Dear Padre,



PEOPLEIMAGES / SHUTTERSTOCK

Growing up, I was never taught how to pray, just how to recite prayers. After a lot of reading about prayer, I find myself conflicted about to whom I pray. At church, we pray to Jesus. But, on the other hand, God is the Almighty One who gave me life. And to make it even harder, there are Mary and the saints. So, to whom do I pray?

A person can end up reciting long formulas of prayers or decades of the rosary without being mentally present. Distraction in prayer is a major problem. Real prayer is conversation with God. God appreciates having our full attention.

If you really look at the prayers of the Mass, you'll see they are all directed to God the Father, with the exception of a prayer that is said to Jesus before Communion. We pray *through* Christ *in* the Holy Spirit *to* God the Father in all the other prayers. However, the Persons of the Blessed Trinity are not jealous of one another. To honor the Father brings immense pleasure to the Son, and vice-versa.

And praying to Mary and the saints is better understood as asking them to pray *with* us. Jesus said that when two are in agreement about anything they pray for, God will grant that prayer. (See Matthew 18:19.) We exercise the option of praying with others when we invoke the saints.

The great thing is that any genuine prayer is a tremendous help to one's spiritual life. ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The mystery of the communion of saints... reminds us of the final destiny of humanity: a great celebration in which we rejoice together... admiring the multifaceted beauty of faces, all different and all resembling the face of Christ.... How this contrasts with the tragedies that the human family is suffering because of injustice and war.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

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ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

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 2
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)
Wis 3:1–9
Rom 6:3–9
Jn 6:37–40

Tuesday
November 3
Weekday
Phil 2:5–11
Lk 14:15–24

Wednesday
November 4
St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Phil 2:12–18
Lk 14:25–33

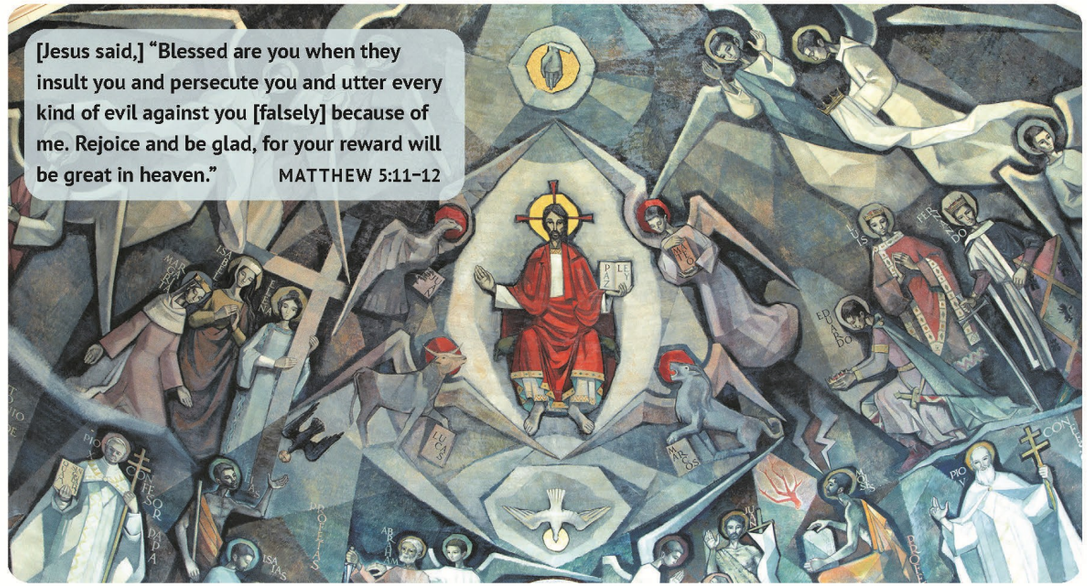
Thursday
November 5
Weekday
Phil 3:3–8a
Lk 15:1–10

Friday
November 6
Weekday
Phil 3:17—4:1
Lk 16:1–8

Saturday
November 7
Weekday
Phil 4:10–19
Lk 16:9–15

Sunday
November 8
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 6:12–16
1 Thes 4:13–18
or 4:13–14
Mt 25:1–13

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Come and Get It!

MIGUEL DULICK

What a lovely feast when we hear again the familiar beatitudes. Blessed! Blessed! Blessed! Are you poor in spirit? Come on down—you get the kingdom of heaven! Are you mourning? Comfort on call! Meek? This land is your land! Hungering for righteousness? Your marching days are done! Are you merciful? You ain't seen nothin' yet! What about clean of heart? That's hard to live up to, but the reward is that you get to see God! Peacemaker? "Why, you're one of my own children!" says God. And, finally...insulted and persecuted? Crowned in heaven; that is your reward!

How many saints are there? According to the Book of Revelation, "A great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue" (Revelation 7:9). Pope John Paul II took that as a mandate, multiplying saints beyond the capacity of the calendar to accommodate them; he wanted every community to have a patron saint. Pope Benedict kept up the "multitude-ing," and, in 2015, Pope Francis declared Archbishop Oscar Romero—long called *"San Romero de las Americas"* by the faithful of El Salvador since his assassination in 1980—a martyr *in odium fidei,* that is, he had been murdered out of hatred of his faith. This led to his beatification in the same year and his canonization by Pope Francis in 2018. I visited his tomb in 1985, and there were already hundreds of notes stuck on the wall, all grateful for *el milagro*—the miracle. Saints of God, pray for us. ●

Reflect

Who are my special saints? Why?

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

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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

All Saints Day **November 1, 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 31 to November 8, 2026

Saturday	October 31	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Nita & Claude Latta
Sunday	November 1	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Gayle Kaalberg Maynard Rayner
Monday	November 2	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Raymond Herring
Tuesday	November 3	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Prayer Service Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	November 4	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Harry Attig Prayer Service
Thursday	November 5	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Janie Marek Martin Warson
Friday	November 6	8:30 AM	Atrium	Floraine Lloyd
Saturday	November 7	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Luther & Norma Hartley
Sunday	November 8	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Leo & Lyla Truesdale Bob & Renita 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!

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




Joel & MaryEllen Yedlik along with Glen Gerot hand out rosaries and music programs.

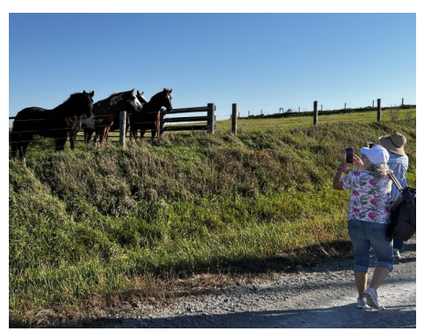


Knights of Columbus provided an escort for the Bishop at Mass.





Many from Fr. David's Global Rosary Network came to Iowa for the pilgrimage.



The horses along the pilgrimage route took great interest in the new found traffic in their neighborhood.



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 November 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!

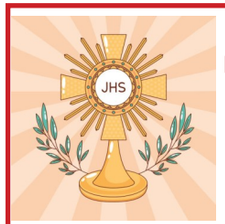


Political division can strain relationships, but Christ calls His followers to love one another and let their unity be a witness to the world (John 13:34

Meeting November 1.

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 November 4, 11, 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

	10/31/2026 Fr. Lou	11/07/2026 Fr. Tim	11/14/2026 Fr. Lou	11/21/2026 Fr. Tim	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Virginia Schlapkohl	Nancy Ford	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Envelopes 10/18	$885.00
Lector	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Offertory 10/18	$56.00
Cross Bearer	JerryFord	Glen Gerot	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland	Envelopes 10/25	$613.00
Servers	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Offertory 10/25	$67.00
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Jerry Ford	Judy Grothe	Paula Moore		
Eucharist	Trudi Westfall	Nancy Ford	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Jerry Ford	Glen Gerot	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland		
	Nancy Ford	Betty Gerot	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Joan Davis		
Gifts	Jerry & Nancy Ford	Glen & Betty Gerot	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis		
Commentator	Trudi Westfall	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola		

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

	11/1/2026 Fr. Lou	11/08/2026 Fr. Lou	11/15/2026 Fr. Lou	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Envelopes 10/18	$745.00
Lector	Renetta Burlage	Carol Kaalberg	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Offertory 10/18	$27.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	David Ollendick	Wayne Mengel	Trudi Westfall	Fuel 10/18	$50.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Envelopes 10/25	$775.00
Eucharist	Adam Gauger	Jeanne Green	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Offertory 10/25	$35.00
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Joe Harper	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	Wayne Mengel		
	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale	David Ollendick	Joe Harper		
Gifts	Dennis Truesdale	Wayne Mengel	David Ollendick	Rhonda Meredith		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

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

	11/01/2026 Fr. Tim	11/082026 Fr. Lou	11/15/2026 Fr. Lou	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	$280.00
Greeter	Lee & Kathryn Campion	Marcia Mellecker	Jim & Hope Frantz	Lee & Kathryn Campion	Offertory	$92.00
Lector	Carol Kirkpatrick	Carol Kirkpatrick	Nancy Waldschmidt	Kay Evans	World Missions	$525.00
Server	Emy Rivera, Josh Ayelazuno	Mike Sieverding Messi Akodegnon	Jean Burr, Emy Rivera	Mike Sieverding		
Eucharist -host	Jolene Van Eschen	Carol Kirkpatrick	Kay Evans	Deanne Eden		
Eucharist - cup	Carol Kirkpatrick	Deanne Eden	Arlene Johnston	Mike Sieverding		
Eucharist - cup	Deanne Eden	Kay Evans	Bob Jenn	Arlene Johnston		
Collection	Nancy Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker	Jim Frantz	Josh Ayeazuno		
	Mike Waldschmidt	Barb Mahanna	Hope Frantz	Emily Ayeazuno		
Gifts	Maynard Rayner family	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family	Kevin Mahanna family	Dean & Alice Cole family		
Commentator	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding		

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



PILGRIMAGE PLANNING
COMMITTEE TO MEET AFTER MASS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, ST. JOSEPH HALL.
EVERYONE WELCOME.
Please drop off your feedback sheets in the collection this week.



THANK YOU!

Over $300 was donated to buy groceries for the Catholic Worker House meal.



St. Joseph social justice committee cooked a meal for residents at the Catholic Worker House last Sunday. They served approximately 65 people, who were extremely appreciative. There was some leftover money, which was donated to the Catholic Worker House to be used for laundromat tokens for their residents.

Committee members: CWH volunteer, JoAnn Montgomery, Arlene Johnston, Shelagh McDonald, Kay Evans, Jean Burr, Melody Mellecker, CWH volunteer. Thank you ladies for volunteering!

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

November Classes: November 1, 8, &22.
See Carol Kaalberg or Fr. David for more information.

Healing Mass

November 7, at St. Joseph, Hills
9:00 AM Confessions
9:30 AM Rosary
10:00 AM Healing Mass







Hills Boo Bash was October 18th. St. Joseph parking lot provided space for Trunker Treaters.

MARK YOU 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.



Thank you to Bruce Loan, for building our new Nativity set at St. Mary Lone Tree.



Rogue trees and stumps were removed at our Religious Education Center in Lone Tree this past week.

BELOVED DECEASED

Names are now needed for our "Book of our Beloved Deceased." Each church has a book by the altar. Please write your names for prayer during the month of November.

CURRENT ANNUAL DIOCESESAN APPEAL CAMPAIGN

CHURCH	DONORS	GOAL	PLEDGED	UNDER GOAL	% 0F GOAL
LONE TREE	15	$9,981	$5,833	$4,148	58.44%
NICHOLS	12	$7,663	$5,445	$2,218	71.06%
HILLS	25	$13,640	$6,844	$6,796	50.18%