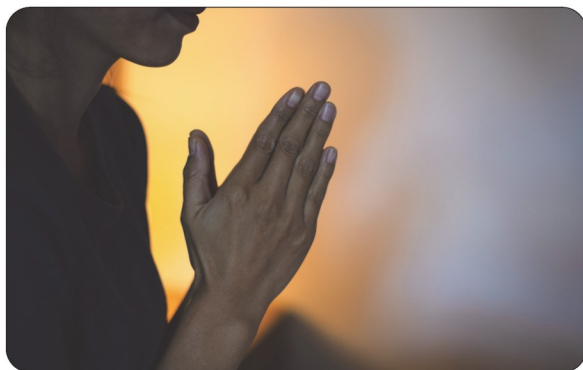


Dear Padre,

During Mass, is it proper for the faithful to raise our hands when pronouncing the words, “For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever”?

When the priest and people offer the Our Father together to God, the presider assumes an ancient posture of prayer, known as the *orans*—with arms extended and palms opened upward. After the Lord’s Prayer, the priest keeps his hands extended and says alone the embolism (“Deliver us, Lord...”). At the end, he joins his hands, and the people acclaim, “For the kingdom....” This acclamation is meant to be the people’s response to the embolism, and the priest remains silent for it. It would appear unnecessary for the faithful to now extend their hands during this acclamation—especially when it’s a response to an embolism prayer that just called for the presider to have extended his own hands and now has them joined together.

Although the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* doesn’t mention a specific congregational hand posture during this acclamation, it speaks in favor of “what serves the common spiritual good of the People of God, rather than private inclination or arbitrary choice,” stating that a common bodily posture “is a sign of the unity of the members of the Christian community gathered together for the sacred Liturgy: it both expresses and fosters the intention and spiritual attitude of the participants” (*GIRM* 42). ●



TINNAKORN JORBUANG / SHUTTERSTOCK

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*.

Monday June 1 <i>St. Justin, Martyr</i> 2 Pt 1:2–7 Mk 12:1–12	Thursday June 4 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Tm 2:8–15 Mk 12:28–34	Sunday June 7 <i>The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)</i> Dt 8:2–3, 14b–16a 1 Cor 10:16–17 Jn 6:51–58
Tuesday June 2 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Pt 3:12–15a, 17–18 Mk 12:13–17	Friday June 5 <i>St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr</i> 2 Tm 3:10–17 Mk 12:35–37	
Wednesday June 3 <i>St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs</i> 2 Tm 1:1–3, 6–12 Mk 12:18–27	Saturday June 6 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Tm 4:1–8 Mk 12:38–44	



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

To those in power, I repeat: listen to the voice of conscience! The apparent victories

achieved with weapons, which sow death and destruction, are in reality defeats and never bring peace or security! God does not want war, he wants peace, and he strengthens those who are committed to leaving behind the spiral of hatred and taking the path of dialogue.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

19 STUDIO / SHUTTERSTOCK



Embracing the Mystery

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

The Christian confession of a triune God cannot be explained, it can only be believed. It is not a cop-out to proclaim that this belief is rooted in mystery. Mystery is the essential language and experience of belief. We lose something when we try to explain a mystery instead of embracing it. It may make us uncomfortable; it may provoke more questions than answers. Regardless, it does not suggest the weakness of mystery but rather the beauty, the wonder, and the awe.

Embracing belief and living as a person of faith is a singular journey. You cannot believe for someone else, and that person, even one you dearly love, cannot believe for you. It is also important to understand that as singular as the journey of faith may be, it ultimately ends in community. Belief does not isolate a person, but rather invites a person to connect with others who also walk in faith.

The community/communion of the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is the perfect witness to the truth that mystery creates. One God, three divine persons. The Eucharist that we celebrate on this day proclaims the unity of our belief—to the Father, through the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Reflect

How does the mystery of the Trinity reveal God’s nature as a communion of love?

"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**

The Most Holy Trinity May 31, 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 30 to June 7

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
Monday	June 1	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Millie Lovetinsky
Tuesday	June 2	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	No Mass Prayer Service Dorothy Lynn Hotz
Wednesday	June 3	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Fr. Bob Leonhardt Prayer Service
Thursday	June 4	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Sp.Int of Betty Rayner Oswald&Victoria Tessmer
Friday	June 5	8:30 AM	Atrium	Jack&RoseMarie Ruth
Saturday	June 6	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	June 7	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Jennifer Salemkink Darlene Schott

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:

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity: What It Means for Us



This Sunday, the Church celebrates the great mystery of the Most Holy Trinity — One God in Three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. While the Trinity is a mystery beyond complete human understanding, it is not meant to confuse us. Rather, it reveals the very heart of God and the way God relates to us with love.

From the beginning of our Christian life, we are marked by the Trinity. At Baptism, we were baptized “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we profess our faith in the Triune God. The Trinity is not simply a doctrine we learn; it is the life into which we are invited.

The Father is the source of all creation and the loving giver of life. The Son, Jesus Christ, reveals the Father’s love through His life, death, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit strengthens, guides, and sanctifies us each day. The Trinity shows us that God is a communion of perfect love. God is not isolation, but relationship.

This feast reminds us that we are created in the image of a God who is relational. Therefore, we are called to live in love, unity, and communion with one another. In a world where family and community values are gradually being replaced by individualism, this feast reminds us of the need to restore peace, unity, togetherness, and genuine love within our families and communities. In families, friendships, parish communities, and society, we are invited to reflect the love shared within the Trinity through kindness, forgiveness, service, and mutual care.

The mystery of the Trinity also teaches us the importance of humility. We may not fully understand God, but we are called to trust Him. Faith is not about having every answer; it is about entering into a loving relationship with God who continually reveals Himself to us. In a world often marked by division, loneliness, and selfishness, the Trinity reminds us that we are made for communion — with God and with one another. The more we remain close to the Father through prayer, follow Jesus in our daily lives, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, the more we become people of peace, joy, and love.

As we celebrate this beautiful feast, let us renew our faith in the Triune God and strive to make our homes and parish communities reflections of the unity and love of the Most Holy Trinity.

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Please keep me in your prayers as I will be at The Catholic University of America for studies until June 14. May the Lord continue to protect and guide us all.

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

The important thing in you life is not our position ... it's your disposition.



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday, June 3, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

Lone Tree Parish Council
Nomination ballots are at the church entrance.

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

	05/30/2026 Lou	06/06/2026 Lou	06/13/2026 Lou	06/20/2026 David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Paula Moore	Virginia Schlapkohl	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Envelopes	\$825.00
Lector	Sherry Nicola	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Offertory	\$54.00
Cross Bearer	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik		
Servers	Sherry Nicola	Carol Kaalberg, Maggie Anderson	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola		
Eucharist	Paula Moore	Carol Kaalberg	Sherry Nicola	Paula Moore		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik		
	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Joan Davis	Joan Davis	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Sherry Nicola	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola		

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

	05/31/2026 David	06/07/2026 David	06/14/2026 Lou	06/21/2026 David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Wayne Mengel	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Envelopes	\$260.00
Lector	Renetta Burlange	Missy Lenz	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Offertory	\$40.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	Wayne Mengel	David Ollendick	Dennis Truesdale	A & R memorial	\$25.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall		
Eucharist	Missy Lenz	Missy Lenz	Adam Gauger	Trudi Westfall		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Tom Barr		
Collection	Kory Kaalberg	Dennis Truesdale	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg		
	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Gauger		
Gifts	Missy Lenz	Kelsi Lampe	Cindy Massey	Wayne Mengel		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall		

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

	05/31/2026 Lou	06/07/2026 David	06/14/2026 Lou	06/21/2026 Lou	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Choir	Robynn Anderson	Lily Westemyer & Choir	Lily Westemyer & Choir	Envelopes	\$335.00
Greeter	Marcia Mellecker	Judy Stebral	Jim & Marilyn Mills	Marcia Mellecker	Offertory	\$161.00
Lector	Alyssa Moran	Kay Evans	Carol Kirkpatrick	Mike Waldschmidt	St. Stanislaus	\$2,060.00
Server	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry	Messi Akodegnon, Jean Burr	Wendy Berry, Jean Burr	Josh Ayeluzuno, Jean Burr		
Eucharist -host	Bob Jenn	Jolene Van Eschen	Bob Jenn	Mike Sieverding		
Eucharist - cup	Mike Sieverding	Emy Rivera	Arlene Johnston	Emy Rivera		
Eucharist - cup	Carol Kirkpatrick	Carol Kirkpatrick	Deanne Eden	Bob Jenn		
Collection	Marcia Mellecker	Mike Sieverding	Jim Mills	Marcia Mellecker		
	Jim Frantz	Lora Sieverding	Marilynn Mills	Jim Frantz		
Gifts	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family	Darlene Schott family	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family	Mike, Matt Waldschmidt, Brian Moran		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Carol Kirkpatrick	Lora Sieverding		

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 this weekend. 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.

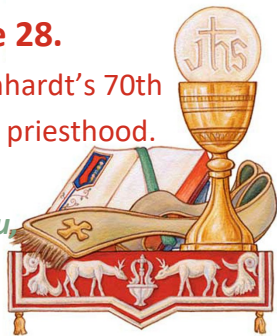


Checks may be made payable to your parish.

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.

Per request of Fr. Lou
NO GIFTS!



Healing Mass Schedule

June 6, at St. Joseph, Hills

9:00 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Hospitality to follow,
provided by St. Mary Nichols.

Celebrant is Rev. Tim Regan

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.

Fr. Boris and Fr. David celebrated Mass on Memorial Day at St. Stanislaus Cemetery.



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 Baccalaureate at Lone Tree High School.

The Most Rev. Dennis Walsh and Rev. David Paintsil have appointed **Kelsie Lampe** to serve as Lay Director for St. Mary Church, Nichols.



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.



I once again want to thank everyone who helped, attended and donated to our Memorial Day service at St. Stanislaus. Your generous donations of \$2,060.00 will help to maintain our historic and beautiful cemetery. Graveside decoration should be removed by June 10. ~Mike Parker



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.



Memorial Day services at St. Mary Cemetery in Nichols.

