Dear Padre,


GETTY IMAGES

What does it mean when it says we're in Cycle A or B or C? Or Years I and II?

When the bishops of the Church at the Second Vatican Council in 1963 called for a revision of our liturgy, they asked that "The treasures of the Bible…be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word. In this way, a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 51).

At Sunday Masses, the Scriptures are divided up over three years (called Years A, B, and C). At these Masses, the gospel is the primary reading. The first reading, taken from the Old Testament, and the responsorial psalm touch upon the same theme as the gospel. In the Easter season, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. The second reading follows consecutive passages from the letters of Paul or the other apostles, independent of the other readings.

At weekday Masses, most of the Bible is read over a period of two years. Odd-numbered years are Year I, and even-numbered years are Year II.

All of this should help us open those treasures that the Church says are ours in the Scriptures. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
October 19	October 20	October 21	October 22	October 23	October 24	October 25
Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs	*Weekday*	*Weekday*	*Weekday*	*Weekday*	*Weekday*	*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Eph 2:1–10	Eph 2:12–22	Eph 3:2–12	Eph 3:14–21	Eph 4:1–6	Eph 4:7–16	Ex 22:20–26
Lk 12:13–21	Lk 12:35–38	Lk 12:39–48	Lk 12:49–53	Lk 12:54–59	Lk 13:1–9	1 Thes 1:5c–10
						Mt 22:34–40

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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


URBI ET ORBI BLESSING/CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today let us ask Mary, Mother of the Church, to be able to serve, with Jesus and like Jesus, those men and women thirsting for truth and justice. This is not the time for opposition between one church and another, between "us" and "them"—those who worship God seek to be men and women of peace, who worship him in Spirit and in truth.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 8, 2026

The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © *Dicastero per la Comunicazione–Libreria Editrice Vaticana.* All rights reserved.

Liguori Publications — A Redemptorist Ministry

Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted. © 2026 Liguori Publications. *Imprimi Potest:* Fr. Kevin Zubel, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



Sidestepping Side-taking

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus had to know something was up when both the Pharisees and the Herodians approached him together. Pharisees and Herodians were never together. Herodians survived by cooperating with the Roman Empire. The Pharisees found such cooperation an affront to God's law.

"Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" they asked. It was a trap. If he answered "no," the Herodians could report him to the Romans for fomenting rebellion. If he answered "yes," the crowd watching would see Jesus as a sellout to an unpopular foreign power. But Jesus did not take the bait. He refused to give a "yes" or a "no," instead allowing onlookers to see that his Pharisee and Herodian challengers were carrying the Roman coin in their pockets—hence participating in the Roman economy—whereas he did not even possess the coin they were asking about. He was living and working for a different ruler altogether. Their question was outside his realm of concern.

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

So often we, too, can find ourselves trapped in heated political conversations where questions are asked in such a way that they seem to allow only a yes-or-no answer. The askers want to reveal, "Are you with us or are you against us?" as if there are no other options. As followers of Jesus, we know that there are issues of ultimate concern for us—"battle hills worth dying on." Jesus himself had one: Calvary. But Jesus himself did not feel as if he needed to take a stand on every hot political issue of his day. Sometimes he sidestepped those conversations. So can we. ●

Reflect

When confronted, do I prefer to "take the bait" or find common ground?

© 2026 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS • A MINISTRY OF THE REDEMPTORISTS • IMAGE: ALEX_F/SHUTTERSTOCK

"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

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time **October 18, 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: stsmaryjoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmaryandjoseph
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 October 17 to October 25, 2026

Saturday	October 17	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	October 18	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Ann Wieskamp Maynard Rayner
Monday	October 19	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Bill Leonhardt
Tuesday	October 20	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Prayer Service Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	October 21	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Harry Attig Prayer Service
Thursday	October 22	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Veva Jenn Martin Warson
Friday	October 23	8:30 AM	Atrium	Draker family
Saturday	October 24	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Linda Hartley
Sunday	October 25	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Jack & Helene Salemink Dave Ipsen

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!

Annual Vacation in Ghana



I would like to inform you that I will begin my annual vacation on Monday, October 19, when I will travel to Ghana to visit my family and participate in Rosary Congresses in the Dioceses of Ho and Wa.

This vacation is an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends, spend quality time with loved ones, and renew the personal relationships that are so important in my life. Although priestly ministry brings many blessings and opportunities to serve, it is also important to take time to rest, reflect, and reconnect with those who have been part of our journey. I look forward to this time of renewal and to returning refreshed for the mission the Lord has entrusted to me in our parishes.

In addition to visiting my family, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue contributing to the work of evangelization in my home country. I will help facilitate Rosary Congresses in the Dioceses of Ho and Wa. These gatherings bring people together in prayer, deepen devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and encourage the faithful to encounter Jesus Christ more profoundly through the Holy Rosary. I consider it a blessing to support these initiatives, which seek to renew faith, strengthen families, promote peace, and inspire more people.

As many of you know, the Holy Rosary holds a special place in my heart and priestly ministry. Through the Rosary, we contemplate the mysteries of Christ's life with Mary, our Blessed Mother, and learn from her example of faith, obedience, and complete trust in God. During my stay in Ghana, I also hope to publish my new book, The Rosary: Your Powerful Weapon Against Evil, which shares the spiritual power of the Rosary through reflections on prayer, faith, and testimonies of its transformative impact

As I prepare for this journey, please know that you and your families will remain in my thoughts and prayers. I will remember you before the Lord, asking Him to bless you with good health, peace, strength, and renewed faith. I humbly ask you to keep me in your prayers as well. Please pray for my safe travels, a restful and fruitful vacation, a joyful reunion with family and friends, and the success of the Rosary Congresses in Ho and Wa.

While I am away, Fr. Lou and Fr. Tim will help cover the Masses to ensure the continued spiritual care of our parish communities.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, understanding, and cooperation. It is a privilege and a blessing to serve as your pastor, and I am deeply grateful for the faith and fellowship we share. May God continue to bless our three parishes, strengthen our unity, and help us grow together in holiness and in our commitment to the Gospel.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, watch over you and your families and keep us all united in prayer, wherever we may be.

May God bless you abundantly!

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: Wednesday 10 am to noon. Directors: Mike and Lucy Parker 319-679-2420.

PARISH COUNCILS



Minutes are posted at all church entries.

Nichols Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting to be January 24, 2027, following Mass. We will be planning for our pancake breakfast, Sunday March 7th.

Lone Tree Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting will be Monday, February 8, at 6PM in the Lone Tree parish hall. We will be planning for our pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 7th.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, October 19, at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet October 13 & 27 *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!



10% of conflicts are due to difference in opinion.
90% are due to wrong tone of voice.

Beginning October 18th.

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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



Eucharistic Adoration
Every Wednesday, 6-7 PM.
Join us for some "quiet time" in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
***No Benediction* while Fr. David is in Ghana, only prayers and reflection.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
will meet October 21 & 28
At the Lone Tree St. Mary Parish Hall

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

	10/17/2026 Fr. David	10/24/2026 Fr. Tim	10/31/2026 Fr. Tim	11/07/2026 Fr. Tim	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Mary Ellen & Joel Yedlik	Barb Dinsmore	Virginia Schlapkohl	Nancy Ford	Envelopes	$905.00
Lector	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford	Offertory	$57.00
Cross Bearer	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	JerryFord	Glen Gerot		
Servers	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford		
Eucharist	Lynn Bland	Nancy Ford	Judy Grothe	Jerry Ford		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Trudi Westfall	Nancy Ford		
Collection	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Glen Gerot		
	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Joan Davis	Nancy Ford	Betty Gerot		
Gifts	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Jerry & Nancy Ford	Glen & Betty Gerot		
Commentator	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford		

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

	10/18/2026 Fr. Lou	10/25/2026 Fr. Lou	11/1/2026 Fr. Lou	11/08/2026 Fr. Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Envelopes	$370.00
Lector	Tom Barr	Carol Kaalberg	Renetta Burlage	Jeanne Green	Offertory	$40.00
Cross Bearer	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale	Michael Burlage	David Ollendick	Fuel	$300.00
Server	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Tom Barr	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Jeanne Green		
Eucharist	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Adam Gauger	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	David Ollendick		
	Dennis Truesdale	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale		
Gifts	Bruce & Margaret Matt	Brent & Meaghan Peters	Dennis Truesdale	Wayne Mengel		
Commentator	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

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

	10/18/2026 Fr. David	10/25/2026 Fr. Lou	11/01/2026 Fr. Lou	11/082026 Fr. Lou	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	$937.00
Greeter	Lee & Kathryn Campion	Jim & Hope Frantz	Lee & Kathryn Campion	Marcia Mellecker	Offertory	$187.00
Lector	Mike Waldschmidt	Nancy Waldschmidt	Carol Kirkpatrick	Carol Kirkpatrick	World Missions	$101.00
Server	Jean Burr,	Mike Sieverding	Emy Rivera,	Mike Sieverding		
Eucharist -host	Kristee Malmberg	Jolene Van Eschen	Jolene Van Eschen	Carol Kirkpatrick		
Eucharist - cup	Bob Jenn	Carol Kirkpatrick	Carol Kirkpatrick	Deanne Eden		
Eucharist - cup	Mike Sieverding	Mike Sieverding	Deanne Eden	Kay Evans		
Collection	Thom Kirkpatrick	Jim Frantz	Nancy Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker		
	Jim Mills	Hope Frantz	Mike Waldschmidt	Barb Mahanna		
Gifts	Maynard Rayner family	Dave Ipsen family	Maynard Rayner family	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding		

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



Cash Donation Jar at church entry for Catholic Worker House meal.

A donation jar is located at the church entry for cash donations. Donations will purchase groceries to be used to prepare a meal for the Catholic Workers House on Sunday, October 25th. *A sign up sheet to help with the meal will be coming in October.*



Thank you to all who organized, worked and participated in our *Journey to Mary Pilgrimage!*





More pictures to come….

Bishop Dennis Walsh

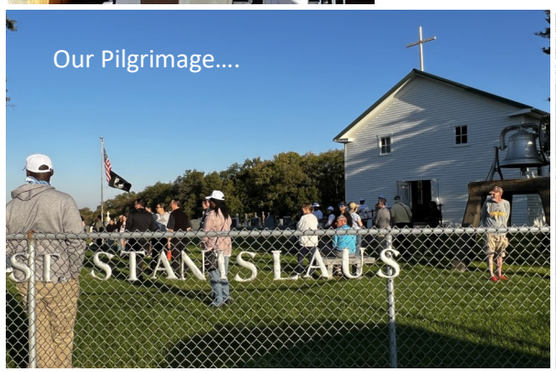
Our Music…..



Our Lunch Ladies….









Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to Tanya & Bradley Judge, on the loss of their son, Vaughn. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the families of Rick Cole & Mary Ellen Yedlik, on the loss of their brother, Randy Cole, whose funeral was this past Friday. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Larry Musser, who died last week. Larry was a resident of Pioneer Park, Lone Tree. His visitation will be Sunday, October 18, 4-6PM at St. Joseph Church in Hills. Funeral Mass will be Monday, October 19, at St. Joseph Church, 10 AM. Burial at St. Stanislaus. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

FREE TACO MEAL



OCTOBER 17
FOLLOWING MASS
LONE TREE ST.MARY PARISH HALL

All parishioners & guests welcome!



to the family of Jim Mills for the plasma cut metal cross. It is a beautiful addition to St. Joseph church.

October is **Respect Life** month. We will be praying the Rosary before all Masses at all parishes.



Lone Tree Parish Council minutes are on the table at the church entrance.

COMMUNITY SOUP SUPPER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
4:30 PM TO 7:00 PM
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LONE TREE

FREE!

SOUPS, BREADS AND DESSERT
TO GO/CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

October Classes: October 18 & October 25.
See Carol Kaalberg or Fr. David for more information.

HILLS BOO BASH

COSTUME PARADE & TRUNK-OR-TREAT
October 18th
2 PM— 4PM
St. Joseph Church Parking Lot
Sponsored by Hills Hometown Pride