

Dear Padre,

I raised my children in the faith, but two of them left the Church to embrace another denomination, and two others, although still Catholic, have not committed to regular church attendance. I worry about their salvation.

Your experience is not unknown to many Catholic parents. Many mothers and fathers could probably carry on a good conversation with you about their concerns for the faith lives of their children.

The journey of faith has many paths. An individual may think more deeply about the meaning of life or may find religion after a momentous experience or in the process of gathering with a community in which they find support, clarity, shared beliefs, or guidelines for living morally. For those of us who grew up believing, chances are, we were not introduced to religion through logic. Children are brought to church long before they are aware of their need for God. They learn doctrine and attend worship before questions of faith and religion form within them. Passing on the faith is a great gift that parents give, and it will serve these young people well. Your children have the tools to help them find their way, and God continues to be with them. Follow the example of St. Monica and pray for them. Trust this one to God and continue to be a good example. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others...with their needs and troubles, to touch our heart. That is what makes us neighbors to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers. In the end, love prevails, and it proves more powerful than evil and death.

HOMILY, CASTEL GANDOLFO, JULY 13, 2025

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

June 29

Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1–11

2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18

Mt 16:13–19

Tuesday

June 30

Weekday

Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12

Mt 8:23–27

Wednesday

July 1

Weekday

Am 5:14–15, 21–24

Mt 8:28–34

Thursday

July 2

Weekday

Am 7:10–17

Mt 9:1–8

Friday

July 3

St. Thomas, Apostle

Eph 2:19–22

Jn 20:24–29

Saturday

July 4

Weekday

Am 9:11–15

Mt 9:14–17

Sunday

July 5

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zec 9:9–10

Rom 8:9, 11–13

Mt 11:25–30

Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 28, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

2 Kings 4:8–11, 14–16a / Romans 6:3–4, 8–11 / Matthew 10:37–42



All for Jesus

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel passage is challenging. If anyone other than Jesus told you that if you love your own family "more than me," you are "not worthy of me," you would laugh in their face! Or, is this what scholars call a "semitism"—a culturally conditioned exaggeration used for effect? What about you are "not worthy of me" unless you "take up [your] cross and follow me," or "whoever finds his life will lose it"? Does Jesus mean these literally, or are these metaphors? And what is "a prophet's reward"?

A friend of mine tried an experiment. He took the Gospel of Matthew and read it through from start to finish as if he had never seen it before. He was astonished! Jesus was serious. He meant it—all of it. Try it yourself without looking for loopholes.

The key in the reading today is "for my sake." The standard, the rule, that absolute mark is "me," that is, Jesus himself, only Jesus, always Jesus. And Jesus sets that mark very high. Take up your cross? Jesus was abandoned on the cross. Jesus gave away his Mother from the cross. Jesus lost his life on the cross. But he found that life: resurrection! That is "a prophet's reward," is it not?

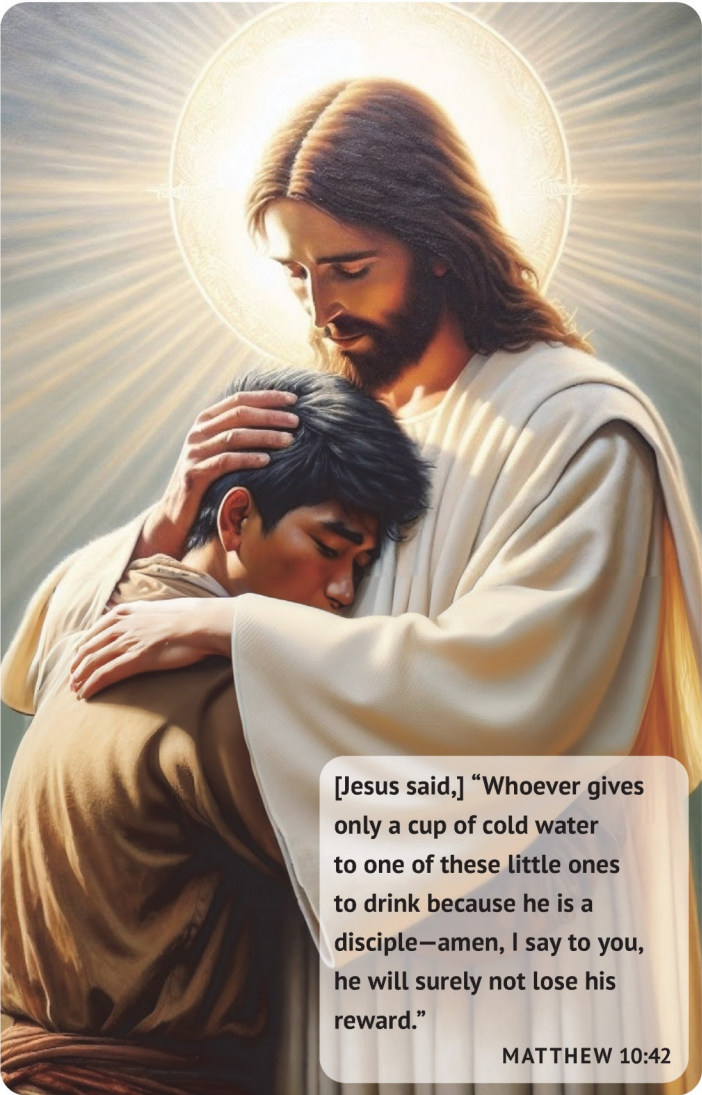
I have to love Jesus' promise, a special "reward" for just sharing "a cup of cold water" with a "little one." It reminds me of Honduras, where I live. Here, a cup of cold water can make the difference between life and death. And that is no exaggeration! ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Have I read a whole gospel from start to finish?



[Jesus said,] "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

MATTHEW 10:42

"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

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 28, 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 other issues
from our cluster and
beyond.*

Cluster Mass Intentions June 27 to July 5, 2026

Saturday	June 27	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Cindy Hartley
Sunday	June 28	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Paul Yedlik Dave Ipsen
Monday	June 29	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Henry Leonhardt
Tuesday	June 30	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Fr. Bob Leonhardt Rose Amelon Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	July 1	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Monica Leonhardt Janie Marek
Thursday	July 2	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Spcl Int of Betty Rayner OswaldVictoriaRobertKout
Friday	July 3	8:30 AM	Atrium	LvngDcsd of Draker Family
Saturday	July 4	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Marvin Klebe
Sunday	July 5	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Paul Yedlik 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!*

Comments from Father David Paintsil:

Celebrating Fr. Lou: A Living Witness of Faithful Priesthood

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



This weekend, our parish community gathers with profound gratitude and joy to celebrate a truly extraordinary milestone—the 70th Anniversary of Fr. Lou's Ordination to the Priesthood.

Seventy years of priestly ministry is a rare and remarkable gift, not only to the Church but also to the countless lives that have been touched by one man's faithful response to God's call. Throughout seven decades of service, Fr. Lou has been a living witness to the love of Christ, dedicating his life to preaching the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments, shepherding God's people, and bringing hope and encouragement to generations of Catholics and non-Catholics.

For many members of our parish community, Fr. Lou is much more than a priest. He is a beloved pastor, mentor, spiritual father, and friend. His years of dedicated service among us have left an enduring legacy of faith, kindness, compassion, and unwavering devotion to God's people. Even in retirement, he continues to inspire us through his presence, ministry, prayers, wisdom, and willingness to serve whenever called upon.

At 96 years of age, Fr. Lou continues to embody the words of St. Paul: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* (2 Timothy 4:7). His life reminds us that priesthood is not simply a vocation embraced for a season but a lifelong gift of self to Christ and His Church. His enduring love for the Eucharist, fidelity to prayer, and joyful commitment to ministry remain an inspiration to all of us.

On behalf of the entire Sts. Mary and Joseph Catholic Community, I extend our deepest gratitude to Fr. Lou for his faithful witness and generous service. Thank you, Fr. Lou, for the countless sacrifices you have made, the prayers you have offered, the lives you have touched, and the example of holiness you continue to provide. Your priesthood has been a blessing beyond measure, and we are privileged to celebrate this milestone with you.

As your parish family, we want you to know that you are deeply loved, greatly appreciated, and always remembered in our prayers. We thank God for the gift of your life and vocation. May He continue to bless you with His peace, strength, and joy. May Our Blessed Mother, whom you have served so faithfully, keep you under her loving protection, and may the Lord reward abundantly all the good you have accomplished for His glory and the salvation of souls.

Congratulations on this remarkable 70th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. Be assured of my personal prayers, affection, and support, and those of our entire parish community. We thank God for you today and always.

With gratitude and blessings,

Fr. David Paintsil

Pastor, Sts. Mary and Joseph Catholic Community

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, July 20 at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study
Bible Study will meet July 14 & 28 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

All people smile in the same language.



Vacation Bible School will be August 3-7 at Nichols Christian Church. Rides from Lone Tree to Nichols will be offered.

Please contact Linda Abbott for more information:
563-357-8733.



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday, July 1, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Coming Soon!

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

Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle A Reading						
	06/27/2026 David	07/04/2026 Lou	07/11/2026 David	07/18/2026 Lou	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Bernie Lorack	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Nancy Ford	Envelopes	\$560.00
Lector	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Jerry Ford	Jerry Ford	Offertory	\$65.00
Cross Bearer	Nancy Ford	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Glen Gerot	Communication	\$20.00
Servers	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Jerry Ford	Jerry Ford	Peter’s Pence	\$20.00
Eucharist	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe	Jerry Ford	Jerry Ford		
Eucharist	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola	Paula Moore	Nancy Ford		
Collection	Glen Gerot	Joan Davis	Joel Yedlik	Betty Gerot		
	Betty Gerot	Lynn Bland	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Glen Gerot		
Gifts	Betty, Glen Gerot	Joan Davis, Lynn Bland	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Betty Gerot, Glen Gerot		
Commentator	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Jerry Ford	Jerry Ford		

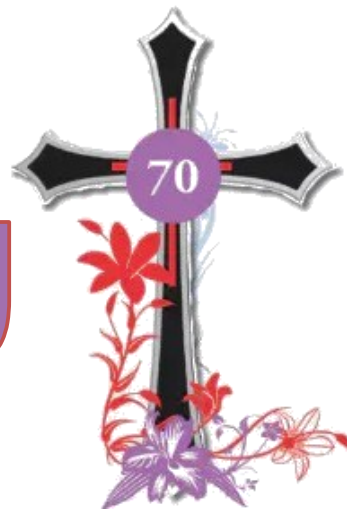
Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	06/28/2026 David	07/05/2026 David	07/12/2026 Lou	07/19/2026 David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Dennis Truesdale	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green	Envelopes	\$890.00
Lector	Renetta Burlage	Tom Barr	Trudi Westfall	Renetta Burlage	Offertory	\$40.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	Dennis Truesdale	David Ollendick	Michael Burlage		
Server	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Tom Barr	Tom Barr	Tom Barr	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Adam Gauger		
Collection	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	Dennis Truesdale	Wayne Mengel		
	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger	David Ollendick	Tom Barr		
Gifts	Brent & Meaghan Peters	Dennis Truesdale	Tom Barr	Michael & Renetta Burlage		
Commentator	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	06/28/2026 Lou	07/05/2026 David	07/12/2026 David	07/19/2026 David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson & Choir	Robynn Anderson	Choir	Choir	Envelopes	\$510.00
Greeter	Jim & Hope Frantz	Judy Stebral	Marcia Mellecker	Jim & Marilyn Mills	Offertory	\$122.00
Lector	Lora Sieverding	Kezia Attitse	Bob Jenn	Shelagh McDonald		
Server	Mike Sieverding, Emy Rivera	Messi Akodegnon, Emy Rivera	Jean Burr, Wendy Berry	Emy Rivera, Josh Ayelazuno		
Eucharist -host	Carol Kaalberg	Kay Evans	Jolene Van Eschen	Jolene Van Eschen		
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Deanne Eden	Emy Rivera	Arlene Johnston		
Eucharist - cup	Deanne Eden	Mike Sieverding	Mike Sieverding	Kristee Malmberg		
Collection	Jim Frantz	Barb Mahanna	Marcia Mellecker	Jim Mills		
	Hope Frantz	Marcia Mellecker	Mike Waldschmidt	Marilyn Mills		
Gifts	Dave Ipsen family	Maynard Rayner family	Veva Jenn Family	Jeremy Jenn Family		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding		

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

CONGRATULATIONS!

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June 28, 2026



FATHER LOU

GOD'S BLESSINGS
ON THE
Anniversary
OF YOUR
Ordination



Please join us following Mass at St. Joseph this morning as we celebrate Father Lou Leonhardt's 70th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. A luncheon will be hosted in our parish hall, everyone is welcomed. May God continue to bless Father Lou with good health and an ever growing love for celebrating Mass with parishioners everywhere.



Will you be celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary this year? If you were married in 1976 the diocese will be honoring you and your spouse on October 18th at St. Patrick's, Iowa City. Please let your parish office know your anniversary date **before** August 23, 2026.

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June 28, 2026

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Connie Shaw, who passed away June 9. Connie is the wife of Bob Shaw. Connie's funeral was 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.

4th of July Parade in Hills

Lottie Yeries will be parade Grand Marshall!



NO HEALING MASS IN JULY!

Next healing Mass will be

Saturday, August 1, 2026.

Hospitality provided by St. Mary, Lone Tree.

Hills will have their annual 4th of July Parade at 5PM, Saturday, July 4th. Brian Moran will be pulling the church float, any parishioners who would like to ride the float and throw out bracelets with bible verses, are welcomed. Children must be accompanied by a parent. Float will be in church parking lot by 4:15pm.

Father David studies and tours in Washington, D.C.



During the first two weeks of June, Father David attended The Catholic University of America, located in Washington, D.C. Between classes, homework and presentations, he took some time to explore the area. He visited the WWII Memorial and several Smithsonian museums.

A group of the Seven Sisters Apostolate has been established for the cluster of Hills, Lone Tree and Nichols parishes to pray for our priest. Each day of the week one Sister commits to praying a Holy Hour for our priest. Sunday and Thursday are covered, but Sisters are still needed for the remaining days of the week. Please consider devoting one hour each week to lifting up our priest and covering him in prayer. Please contact anchoress Judee Albert at 319-325-4026 with questions or to volunteer, and visit sevensistersapostolate.org for more information.

