

Dear Padre,

What is the significance of the Holy Eucharist in our lives as Christians?

The Mass should be understood as the celebration of our union—our communion—with Christ and his Church, which is the body of Christ. The Mass presumes participants have an existing personal relationship with Christ. We were united to Christ through baptism. We have received his Holy Spirit, empowering us to carry out Christ’s threefold mission: the prophetic mission of announcing his message and denouncing sin; the priestly mission expressed in a life of prayer, self-sacrifice, and participation in the liturgy; and the kingly/servant mission expressed in service to God and neighbor.

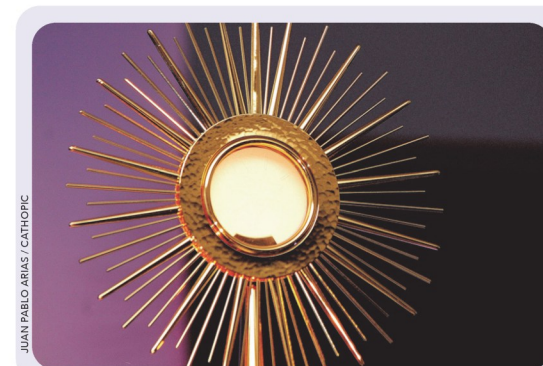
For the Eucharist to be meaningful, we must first experience a personal encounter with Christ—one that leads to personal conversion and a decision to live as disciples in community. Indeed, the Eucharist both celebrates and deepens our communion with Christ. The Eucharist also deepens our communion with fellow believers. “The Eucharist’s particular effectiveness in promoting communion is one of the reasons for the importance of Sunday Mass,” wrote Pope St. John Paul II in *On the Eucharist in Its Relationship to the Church (Ecclesia de Eucharistia)*, 41. Without this loving, sharing community, the Mass becomes empty. Whenever we attend Mass and receive holy Communion, we should ask ourselves: *Are we really in communion with Jesus and the body of Christ, his Christian community?* If not, then we should seek this broader communion in our lives. ●



ROMOLO TAMANI / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Barnabas, Apostle	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	Weekday	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 17:1-6 Mt 5:1-12	1 Kgs 17:7-16 Mt 5:13-16	1 Kgs 18:20-39 Mt 5:17-19	Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 Mt 5:20-26	Dt 7:6-11 1 Jn 4:7-16 Mt 11:25-30	1 Kgs 19:19-21 Mt 5:33-37	Ex 19:2-6a Rom 5:6-11 Mt 9:36-10:8



JUAN PABLO ARIAS / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Together...we will feed on the Blessed Sacrament, adore him and carry him through the streets.... Strengthened by the food that God gives us, let us bring Jesus to the hearts of all, because Jesus involves everyone in his work of salvation by calling each of us to sit at his table. Blessed are those who are called, for they become witnesses of this love!

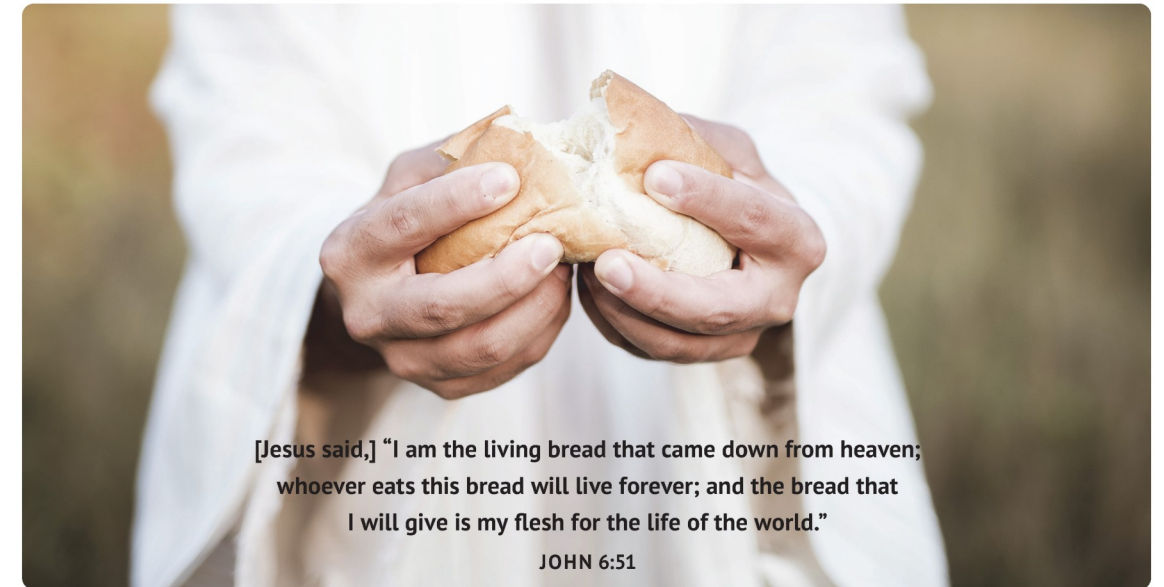
HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 22, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 7, 2026

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (A)

Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14b-16a / 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 / John 6:51-58



[Jesus said,] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

JOHN 6:51

All You Can Eat

MIGUEL DULICK

The “Bread of Life Discourse” in the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John is an astonishing teaching. “The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world” (John 6:51b). Creation was wonderful, the Incarnation was wonderful, but now Jesus takes the final step in God’s coming ever closer to us human beings, as close as food, as intimate as eating Christ’s body and drinking his blood. For us Catholics, it’s called *transubstantiation*: the Host—something we hold in our hand—is so divine that we worship it!

The crowds listening to Jesus could not have imagined how you would “eat” (literally, “gnaw”) Jesus’ flesh or drink his blood, and certainly not a whole year before the Last Supper (not to mention, hundreds of years before St. Thomas Aquinas). When surveys showed that many of today’s Catholics are just as confused and doubtful as the crowd at Capernaum, having lost faith or even interest in the Eucharist, the American bishops launched a search-and rescue mission to recover “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” published in 2021.

Paul bases the sacrament in our own experience. “The cup...that we bless” and “the bread that we break” create the ultimate reality: “we, though many, are one body”—of Christ! (See 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.) The priest says, “The Body of Christ,” and we respond, “Amen!” ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What does my “Amen” mean when I receive the Eucharist?



Comments from Father David Paintsil:

"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**

Corpus Christi June 7, 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 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, 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 our issues
from our cluster and
beyond.*

Cluster Mass Intentions June 6 to June 14

Saturday	June 6	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	June 7	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Jennifer Salemink Darlene Schott
Monday	June 8	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Bill Leonhardt
Tuesday	June 9	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Monica Leonhardt No Services Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	June 10	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Henry Leonhardt Prayer Service
Thursday	June 11	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Sp.Int of Betty Rayner Earl,Viola,Joanne Tessmer
Friday	June 12	8:30 AM	Atrium	Kevin Mahanna
Saturday	June 13	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Kevin Mullinnix
Sunday	June 14	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Gayle Kaalberg Bob, Renita Rummelhart

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!*

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ: The Gift of Christ's Presence

The Feast of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of [the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ](#), is a special celebration of our faith in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. On this feast, the Church joyfully proclaims that Jesus is truly present — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity — in the consecrated bread and wine. As Jesus tells us in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger."

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave Himself completely to His disciples when He said, "This is my body... this is my blood" (Luke 22:19–20). He did not leave us merely a symbol or memory, but His very self. Every time we celebrate the Holy Mass, Christ becomes present among us in the Eucharist to nourish, strengthen, and unite us.

Corpus Christi reminds us that the Eucharist is the heart of our Catholic faith. It is our spiritual food for the journey of life. Just as our bodies need nourishment, our souls also need spiritual strength. In Holy Communion, Jesus feeds us with His love, mercy, peace, and grace. The Eucharist gives us the courage to face life's struggles and the strength to live as faithful disciples.

This feast also calls us to deepen our reverence and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. We are encouraged not only to receive Jesus in Holy Communion but also to spend time with Him in prayer and adoration. We are blessed in our parish to have weekly Eucharistic adoration every Wednesday. In moments of silence before the Eucharist, we encounter the loving presence of Christ who understands our joys, burdens, fears, and hopes. Let us take advantage of this wonderful moment of grace and participate in our weekly Eucharistic adoration.

The Eucharist is also a sacrament of unity. St. Paul reminds us: "Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body" (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, Corpus Christi challenges us to live in love, forgiveness, charity, and service to others. We cannot truly receive the Body of Christ and remain indifferent to the suffering and needs of our brothers and sisters.

As we celebrate Corpus Christi, may we renew our faith in the Eucharist, approach the altar with reverence and gratitude, and allow the presence of Christ to transform our hearts and lives.

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 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, June 15 at 6:30 PM. **Hills Finance Council:** Next meeting will be June 18, 6PM, with Hills Bank, at St. Joseph Parish Hall.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet June 8 & 22 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

Sorrow looks back. Worry looks around.
Faith looks up.



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday,
June 10, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

Lone Tree Parish Council

Elections will be June 13, 2026



We will be looking for 2 council members,
1 man & 1 woman,
for a 3 year term.

Thank you to
Steve Moore and Jenni Eden
who have served the last three years

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

	06/06/2026 Lou	06/13/2026 Lou	06/20/2026 David	06/27/2026 David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Virginia Schlapkohl	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Envelopes	\$660.00
Lector	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Offertory	\$74.00
Cross Bearer	Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Nancy Ford	ACH	\$245.00
Servers	Carol Kaalberg, Maggie Anderson	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Cemetery	\$225.00
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Sherry Nicola	Paula Moore	Paula Moore	Sisters of Immac	\$220.00
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford		
Collection	Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Glen Gerot		
	Joan Davis	Joan Davis	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Betty Gerot		
Gifts	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Betty, Glen Gerot		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford		

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

	06/07/2026 Lou	06/14/2026 Lou	06/21/2026 David	06/28/2026 David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Envelopes	\$675.00
Lector	Missy Lenz	Tom Barr	Trudi Westfall	Renetta Burlage	Offertory	\$156.00
Cross Bearer	Wayne Mengel	David Ollendick	Dennis Truesdale	Michael Burlage	ACH	\$250.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Cemetery	\$245.00
Eucharist	Missy Lenz	Adam Gauger	Trudi Westfall	Tom Barr	Sisters of Immac	\$200.00
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Tom Barr	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Dennis Truesdale	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	David Ollendick		
	Wayne Mengel	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel		
Gifts	Kelsi Lampe	Cindy Massey	Wayne Mengel	Brent & Meaghan Peters		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg		

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

	06/07/2026 Lou	06/14/2026 Lou	06/21/2026 David	06/28/2026 Lou	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Robynn Anderson	Lily Westemyer & Choir	Lily Westemyer & Choir	Haylee Osmonson & Choir	Envelopes	\$542.00
Greeter	Judy Stebral	Jim & Marilyn Mills	Marcia Mellecker	Jim & Hope Frantz	Offertory	\$106.00
Lector	Kay Evans	Carol Kirkpatrick	Mike Waldschmidt	Lora Sieverding	ACH	\$898.00
Server	Messi Akodegnon, Jean Burr	Wendy Berry, Jean Burr	Emy Rivera, Jean Burr	Mike Sieverding, Emy Rivera	Church Latin Am	\$20.00
Eucharist -host	Jolene Van Eschen	Bob Jenn	Mike Sieverding	Carol Kaalberg	Home Missions	\$20.00
Eucharist - cup	Emy Rivera	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	St. Stanislaus	\$145.00
Eucharist - cup	Carol Kirkpatrick	Deanne Eden	Bob Jenn	Deanne Eden	Sisters of Immac	\$434.30
Collection	Mike Sieverding	Jim Mills	Marcia Mellecker	Jim Frantz		
	Lora Sieverding	Marilynn Mills	Jim Frantz	Hope Frantz		
Gifts	Darlene Schott family	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family	Mike, Matt Waldschmidt, Brian Moran	Dave Ipsen family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Carol Kirkpatrick	Lora Sieverding	Carol Kaalberg		

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

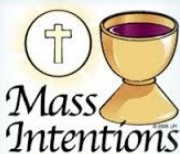


Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

if so, please contact Fr. David Paintsil or Carol Kirkpatrick to let them know of your interest. Classes will begin this fall. An exact date and time will be determined.

Are you interested in learning more about our Catholic faith, or know someone who would like to become Catholic,

like to become Catholic,



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



Congratulations to our parish graduates: Alyssa Lenz, Cade Willoz, Alex Hurlbut, Vaughn Judge & Mardie Berry May God continue to bless you as you begin this new chapter in your journey of life. *Photo of Bacculaureate at Lone Tree High School.*



Sunday
June 28th

Per request of Fr. Lou, NO GIFTS!

St. Joseph, Hills will be hosting a luncheon celebration following Mass, **Sunday, June 28.**

We will honor Fr. Lou Leonhardt's 70th year of ordination into the priesthood.



Parish AED Training will be Thursday, June 25, at 7 PM, in the St. Mary, Lone Tree hall. This is parish wide training for the new AED systems we recently updated. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend. You will receive instruction on how to operate the Automated External Defibrator.



Please be mindful of parking in front of the church at St. Mary, Lone Tree. While there are no signs to indicate reserved parking, please keep the cemented area close to the lift available for those less mobile. Your consideration is much appreciated.



Life in the Spirit Seminar met at St. Mary, Lone Tree on May 24th and everyone enjoyed a taco supper following the meeting.



Congratulations to Emily O'Brien and Josh Ayelazuno, who exchanged wedding vows at St. Joseph, Hills, this past weekend.



Demolition of the St. Mary, Lone Tree rectory fireplace has begun. The fireplace is being removed completely.

TIME & TALENT NEEDED

All Parishes have a need for parishioners to volunteer their time and talents to serve our community. We are always in need of servers, lectors, musicians, ushers, eucharistic ministers, and more. If you would like to serve, please let Fr. David or the office staff know of your interest, OR put a note in the collection basket.