Dear Padre,


JESUS FERNANDEZ/SHUTTERSTOCK

At Mass, I have difficulty communing with God after receiving Communion because of the noise and activity. Why not more silence?

During Mass, communal silence is called for within the Penitential Act, for people to recollect themselves; at the end of a reading or the homily, so all can meditate briefly on what they've heard; and then after Communion, for people to praise and pray to God in their hearts. (See *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 45.) In other words, there is a silence that reflects our contrition before God; a silence that reflects our need to ponder his word; and a deep silence before God that reflects awe and incapacity for words after receiving the Body and Blood of Christ!

After Communion, a period of communal silence for personal prayer is intended before other activities, such as a second collection or announcements. Also, a psalm, canticle of praise, or hymn may be sung. (See *GIRM* 88, 164.) "Liturgical silence is indispensable to the rhythm of a balanced celebration. Without it, the celebration can become perfunctory in its haste or burdensome in its unrelieved sound and song" (*Introduction to the Order of Mass*, 48, USCCB, 2003). As St. Alphonsus wrote in *The Holy Eucharist*: "There is no prayer more agreeable to God, or more profitable to the soul, than that which is made during the thanksgiving after Communion."●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



FABRIZIO MAFFEI / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

To those who seek to alleviate the conditions of the poorest, I express my gratitude.... You know well that the question of the poor leads back to the essence of our faith, for they are the very flesh of Christ.... "Where the world sees threats, [the Church] sees children; where walls are built, [the Church] builds bridges."

HOMILY, ROME, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday
November 16
Weekday
Rv 1:1–4; 2:1–5
Lk 18:35–43

Tuesday
November 17
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Rv 3:1–6, 14–22
Lk 19:1–10

Wednesday
November 18
Weekday
Rv 4:1–11
Lk 19:11–28

Thursday
November 19
Weekday
Rv 5:1–10
Lk 19:41–44

Friday
November 20
Weekday
Rv 10:8–11
Lk 19:45–48

Saturday
November 21
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Rv 11:4–12
Lk 20:27–40

Sunday
November 22
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Ez 34:11–12, 15–17
1 Cor 15:20–26, 28
Mt 25:31–46

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November 15, 2026
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6
Matthew 25:14–30 or 25:14–15, 19–21

Be Not Afraid

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

So close to Thanksgiving Day, a parable that seems to champion the Puritan work ethic feels fitting. The parable in today's gospel appears to celebrate sincere, positive efforts, while at the same time, it does not look kindly on lackluster attempts. But, as with all of Jesus' parables, we need to take a closer look.

In this instance, the third servant deserves examination. His situation seems to be not so much about work as it is about fear and hopelessness. It is not that he is unable to produce or to take the action needed; rather, he is bound and limited by fear and his perception of what the master requires. His fear makes it impossible for him to do what is required of him, so he does not respond.

We do not know how the master would have reacted if the servant had tried and failed. We do not know if an honest effort on the servant's part would have been enough. We do know that the master rejects fear as an excuse for inaction, and for this reason, the servant is singled out and punished. His fear not only made it impossible for him to work but also prompted the exact circumstance he was trying to avoid: displeasing the master. From the viewpoint of the parable, the servant's decision was not a good one. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

Reflect

When has fear kept me from doing right or refraining from doing wrong?



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"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

33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time **November 15, 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 November 14 to November 22, 2026

Saturday	November 14	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Keith Grothe
Sunday	November 15	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Marie Kaalberg Kevin Mahanna
Monday	November 16	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Raymond Herring
Tuesday	November 17	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Prayer Service Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	November 18	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Rosella Attig Prayer Service
Thursday	November 19	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	John Schneider Martin Warson
Friday	November 20	8:30 AM	Atrium	Keith Grothe
Saturday	November 21	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	November 22	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Ann Wieskamp Dean & Alice Cole

Atrium , Atrium Village Chapel, Atrium Village, Hills.

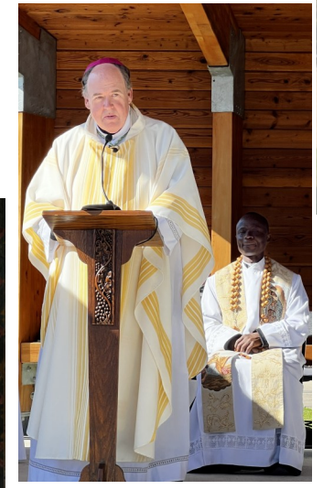
PP CC, Pioneer Park Care Center located at Pioneer Park Villa, Lone Tree.

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!

While Fr. David is in Ghana, we will continue to share photos from the Journey to Mary Pilgrimage...

















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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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, November 16, at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet December 8, *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!



God gave you the gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say thank-you?

Meeting November 22.

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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



Eucharistic Adoration
Every Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:30 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 November 18th.
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

	11/14/2026 Fr. Lou	11/21/2026 Fr. Tim	11/28/2026 Fr. Lou	12/05/2026 Fr. Lou	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Bernie Lorack	Envelopes	$1,713.00
Lector	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	Offertory	$37.00
Cross Bearer	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Mike Parker	Fuel	$200.00
Servers	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland	Jill Welter	Religious Ed	$5.00
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Mike Parker		
	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Joan Davis	Nancy Ford	Lucy Parker		
Gifts	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Jerry & Nancy Ford	Mike & Lucy Parker		
Commentator	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland	Jill Welter		

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

	11/15/2026 Fr. Lou	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	11/29/2026 Fr. David	12/06/2026 Fr. David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger	Envelopes	$300.00
Lector	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Renita Burlage	Offertory	$60.00
Cross Bearer	Wayne Mengel	Trudi Westfall	Adam Gauger	Michael Burlage		
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Kory Kaalberg	Wayne Mengel	Kory Kaalberg	David Ollendick		
	David Ollendick	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale		
Gifts	David Ollendick	Rhonda Meredith	Mary Lou Yedlik	Renita & Michael Burlage		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

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

	11/15/2026 Fr. Lou	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	11/29/2026 Fr. David	12/06/2026 Fr. David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	$573.00
Greeter	Jim & Hope Frantz	Lee & Kathryn Campion	Carol Kirkpatrick	Janet Goss	Offertory	$56.00
Lector	Nancy Waldschmidt	Shelagh McDonald	Kay Evans	Shelagh McDonald	CCHD	$2.00
Server	Jean Burr, Emy Rivera	Mike Sieverding	Josh Ayelazuno, Emy Rivera	Jean Burr, MessiChurch$1	Relig. Retirem	$2.00
Eucharist -host	Kay Evans	Deanne Eden	Jolene VanEschen	Jolene VanEschen	Military	$47.00
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Mike Sieverding	Carol Kirkpatrick	Carol Kirkpatrick	Immac Concep	$2.00
Eucharist - cup	Bob Jenn	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Bob Jenn	Christmas	$20.00
Collection	Jim Frantz	Josh Ayeazuno	Mike Sieverding	Mike Waldschmidt	All Saints	$7.00
	Hope Frantz	Emily Ayeazuno	Lora Sieverding	Nancy Waldschmidt		
Gifts	Kevin Mahanna family	Dean & Alice Cole family	Darlene Schott family	Maynard Rayner 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.

CURRENT ANNUAL DIOCESESAN APPEAL CAMPAIGN

CHURCH	DONORS	GOAL	PLEDGED	UNDER GOAL	% 0F GOAL
LONE TREE	16	$9,981	$6,073	$3,908	60.85%
NICHOLS	12	$7,663	$5,445	$2,218	71.06%
HILLS	29	$13,640	$7,717	$5,923	56.58%

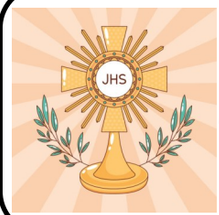
OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

November Classes: November 22.

See Carol Kaalberg or Fr. David for more information.

No class November 29th.



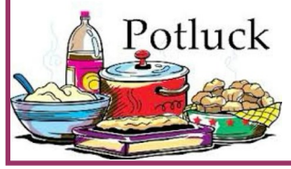
Eucharistic Adoration
Every Wednesday,
5:30 – 6:30 PM.
Please note time change, until further notice.

At St. Joseph, Hills.

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Matthew Polk, who died November 3, in Church Falls, VA. Matthew was the son-in-law of Carl & Judy Cambridge and grandson-in-law to Lucille Duwa. 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.

SAVE THE DATE...PARISH POTLUCK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, AFTER MASS



St. Joseph Altar & Rosary will supply meat, drinks, & table service.

Blue Christmas … Service of Remembrance

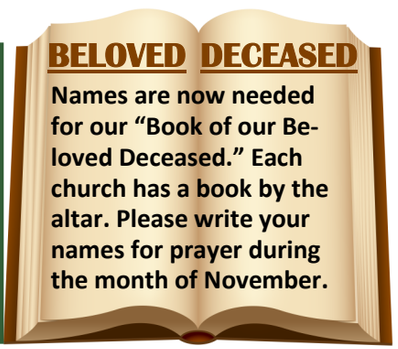
Sunday, December 6, 2 PM, at UPC in Lone Tree

This is a quiet reflective service for those families who have lost a loved one during the past year. Join us for prayer & lighting a candle in memory.

Sponsored by Sts. Mary & Joseph & United Presbyterian Churches.

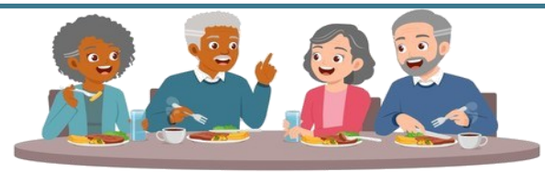


As we start to think about the giving season, please consider what you can *give* to your parish in *time & talent*. We are in need of servers, lectors, eucharistic ministers, commentators, and the list goes on…. Time & Talent forms can be found at all church entries.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS….

Sunday, November 15: Nichols Community Thanksgiving Dinner, at NOON, St. Mary Hall, Nichols.
Sunday, November 22: Thanksgiving Service, at 2:00 PM, St. Mary Church, Lone Tree.
Sunday, December 6: Blue Christmas Service at 2:00 PM, United Presbyterian Church, Lone Tree.



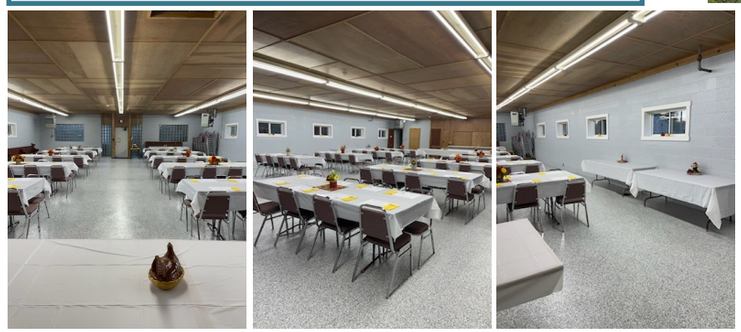
SENIOR CITIZENS THANKSGIVING DINNER
ST. MARY PARISH HALL, NICHOLS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 at NOON

Guests should bring donations for local food pantries.
Non-perishable items or monetary donations are welcomed.
This community event is sponsored by St. Mary Catholic Church in Nichols, Nichols United Methodist Church & Nichols Christian Church.

A cooperative community event to share Thanksgiving Blessings for the Nichols Community Senior Citizens.

NICHOLS PARISH HALL IMPROVEMENTS





Nichols Parish Hall underwent some major renovations… new LED lighting, new paint on the walls, and a beautiful floor improvement. Additionally, the exterior got new steel siding and a new steel roof. A much improved event venue for St. Mary.

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

The Lone Tree Food Pantry & Presbyterian Deacons
will prepare Thanksgiving Food Baskets
for pick up at the United Presbyterian Church
Monday, November 23, from 3:30 to 5:00 PM

If your family can be helped by receiving a food basket
*please call **319-629-4900*** by November 16.
If you get the church answering machine, please leave your name, phone number and size of family/number of adults and age of children.
We will return your call.

