

Dear Padre,

I had not been to confession for decades until recently, and I've probably committed mortal sins I can't remember. I want God's forgiveness, but I'm unsure how to get it at this time.

You ask if God has forgiven you for sins that you may have committed in the past but that you don't remember now. You say you have been to confession recently.

A mortal sin has three criteria: it is seriously wrong; the person knows it is seriously wrong; and the person is free to commit the sin or not. In the case you are describing, you don't even remember what the mortal sin might have been, or even if there was one. So, no, you don't have to confess something you don't remember. Also, you have already gone to confession recently, and you sound truly repentant for your past sins. You do not indicate that you were deliberately trying to hide any sins from the priest. So, you have already been forgiven, not only for the sins you remembered but also for those you don't remember. That is why usually we will say something like "for these sins and for those I may have forgotten" when we go to confession.

The bottom line is that confession is for you to experience God's mercy. It is not to test how good your memory is. Be at peace. God loves you and particularly wants you to experience the peace that comes from his forgiveness. ●



JON TSON / UNSPLASH

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The Church is at the same time an earthly community and the mystical body of Christ, a visible assembly and a spiritual mystery, a reality present in history and a people journeying toward heaven (Lumen Gentium, 8; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 771). The human and divine dimensions integrate harmoniously, without one overshadowing the other.... [The Church] is a reality that is both human and divine.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 4, 2026

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 6, 2026
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Ezekiel 33:7-9 / Romans 13:8-10 / Matthew 18:15-20



[Jesus said,]
“For where
two or three
are gathered
together in my
name, there
am I in the
midst of them.”
MATTHEW 18:20

Like a Gentile or a Tax Collector

ANN M. GARRIDO

As someone who works in the field of conflict management, I like to think that all situations can be worked out if we go about it in a skilled manner. If we use the right words. Ask the right kinds of questions. It's embarrassing to admit that even the best “tools” in my “conflict belt” sometimes still effect little change. Today's gospel can be consoling in a strange way. It acknowledges that even when we use all the tools we have on hand to heal a relationship, it doesn't always work out. Sometimes, we may need to become strangers to one another, at least for a while—like a Jew to a Gentile or a tax collector.

Of course, when Jesus says “treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector,” it is important to consider how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He healed the centurion's servant. He ate in Zacchaeus' house. Jesus did not see Gentiles and tax collectors as enemies and did not treat them as such. Rather, Jesus understood Gentiles and tax collectors as those with whom he might start a relationship should the opportunity present itself. The past cannot be rewritten, but perhaps a different kind of future is still possible.

Is there a relationship in your life that feels beyond healing at this point and from which perhaps you need some distance? Is it still possible to treat the other person with the kindness Jesus showed toward Gentiles and tax collectors? ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Could I improve how I handle conflict with others?

"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

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 6, 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 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 September 5 to September 13, 2026

Saturday	September 5	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Norma Hartley
Sunday	September 6	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Ann Wieskamp Bob & Renita Rummelhart
Monday	September 7	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Carol Gleason
Tuesday	September 8	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Phillips family John & Betty Soukup Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	September 9	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Bill Schlapkohl John & Betty Soukup
Thursday	September 10	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Keith Grothe Martin Warson
Friday	September 11	8:30 AM	Atrium	Darlene Schott
Saturday	September 12	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	September 13	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	LawrenceGeneva Salemink Mary E. 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!*

DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

A Journey with Mary: A Rosary Walk for Evangelization and Vocations



All are warmly invited to participate in a special Marian pilgrimage/Rosary walk in our Diocese on **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Stanislaus, 5423 Maier Ave SW, Riverside to St. Joseph, Hills City Park. Buses will be available at Hills City Park by 7:00 AM to pick you up to take you to St. Stanislaus if you want to walk. Please, park your car in Hills. Together, we will walk prayerfully, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary and asking our Blessed Mother to renew us in faith and to revive our Diocese through evangelization and an increase in vocations.

Inspired by the theme, **"And Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah" (Luke 1:39)**, this Rosary Walk invites us to follow Mary's example of bringing Christ to others with faith, joy, and missionary zeal. The pilgrimage will conclude with Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Dennis Walsh at approximately 11:00 a.m. at Hills City Park. Those who are unable to participate in the walk are warmly invited to join us for Mass and lunch.

Come and walk with Mary. Pray for peace. Pray for vocations. Be renewed in faith. Bring your family and friends as we journey together in hope.

For more information, please contact:

Fr. David Paintsil – paintsild@diodav.org
Carol Kirkpatrick -cjkk@sharontc.net

**Sign up sheets are
also available at
all church entries.**

DIOCESE of DAVENPORT

A Journey with Mary

A Rosary Walk for Evangelization and Vocations

to Conclude the Eucharistic Rosary Congress

St. Stanislaus 5423 Maier Ave SW, Riverside to St. Joseph, Hills City Park

Saturday, October 10th, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Pilgrimage will end with Mass
at Hills City Park with Bishop Dennis Walsh
at 11:00 AM. Lunch and hospitality will follow.
Those unable to walk may join for Mass and Lunch.

Buses will be available at Hills City Park by
7:00 AM to pick you to St. Stanislaus, if you
want to walk. Park your car in Hills.

Please use the QR code to RSVP for the walk
so we can have an accurate count for lunch.

And Mary arose in those days and went
into the hill country with haste, into the city of Judah
(Luke 1: 39)

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

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 will be Monday, September 28, at 6PM in the Lone Tree parish hall.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, September 21 at 6:30 PM. Finance Council meeting Thurs., September 17, 2026, 6:00 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet September 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

Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday,
September 9, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

O C I A

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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

Religious Education will begin September 23, 2026.

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						
	09/05/2026 Lou	09/12/2026 David	09/19/2026 David	09/26/2026 David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Virginia Schlapkohl	Envelopes	\$1,567.00
Lector	Judy Grothe	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland	Offertory	\$50.00
Cross Bearer	Jerry Ford	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik		
Servers	Carol Kaalberg	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola		
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland		
Collection	Jerry Ford	Joel Yedlik	Nancy Ford	Joel Yedlik		
	Nancy Ford	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Jill Welter	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Jerry Ford, Nancy Ford	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Jill Welter, Nancy Ford	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg/Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	09/06/2026 Lou	09/13/2026 Lou	09/20/2026 David	09/27/2026 David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Envelopes	\$900.00
Lector	Renetta Burlage	Tom Barr	Missy Lenz	Tom Barr	Offertory	\$60.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Lector		
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Jeanne Green	Tom Barr	Missy Lenz	Tom Barr		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Kory Kaalberg	Wayne Mengel	Kory Kaalberg	Joe Harper		
	Joe Harper	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel		
Gifts	Adam Gauger	Julie Elder	Joel & Rose Harper	Kelsi Lampe		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	09/06/2026 Lou	09/13/2026 David	09/20/2026 David	09/27/2026 David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	\$412.00
Greeter	Janet Goss	Marcia Mellecker	Jim & Hope Frantz	Janet Goss	Offertory	\$66.00
Lector	Bob Jenn	Mike Waldschmidt	Mike Waldschmidt	Lora Sieverding	Catholic U	\$20.00
	Josh Ayelazuno, Jean Burr	Jean Burr, Josh Ayelazuno	Messi Akodegnon, Mike Sieverding	Mike Sieverding	Assumption	\$2.00
Server						
Eucharist -host	Kristee Malmberg	Jolene VanEschen	Jolene VanEschen	Mike Sieverding		
Eucharist - cup	Kay Evans	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Deanne Eden		
Eucharist - cup	Deanne Eden	Bob Jenn	Mike Sieverding	Bob Jenn		
Collection	Mike Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker	Jim Frantz	Mike Waldschmidt		
	Nancy Waldschmidt	Jim Mills	Hope Frantz	Nancy Waldschmidt		
	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family					
Gifts		Mary E Rummelhart family	Dean & Alice Cole family	Maynard Rayner family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald		

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

Mentors wanted

We are looking for mentor volunteers for Wednesday night religion class. Mentors will sit with paired student and help them with activities and share insights into the lessons. Each student will be paired with a mentor for the year, hopefully you will create a lasting bond that will encourage continued spiritual growth for both parties.

Mentor Requirements:

- *Confirmed
 - *Catholic in good standing (attend church regularly)
 - *Complete Veritas training.
 - *Background check
 - *Available Wednesday nights 6:30 to 7:30
 - *Desire to help a student with spiritual growth
- Mentors can be parents, siblings or other relative, family friend or a parishioner the student hasn't met yet.

If interested please contact Nancy Waldschmidt

njwald1@gmail.com or 319-331-2077



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL ROSARY CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE AND ADORATION THIS WEEK.

OUR PARISH IS BLESSED TO HAVE MANY WILLING TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO ALL OUR VARIOUS PROJECTS.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026. MORE INFO ON PG 5.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY LONE TREE, ST. MARY NICHOLS, ST. JOSEPH HILLS:
A Journey with Mary pilgrimage hosted by St. Mary and St. Joseph cluster parishes is being planned

OCTOBER 10, 2026

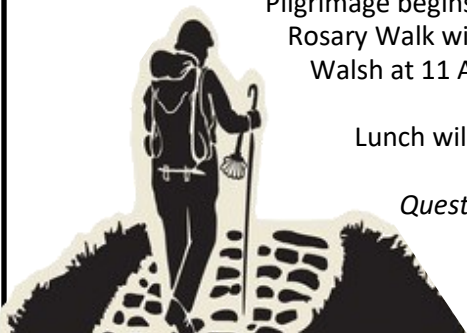
An RSVP is essential for proper planning. Please use the sign up sheet at our church entrances.

Pilgrimage begins at St. Stanislaus Church, rural Hills at 8 AM with Rosary Walk. Rosary Walk will end at Hills city park, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Dennis Walsh at 11 AM. Bring your lawn chair for Mass in the park.

Lunch will be served at the park, following Mass.

Questions may be directed to Carol Kirkpatrick or Fr. David Paintsil.

See Father David's comments on page 6.



HOLY FAMILY PARISH ANNOUNCES...

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RIVERSIDE

LABOR DAY

CELEBRATION

Monday, September 7, 2026

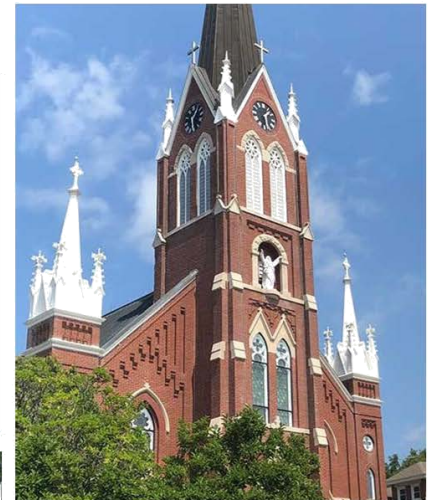
SERVING 11:00am – 2:00pm

	Prices
Smoked Iowa Chop Dinner	\$17.00
Fried Chicken Dinner	\$15.00
Hot Dog Kid's Meal	\$ 6.00

Kids under 5: FREE Hot Dog Meal!

Meal includes: mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, homemade noodles, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert and drink.

Carry Outs Available



COME AND JOIN US!!!

FESTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- **FARMER'S MARKET**
- **BINGO** & other GAMES of fun and skill!
- **KIDS GAMES**
- **TRACTOR PULL**: 1:00pm (sign up @ 12:30)
- **RAFFLE**: Purchase tickets for your chance at **hundred\$ in prizes!!**
- **PRESERVATION RAFFLE**
- **AUCTION—BEGINS AT 2:30PM:**

The highlight of the day! Items to be auctioned include: quilts, handcrafted furniture, garden ornaments, pews for Christmas Eve mass, and many more items to be announced on Labor Day!



PRESERVATION RAFFLE

Purchase tickets for \$100 each for a chance to win!

GRAND PRIZE— \$1,500

Second Prize - \$1,000

3—\$500 WINNERS

1—\$250 WINNER

10—\$100 WINNERS

Tickets can be purchased at Mass, at the Parish Office, or by contacting Dee Simon 319.648.4149 (leave message)

ALL PROCEEDS FOR UPKEEP OF CHURCH BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS