

Dear Padre,

I've been to Latin Masses, and people do not socialize in church and seem more respectful than at a regular parish Mass, where people are leaving before Mass is finished, and there seems to be constant talking. Why is there such a contrast?

I'd like to caution you about two assumptions. The first is about judging people who leave Mass early. We can't know what is in a person's heart. Some people work on Sundays or have other unavoidable commitments that require them to leave at a certain time.

The second assumption is that socializing before and after a parish Mass is disrespectful. The celebratory and welcoming culture of a Christian community that has gathered together to celebrate the Eucharist gives glory and praise to God. It is not disrespectful of the Eucharist, but rather a powerful witness to the unity, the community, and the faith of the people of God who gather with their Lord and Savior.

There are Eucharistic gatherings that encourage silence, such as the Latin Mass you have experienced as well as Eucharistic Adoration and Forty Hours Devotion. We need both—silence as we worship together and joyful interaction with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Both give glory to God.

All that being said, to those who enjoy socializing or who must leave the Mass before the final note of the final hymn: do be considerate of those praying near you. They might be praying for you! ●



PROFESANT / CATHOLIC

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MARCH 2	MARCH 3	MARCH 4	MARCH 5	MARCH 6	MARCH 7	MARCH 8
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38	Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12	Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28	Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Ex 17:3-7 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

We must also cry out for peace in the world. Let us all say, "We want peace in the world!"

Let us pray for peace. Let us pray for peace and be witnesses of the peace and reconciliation of Jesus Christ, the light that we are all seeking for today's world.

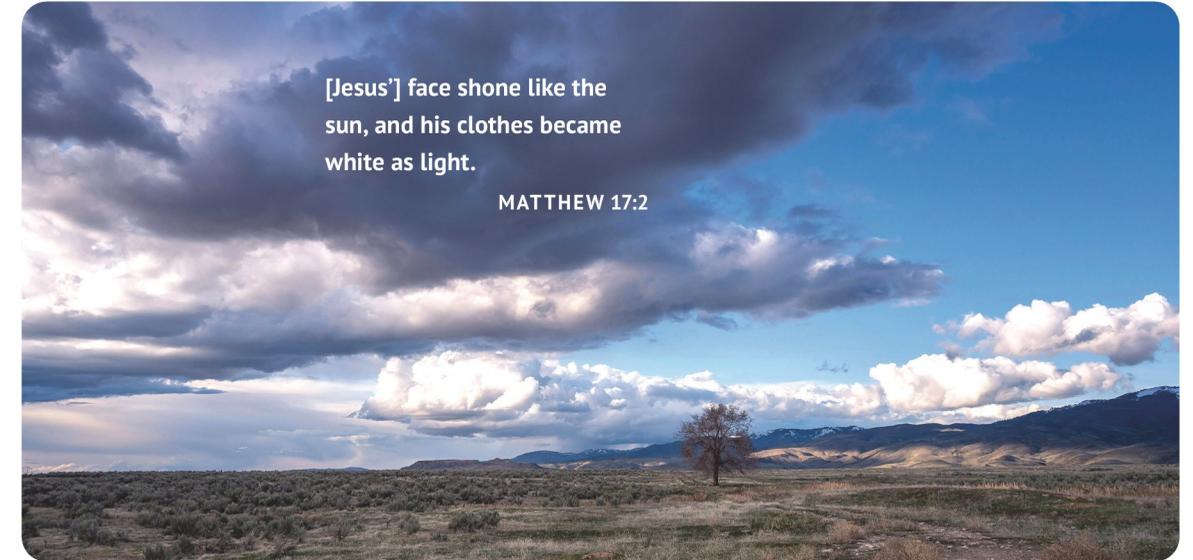
GREETING TO YOUNG PEOPLE, ROME, JULY 29, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9



[Jesus'] face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

MATTHEW 17:2

Where Heaven and Earth Meet

ANN M. GARRIDO

Have you ever noticed that mountains and clouds seem to "go together"? When I was a child, I thought it was because the mountains' height pierced the sky. Turns out, it's a bit more complicated. Mountains "create" their own clouds. When moving air comes across a mountain front, it forces the warm air to rise to cooler zones and water droplets in the air to condense. The phenomenon is so common that these clouds have their own name: lenticular. They are known for being bright—even colorful—with rays of light peeking out from behind.

It's no wonder why, throughout history, people have sought to ascend mountains as part of their spiritual journey. It was a way to get closer to the "heavens"—to those radiant clouds. Recall the prophet Elijah, who climbs Mount Sinai seeking a face-to-face encounter with God. Or Moses, who, with three of his closest friends, ascends Mount Sinai to meet God in a radiant cloud that hovers over the top of the peak.

So, it's also no wonder why Jesus, with three of *his* closest friends, might also climb a mountain and meet Elijah and Moses there. No wonder why that mountain would be covered in a bright cloud that thunders with God's voice, and why, in that moment, Scripture describes heaven and earth as mysteriously yet visibly mingling in the person of the transfigured Jesus.

The story of the transfiguration reminds us that just like mountains and clouds were meant for one another, heaven and earth were meant for one another. Jesus stands at the point where the two meet. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What places or moments in my life have made me feel close to heaven?



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**

Second Sunday of Lent March 01, 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

Cluster Mass Intentions February 28 to March 8

Saturday	February 28	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Marvin Klebe	Atrium , Atrium Village Chapel, Atrium Village, Hills.
Sunday	March 1	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Jennifer Salemink LeRoy Duwa	
Monday	March 2	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	No intention	Lone Tree R, St. Mary Rectory in Lone Tree.
Tuesday	March 3	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Raymond Herring John Schneider Cluster Parishioners	
Wednesday	March 4	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Gayle Kaalberg Keith Stevens	
Thursday	March 5	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Rose Amelon OswaldVictoriaRobert Kout	<p align="center">Confession Schedule <i>Father David is available to hear confessions before Mass at these times:</i> 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 <i>Let us come to reconcile to God and others!</i></p>
Friday	March 6	8:30 AM	Atrium	Patricia Greubel	
Saturday	March 7	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Luther & Norma Hartley	
Sunday	March 8	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Gayle Kaalberg Shirley Streb	

SOME TEN PRACTICAL THINGS YOU CAN DO THIS LENT

1. Decide to save \$1 each day throughout the forty days of Lent. At the end, give the total to someone in need, use it to help pay a student's school fees, or donate to our local food pantries.
2. Go through your wardrobe and select clothes you have not worn for about a year. Wash and iron them properly, then give them away. Let it cost you something.
3. If you fast by skipping breakfast or lunch, offer the money you would have spent on those meals to someone in need.
4. Make it a commitment to attend Sunday Mass throughout Lent. Pray the Rosary daily, the Stations of the Cross, and spend time in Eucharistic Adoration once a week. It may not be easy at first, but challenge yourself—growth requires effort.
5. Attend one or two additional weekday Masses each week. Doing so creates intentional space for God amid the busyness of daily life. Even a simple, quiet weekday liturgy can deepen your love for the Eucharist and strengthen the grace needed to carry the crosses of the week.
6. Moderate your TV and social media use. Choose specific times to watch or go online, and be intentional about what you consume and whom you listen to. Do not feed your soul with just anything.
7. Visit the elderly, the sick, or the homeless—perhaps once a week during Lent. Do it quietly. There is no need to record your charity. Let your almsgiving remain hidden.
8. Take the initiative to clean the house this season. Do the laundry for your siblings or parents without being asked. Charity truly begins at home.
9. Begin and end each day with five intentional minutes of silence. In the morning, speak to the Lord about your hopes and struggles. In the evening, gently review your day with gratitude, asking where He was at work in your heart.
10. Trust God. Believe that He loves you and will never fail you.

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 Sunday, April 26, following Mass, if needed. Yard clean up: Sunday, March 22, following Mass.

Lone Tree Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting Monday, April 27 at 6:00 PM.

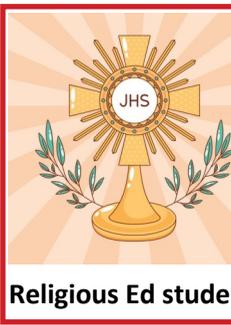
Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, March 16 at 6:30 PM. Yard clean up: March 28, 8AM (rain date April 4.)

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet March 10 & 24 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!



First Communion will be Sunday, May 3, at St. Joseph, Hills.



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday, March 4, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills
Communal Penance
Religious Ed students and parents please attend.



Prayer Corner

And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which is the greatest of all the gifts of God.

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

	02/28/2026	03/07/2026	03/14/2026	03/21/2026	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Lynn Bland	Carter Parrish	Bernie Lorack	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Envelopes	\$840.00
Lector	Jill Welter	Landon Parrish	Sherry Nicola	Jill Welter	Offertory	\$48.00
Cross Bearer	Mike Parker	Logan Parrish	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Ash Wednesday	\$153.00
Servers	Jill Welter	Trudi Westfall, Maggie Anderson	Sherry Nicola	Jill Welter		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe		
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Trudi Westfall	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Mike Parker	Dani Parrish	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik		
	Lucy Parker	Carter Parrish	Joan Davis	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Mike & Lucy Parker	Dani, Carter Parrish	Joan Davis, Lynn Bland	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Jill Welter	Trudi Westfall	Sherry Nicola	Jill Welter		

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

	03/01/2026	03/08/2026	03/15/2026	03/22/2026	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Envelopes	\$340.00
Lector	Renetta Burlage	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Renetta Burlage	Offertory	\$32.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Michael Burlage		
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Adam Gauger	Missy Lenz	Adam Gauger	Missy Lenz		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Wayne Mengel	Kory Kaalberg	Dennis Truesdale	Wayne Mengel		
	Adam Gauger	David Ollendick	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale		
Gifts	Kelsey Lampe	Lori Leggins	Cindy Massy	Wayne Mengel		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg		

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

	03/01/2026	03/08/2026	03/15/2026	03/22/2026	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Lily Westemeyer & Choir	Robyn Anderson	Lily Westemeyer & Choir	Haylee Osomoson & Choir	Envelopes	\$1,305.00
Greeter	Jim & Marilyn Mills	Jim & Hope Frantz	Marsha Mellecker	John & Joan Greazel	Offertory	\$36.00
Lector	Kezia Attitse	Kezia Attitse	Bob Jenn	Bob Jenn	Ash Wednesday	\$100.00
Server	Carol Kirkpatrick, Messi Akodegnon	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry	Jean Burr, Messi Akodegnon	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry	Eastern Europe	\$27.00
Eucharist -host	Jolene VanEschen	Bob Jenn	Emy Rivera	Jolene VanEschen	Newman Center	\$50.00
Eucharist - cup	Bob Jenn	Carol Kirkpatrick	Mike Sieverding	Deanne Eden	Catholic Messenger	\$30.00
Eucharist - cup	Kristee Malmberg	Kay Evans	Kay Evans	Arlene Johnston	A & R Dues	\$40.00
Collection	Brian Moran	Jim Frantz	Mike Sieverding	Thom Kirkpatrick	M. Rayner Memorial	\$700.00
	Mike Waldschmidt	Hope Frantz	Mike Waldschmidt	Carol Kirkpatrick	Food Pantry	\$200.00
Gifts	LeRoy Duwa family	Shirley Streb family	Shirley Streb family	Keith Stevens family		
Commentator	Kay Evans	Carol Kirkpatrick	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding		

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

Annual subscriptions to the Catholic Messenger are \$30. If you do not want the newspaper, please let your church office know. The diocese requires parishes to send every parishioner the Catholic Messenger, even if the parishioner does not pay for the subscription... the parish incurs the cost. If you don't want the paper, please let your parish office know, or put the Catholic Messenger envelope in the collection basket, noting your request.

A D A	CHURCH	FAMILIES WHO DONATED	AVERAGE GIVING	GOAL	PLEGDED	OVER OUR GOAL
	St. Mary Nichols	20	\$498.85	\$8,114.00	\$9,977.00	\$1,863.00
St. Mary Lone Tree	22	\$505.23	\$10,6705.00	\$11,115.00	\$445.00	
St. Joseph Hills	44	\$282.84	\$11,405.00	\$12,445.00	\$1,040.00	

Congratulations to our cluster parishes who have all exceeded their goals!

There are 33 parishes in the diocese who have still not reached their goals.

ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Hosted by St. Mary Church, Lone Tree and Nichols

Packages of 12 sausage patties will be available for sale at breakfast, \$10.

TODAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 1

8:00 AM UNTIL NOON

Money donations are needed to purchase supplies. Drop in collection, marked "Pancake Breakfast."



Pancakes, eggs, whole hog sausage and ham, juice, milk and coffee.

AT THE LONE TREE AMERICAN LEGION

Freewill Donation at the door. Join us for good food and friendship.

Please be at your job assignment on time.

St. Mary Lone Tree Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 5, 6:00 PM

Soup Supper to follow at the Parish Hall.



St. Joseph Hills Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 5, 5:30 PM

Soup Supper to follow at the Parish Hall.

ST. JOSEPH FOOD PANTRY	2024	2025
Families Served	1,005	1,095
People Fed	2,793	2,863
Pounds of Food	25,125	27,375

Church property CLEAN UP Days

St. Joseph Hills, Saturday, March 28, 8 AM

rain date is Saturday, April 4, 8 AM

St. Mary Nichols, Sunday, March 22, after Mass

Many hands make for light work. Please consider offering your time and talent to our parish.

Please bring a rake.



NEXT WEEKEND!

March 8, 2026



SPRING FORWARD
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Donald Joslin "Jos" Green, who passed away last week. Jos is husband to Jeanne Green. 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.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR & MARIAN CONSECRATION MEETING

Sunday, March 15th

2PM

St. Joseph Parish Hall



Healing Mass Schedule

March 7, at St. Joseph, Hills

9:00 AM Confession

9:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Hospitality to follow,

provided by St. Mary Lone Tree.

NO HEALING MASS IN APRIL

Due to Holy Saturday.



West Liberty St. Joseph

Knights of Columbus

LENTEN FRIES

5-7 PM

March 6: Catfish

March 20: Catfish

March 27: Shrimp

\$15 Adults

\$5 Under 13

St. Joseph's Parish Life Center