

Dear Padre,

I am a senior Catholic woman. All my life, I have waited for the Church to welcome women as priests. I have volunteered with numerous faiths over the years and have worked with pastors and rabbis who are women. Why does the Catholic Church not recognize that women have callings to the priesthood?



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

My answer will probably not be acceptable to you, and it might even make you a little more frustrated and perhaps even discouraged. The understanding of the Church is that the call to priesthood is not based on merit. If it were based on merit, and that was the single important criterion, your question might be phrased in a different way. I will let you imagine what that might be!

The tradition, practice, and discipline of the Church continues to insist that the call to ordained priesthood requires the respondent to be male. Any explanation beyond this simple statement would be strained and of little use. We are aware of the traditions that are practiced in other Christian denominations. We are probably aware of the Roman Catholic theology of priesthood that is offered in support of the practice. We can probably offer example after example in support or in disagreement of the practice. None of it matters when it comes up against the hard truth of the tradition, practice, and discipline: the priesthood requires a baptized male for validity. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday (A)

Acts 2:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 / John 20:19-23



A Gift for All People of All Times

ANN M. GARRIDO

When reading aloud today's passage from Acts of the Apostles, do you stumble over the names of the peoples gathered as I do? "Parthians, Medes, and Elamites." Where is "Cappadocia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia"? And why were all these peoples in Jerusalem in the first place?

It might help to know that Pentecost did not originate as a Christian feast. There are three pilgrimage festivals that drew Jews from across the Mediterranean region to Jerusalem. Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and God's protection during the exodus from Egypt. Two are in the spring: Passover, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, recalling the night the Jews were freed from enslavement in Egypt; and Shavuot, or *Pentecost* in Greek, remembering the giving of God's law on Mount Sinai.

The scene described in Acts echoes the story at Mount Sinai. The peoples who gathered outside the house in Jerusalem represent the breadth and diversity of peoples known at that time, and not just at that time. Some of the civilizations mentioned had not existed for hundreds of years. The book of Acts wants us to know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was an event of such significance that somehow *all* were mysteriously present—not just those of times gone by, but even we who live in such far-away, hard-to-pronounce places as Islamabad or Albuquerque. Today, we celebrate a gift that transcends time and geography. A gift that continues to draw all of us together in wonder and awe. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Do I often remember that the Church encompasses people of every nation: those gone before us and those to come?

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

At Pentecost, the apostles spoke the languages of those they met, and the confusion of Babel was finally resolved by the harmony brought about by the Spirit. Whenever God's "breath" unites our hearts and makes

us view others as our brothers and sisters, differences no longer become an occasion for division and conflict.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

May 25

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday

May 26

St. Philip Neri, Priest
1 Pt 1:10-16 Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday

May 27

Weekday
1 Pt 1:18-25 Mk 10:32-45

Thursday

May 28

Weekday
1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12 Mk 10:46-52

Friday

May 29

Weekday
1 Pt 4:7-13 Mk 11:11-26

Saturday

May 30

Weekday
Jude 17, 20b-25 Mk 11:27-33

Sunday

May 31

The Most Holy Trinity
Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9 2 Cor 13:11-13 Jn 3:16-18



[The Jews] were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?"

ACTS 2:7-8

VEITRE / SHUTTERSTOCK



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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**

Pentecost Sunday May 24, 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 May 23 to May 31

Saturday	May 23	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Kevin Mullinnix
Sunday	May 24	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Tim Leggins John Schneider
Monday	May 25	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Bill Leonhardt
Tuesday	May 26	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Thomas Cooney Marvin Simon Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	May 27	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Fr. Bob Leonhardt Clayton&MaryAnn Michel
Thursday	May 28	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Maynard Rayner Martin Warson
Friday	May 29	8:30 AM	Atrium	Leo Knebel
Saturday	May 30	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	May 31	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Tim Leggins 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!*



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 May 12 & 26 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.



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday,
May 27, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

Lone Tree Parish Council
Nomination Weekend!



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
on our council.

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

	05/23/2026 Lou	05/30/2026 Lou	06/06/2026 Lou	06/13/2026 Lou	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Virginia Schlapkohl	Barb Dinsmore	Envelopes	\$600.00
Lector	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Offertory	\$70.00
Cross Bearer	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland	ACH	\$215.00
Servers	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Carol Kaalberg, Maggie Anderson	Jill Welter		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Paula Moore	Carol Kaalberg	Sherry Nicola		
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe		
Collection	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland		
	Joan Davis	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Joan Davis	Joan Davis		
Gifts	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis		
Commentator	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter		

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

	05/24/2026 David	05/31/2026 David	06/07/2026 David	06/14/2026 Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Envelopes	\$255.00
Lector	Trudi Westfall	Renetta Burlange	Missy Lenz	Carol Kaalberg	Offertory	\$92.00
Cross Bearer	Adam Gauger	Michael Burlage	Wayne Mengel	David Ollendick	ACH	\$250.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Cemetery	\$100.00
Eucharist	Trudi Westfall	Missy Lenz	Tom Barr	Adam Gauger		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Dave Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	Dennis Truesdale	David Ollendick		
	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Dennis Truesdale		
Gifts	Tom & Maggie Gouger	Missy Lenz	Kelsi Lampe	Cindy Massey		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

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

	05/24/2026 David	05/31/2026 Lou	06/07/2026 David	06/14/2026 Lou	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee & Choir	Choir	Robynn Anderson	Lily Westemyer & Choir	Envelopes	\$905.00
Greeter	Jim & Hope Frantz	Marcia Mellecker	Judy Stebral	Jim & Marilyn Mills	Offertory	\$149.12
Lector	Mike Waldschmidt	Alyssa Moran	Kay Evans	Carol Kirkpatrick	ACH	\$535.00
	Jean Burr					
Server	Messi Akodegnon	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry	Messi Akodegnon, Jean Burr	Wendy Berry, Jean Burr		
Eucharist -host	Jolene Van Eschen	Bob Jenn	Jolene Van Eschen	Bob Jenn		
Eucharist - cup	Deanne Eden	Mike Sieverding	Emy Rivera	Arlene Johnston		
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Carol Kirkpatrick	Carol Kirkpatrick	Deanne Eden		
Collection	Jim Frantz	Marcia Mellecker	Mike Sieverding	Jim Mills		
	Hope Frantz	Barbara Mahanna	Lora Sieverding	Marilynn Mills		
		Bob & Renita Rummelhart family		Bob & Renita Rummelhart family		
Gifts	John Schneider family	melhart family	Darlene Schott family			
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Carol Kirkpatrick		

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

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ will be making their missionary appeal to our parishes the weekend of May 30th and 31st. They are committed to the care of children, education and formation of youth, care of the sick and underprivileged, pastoral ministry in parishes, social and developmental work and spiritual formation through retreats, workshops, and marriage counseling. Their apostolate includes teaching, healthcare, pastoral ministry, social services and other ministries where the Lord calls them to serve. There will be a special collection following the speaker's presentation, please be generous to their cause.



Checks may be made payable to your parish.

Catholic Radio Station In Kalona – 89.5 KMHV



A Unique Way to Strengthen Your Faith!

"In addition to the many ways God has given us to learn about our Catholic faith, our area now has our own Catholic radio. KMHV-FM at 89.5 broadcasts a mix of EWTN and Relevant radio around the clock.

You will find answers to many questions about the faith; called in from listeners just like you. You will hear meaningful discussions of difficult challenges that the culture presents such as:

- Who is God?
- Why be a Catholic?
- Why doesn't the church change its moral teachings?

Whether the topic is church news, church history, national or international news, there is always a solidly Catholic basis to whatever is presented. Our on-air people are experts for sure but they also have a friendly manner and a sense of humor. In summary, if you are looking for radio that is different and strengthens your faith, give KMHV-FM 89.5 a try. You may never switch stations again!"

We are praying the rosary before all of our parish Masses during the month of May.



Sunday, May 24 at 3PM
St. Mary, Lone Tree



Memorial Day Services:

9:00 AM

St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, Nichols
with Fr. Lou.
Inclement weather at Nichols church.

10:00 AM

St. Stanislaus Cemetery,
with Fr. David.

Envelopes are in your weekly envelope boxes.

SAVE THE DATE
June 28, 2026
Father Lou's 70th year of ordination celebration!



Our cluster parishes are back on Facebook. Melody Mellecker is our current social media and website administrator. Follow us at Sts. Mary and Joseph of Hills, Lone Tree, and Nichols.

SUMMER SUMMIT CAMP
BOYS 14-18:
JOIN US FOR A ONE NIGHT CAMP IN RURAL IOWA FULL OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, PRAYER, AND SACRAMENTS AS WE SEEK TO GROW IN VIRTUE, PRAYER, AND DISCERNMENT.

JUNE 20-21
NICHOLS, IA
SCAN QR CODE FOR INTEREST FORM
QUESTIONS? FR. ANDREW - RAUENBUHLER@DIOHAV.ORG

DIOCESE of DAVENPORT



Jon Mengel from the Church of St. Mary of Nichols recured the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary & Mathias Church in Muscatine by our Bishop, Dennis Welsh. Jon is a student a St. Mary of Mathias Catholic School in Muscatine.