Lone Tree St. Mary Parish Hall

Registration forms can be found at our church entries and on our website. Registration is free.
Nancy Waldschmidt, Director of Religious Ed
njwald1@gmail.com **or 319-331-2077**

Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle A Reading

	11/07/2026 Fr. Tim	11/14/2026 Fr. Lou	11/21/2026 Fr. Tim	11/28/2026 Fr. Lou	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Nancy Ford	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Envelopes	$1,297.00
Lector	Jerry Ford	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe	Offertory	$50.00
Cross Bearer	Glen Gerot	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	ACH	$245.00
Servers	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland	World Missions	$20.00
Eucharist	Jerry Ford	Judy Grothe	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe		
Eucharist	Nancy Ford	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland		
Collection	Glen Gerot	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford		
	Betty Gerot	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Joan Davis	Nancy Ford		
Gifts	Glen & Betty Gerot	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Jerry & Nancy Ford		
Commentator	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading

	11/08/2026 Fr. Lou	11/15/2026 Fr. Lou	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	11/29/2026 Fr. David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Envelopes	$1.315.00
Lector	Carol Kaalberg	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Offertory	$30.00
Cross Bearer	David Ollendick	Wayne Mengel	Trudi Westfall	Adam Gauger	ACH	$250.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Jeanne Green	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Adam Gauger		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	Wayne Mengel	Kory Kaalberg		
	Dennis Truesdale	David Ollendick	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger		
Gifts	Wayne Mengel	David Ollendick	Rhonda Meredith	Mary Lou Yedlik		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading

	11/082026 Fr. Lou	11/15/2026 Fr. Lou	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	11/29/2026 Fr. David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	$505.00
Greeter	Marcia Mellecker	Jim & Hope Frantz	Lee & Kathryn Campion	Janet Goss	Offertory	$101.60
Lector	Carol Kirkpatrick	Nancy Waldschmidt	Kay Evans	Kay Evans	ACH	$898.00
Server	Mike Sieverding Messi Akodegnon	Jean Burr, Emy Rivera	Mike Sieverding	Josh Ayelazuno, Emy Rivera	All Saints	$75.00
Eucharist -host	Carol Kirkpatrick	Kay Evans	Deanne Eden	Jolene VanEschen	Catholic U	$20.00
Eucharist - cup	Deanne Eden	Arlene Johnston	Mike Sieverding	Carol Kirkpatrick	Military	$60.00
Eucharist - cup	Kay Evans	Bob Jenn	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	World Mission	$20.00
Collection	Marcia Mellecker	Jim Frantz	Josh Ayeazuno	Mike Sieverding		
	Barb Mahanna	Hope Frantz	Emily Ayeazuno	Lora Sieverding		
Gifts	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family	Kevin Mahanna family	Dean & Alice Cole family	Darlene Schott family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald		

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

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

November Classes: November 8 & 22.
See Carol Kaalberg or Fr. David for more information.



THANK YOU!

Over $300 was donated to buy groceries for the Catholic Worker House meal.



St. Joseph social justice committee cooked a meal for residents at the Catholic Worker House last Sunday. They served approximately 65 people, who were extremely appreciative. There was some leftover money, which was donated to the Catholic Worker House to be used for laundromat tokens for their residents.

Committee members: CWH volunteer, JoAnn Montgomery, Arlene Johnston, Shelagh McDonald, Kay Evans, Jean Burr, Melody Mellecker, CWH volunteer. Thank you ladies for volunteering!



Thank you for all the feedback for our 2026 Journey with Mary Pilgrimage. Lots of great ideas were noted for the next one.



As we start to think about the giving season, please consider what you can *give* to your parish in *time & talent*. We are in need of servers, lectors, eucharistic ministers, commentators, and the list goes on…. Time & Talent forms can be found at all church entries.

CURRENT ANNUAL DIOCESESAN APPEAL CAMPAIGN

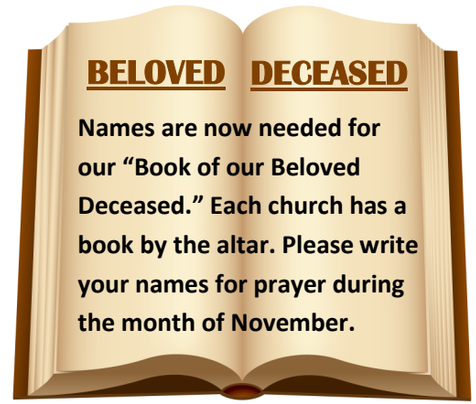
CHURCH	DONORS	GOAL	PLEDGED	UNDER GOAL	% 0F GOAL
LONE TREE	15	$9,981	$5,833	$4,148	58.44%
NICHOLS	12	$7,663	$5,445	$2,218	71.06%
HILLS	26	$13,640	$6,944	$6,696	50.91%

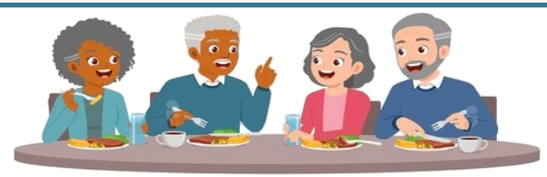
MARK YOUR CALENDARS….

Sunday, November 15: Nichols Community Thanksgiving Dinner, at NOON, St. Mary Hall, Nichols.
Sunday, November 22: Thanksgiving Service, at 2:00 PM, St. Mary Church, Lone Tree.
Sunday, December 6: Blue Christmas Service at 2:00 PM, United Presbyterian Church, Lone Tree.

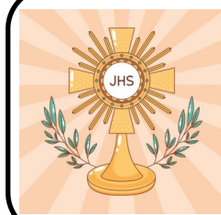


Thank you to Bruce Loan, for building our new Nativity set at St. Mary Lone Tree.





SENIOR CITIZENS THANKSGIVING DINNER
ST. MARY PARISH HALL, NICHOLS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 at NOON
Guests should bring donations for local food pantries.
Non-perishable items or monetary donations are welcomed.
This community event is sponsored by St. Mary Catholic Church in Nichols, Nichols United Methodist Church & Nichols Christian Church.
A cooperative community event to share Thanksgiving Blessings for the Nichols Community Senior Citizens.



Eucharistic Adoration
Every Wednesday,
5:30 – 6:30 PM.
Please note time change, until further notice.

At St. Joseph, Hills.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

The Lone Tree Food Pantry & Presbyterian Deacons will prepare Thanksgiving Food Baskets for pick up at the United Presbyterian Church Monday, November 23, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

If your family can be helped by receiving a food basket please call ***319-629-4900*** by November 16.
If you get the church answering machine, please leave your name, phone number and size of family/number of adults and age of children. We will return your call.

