

# Dear Padre,

## What are the role and responsibilities of a parish priest in his church and community?

Primarily, a parish priest is a teacher and sanctifier. As teacher, he is obliged to instruct people in the faith, especially through the homily and catechetical formation—the Catholic education of children and young adults. He fosters “works through which the spirit of the gospel is promoted, even in what pertains to social justice.” With lay assistance, he brings the gospel message “to those who have ceased the practice of their religion or do not profess the true faith” (*Code of Canon Law* 528 §1).

As sanctifier, he works “so that the Christian faithful are nourished through the devout celebration of the sacraments,” especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of penance. He is also responsible for ensuring that the Eucharist is central to the faith community by encouraging active participation in the liturgy and parish life so that it’s authentically celebrated. (See *CCL* 528 §2.)

His other pastoral obligations are in the area of governance. These duties include outreach to those entrusted to his care, especially the sick and dying. He fosters growth in the Christian life within the family. “[W]ith particular diligence he is to seek out the poor, the afflicted, the lonely, those exiled from their country, and similarly those weighed down by special difficulties.” Moreover, he is responsible for grounding his local community within the broader universal Church’s mission. (See *CCL* 529.) ●



ZANREZUTTI/TONONI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / Dear Padre.org

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*The Lord wanted us in this time filled with challenges that, at times, seem to exceed our strength. We are called to embrace these challenges, to interpret them evangelically, to experience them as opportunities to bear witness. Let us not flee from them! Pastoral commitment, like that of study, become for us a school to learn how to build the kingdom of God in today’s complex and challenging history.*

ADDRESS TO THE CLERGY OF ROME,  
JUNE 12, 2025

KORAWAT PHOTO SHOOT / SHUTTERSTOCK

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

| Monday                                                                                           | Thursday                                                                               | Sunday                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 11</b><br><i>Easter Weekday</i><br>Acts 16:11–15<br>Jn 15:26–16:4a                        | <b>May 14</b><br><i>St. Matthias, Apostle</i><br>Acts 1:15–17, 20–26<br>Jn 15:9–17     | <b>May 17</b><br><i>The Ascension of the Lord</i><br>Acts 1:1–11<br>Eph 1:17–23<br>Mt 28:16–20 |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>May 12</b><br><i>Easter Weekday</i><br>Acts 16:22–34<br>Jn 16:5–11          | <b>Friday</b><br><b>May 15</b><br><i>Easter Weekday</i><br>Acts 18:9–18<br>Jn 16:20–23 |                                                                                                |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><b>May 13</b><br><i>Easter Weekday</i><br>Acts 17:15, 22–18:1<br>Jn 16:12–15 | <b>Saturday</b><br><b>May 16</b><br>Acts 18:23–28<br>Jn 16:23b–28                      |                                                                                                |

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17 / 1 Peter 3:15–18 / John 14:15–21



## The Already and the Not Yet

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

**T**he church celebrates again and again during the Easter season a core truth of Christian thought and belief: “the already and the not yet.” Jesus has already saved us, but we have not yet experienced the fullness of the kingdom. In this belief, there is tension, the experience of standing in the middle, where the tension is lived, and hopefully where balance is achieved.

What makes the tension bearable is that we know we have not been left as orphans. We are not on our own. The Spirit of God is sent to us and enables us to hold fast to what we have known and experienced and what is still unknown to us. Scripture and tradition, dogmas and doctrines, sacraments and sacramentals, practices and disciplines, all inspired by the Spirit of God, provide us with the necessary support and direction and help us remain balanced.

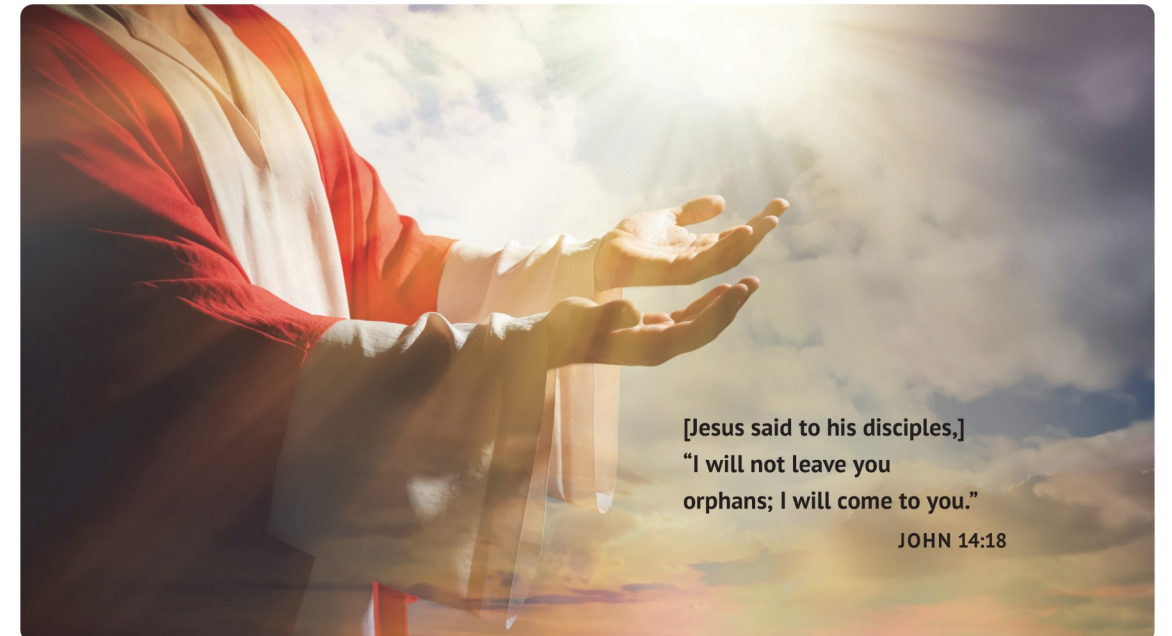
As wonderful as each of these gifts of the Spirit may be, each gift must be received, encountered, enabled, and lived. If the gifts are given but never received—and, even more important, used and shared—we not only refuse a gift freely given by our God but also deprive ourselves of the means to maintain our balance and remain on the path that leads to life and light. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

### Reflect

*Is there a gift from God I have not received or lived? How can I begin?*



[Jesus said to his disciples,]  
“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

JOHN 14:18

"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**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 10, 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

*In your prayers  
please remember the  
sick and suffering,  
those having surgery  
and other issues  
from our cluster and  
beyond.*

**Cluster Mass Intentions May 9 to May 17**

|           |        |                                |                                |                                                         |
|-----------|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | May 9  | 8:30 PM                        | Lone Tree                      | Mothers                                                 |
| Sunday    | May 10 | 8:00 AM<br>10:00 AM            | Nichols<br>Hills               | Mothers<br>Mothers                                      |
| Monday    | May 11 | 8:00 AM                        | Lone Tree R                    | Elma Cooney                                             |
| Tuesday   | May 12 | 8:00 AM<br>8:30 AM<br>10:00 AM | Lone Tree R<br>Atrium<br>PP CC | Jerry Schlapkohl<br>Rose Amelon<br>Cluster Parishioners |
| Wednesday | May 13 | 8:00 AM<br>8:30 AM             | Lone Tree R<br>Atrium          | Elma Cooney<br>Marvin Simon                             |
| Thursday  | May 14 | 8:30 AM<br>10:00 AM            | Atrium<br>PPCC                 | Keith Grothe<br>Earl,Viola,JoanneTessmer                |
| Friday    | May 15 | 8:30 AM                        | Atrium                         | Maynard Rayner                                          |
| Saturday  | May 16 | 8:30 PM                        | Lone Tree                      | Thomas & Elma Cooney                                    |
| Sunday    | May 17 | 8:00 AM<br>10:00 AM            | Nichols<br>Hills               | Jennifer Salemink<br>Kenny Swenka                       |

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!*

**Comments from Father David Paintsil:**

*Father Lou Leonhardt, reflecting on the Most Reverend Bishop Franklin, continued from last week.*



It was February 4' 1956, that Bill Franklin was ordained to the priesthood in St. Raphael cathedral in Dubuque. Nine of our classmates were also ordained into the priesthood. I was with our other classmates in the choir loft. The rest of us were ordained in May or June. Davenport diocese ordinations were set for June 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bishop Hayes. That was a great day for me and my brothers: Msgr. Marv Mottet and Fr. Bill Stratmen. (But this is a reflection on the future Bishop of Davenport, so...)

It was a pleasure to meet Auxiliary Bishop Franklin at seminary reunions. We can be grateful that some folks would arrange them. Thus the years passed until he had a new assignment to be Bishop of the Davenport diocese in 1994.

We rejoiced to gather in Sacred Heart cathedral in Davenport while he was installed as our Bishop. That time in 1994, I was Pastor at St. Bernadette Parish in West Branch. Yes, that West Branch... Home of the only president of the USA born in Iowa.

Bill never accepted my offer to get away from diocesan work by hiding in my parish. But he became a more or less presence at the annual class gatherings when I hosted them at St. Joseph Parish in Hills. We kept those up when I moved to Lone Tree at my time of retirement, age 80. Unfortunately, COVID put an end to in-person gatherings.

In his retirement, I was happy to be his chauffer for reunions at Loras college. We would drive to Dubuque for the Mass and dinner. One trip, we stayed as guests with the archbishop in his house. Visiting these last few years at the Kahl home was altogether different. Toward the end of his life, it was just sitting there with him while he lived in his own world. It will be different when I join him and the other 23 classmates in the joy of eternal life. Ad multos annos.

**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

Meeting Minutes  
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 Monday, August 24 at 6PM, parish hall.

**Hills Parish Council:** Next meeting will be Monday, May 18 at 6:30 PM. **Hills Finance Council:** Next meeting will be June 18, 6PM, with Hills Bank, at St. Joseph Parish Hall.

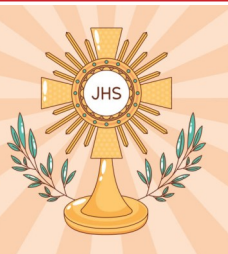
## Bible Study

**Bible Study** will meet May 12 & 26 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!

### Catholic Radio Station In Kalona – 89.5 KMHV



A Unique Way to Strengthen Your Faith!



**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Wednesday,**  
**May 13, 2026.**  
**6 PM-7PM**  
**St. Joseph, Hills**

Confessions are available at this time.



**Congratulation to  
Adeline & Josephine  
for receiving their First Communion .**

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

|              | 05/09/2026 Lou                  | 05/016/2026 David | 05/23/2026 Lou         | 05/30/2026 David         | Lone Tree | Parish Support |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Greeter      | Virginia Schlapkohl             | Paula Moore       | Barb Dinsmore          | Paula Moore              | Envelopes | \$1,635.00     |
| Lector       | Trudi Westfall                  | Jerry Ford        | Jill Welter            | Sherry Nicola            | Offertory | \$55.00        |
| Cross Bearer | Lynn Bland                      | Nancy Ford        | Lynn Bland             | Joel Yedlik              | Easter    | \$50.00        |
| Servers      | Trudi Westfall, Maggie Anderson | Jerry Ford        | Jill Welter            | Sherry Nicola            | ACH       | \$245.00       |
| Eucharist    | Trudi Westfall                  | Paula Moore       | Sherry Nicola          | Paula Moore              |           |                |
| Eucharist    | Judy Grothe                     | Jerry Ford        | Judy Grothe            | Sherry Nicola            |           |                |
| Collection   | Lynn Bland                      | Glen Gerot        | Lynn Bland             | Joel Yedlik              |           |                |
|              | Joan Davis                      | Betty Gerot       | Joan Davis             | Mary Ellen Yedlik        |           |                |
| Gifts        | Lynn Bland, Joan Davis          | Glen, Betty Gerot | Lynn Bland, Joan Davis | Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik |           |                |
| Commentator  | Trudi Westfall                  | Jerry Ford        | Jill Welter            | Sherry Nicola            |           |                |

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

|              | 05/10/2026 David | 05/17/2026 Lou      | 05/24/2026 David      | 05/31/2026 David | Nichols   | Parish Support |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Greeter      | Wayne Mengel     | Wayne Mengel        | Wayne Mengel          | Wayne Mengel     | Envelopes | \$359.00       |
| Lector       | Missy Lenz       | Carol Kaalberg      | Trudi Westfall        | Renetta Burlange | Offertory | \$64.00        |
| Cross Bearer | Wayne Mengel     | David Ollendick     | Adam Gauger           | Michael Burlage  | ACH       | \$250.00       |
| Server       | Carol Kaalberg   | Carol Kaalberg      | Carol Kaalberg        | Carol Kaalberg   |           |                |
| Eucharist    | Tom Barr         | Missy Lenz          | Trudi Westfall        | Missy Lenz       |           |                |
| Eucharist    | Carol Kaalberg   | Carol Kaalberg      | Carol Kaalberg        | Carol Kaalberg   |           |                |
| Collection   | Wayne Mengel     | Kory Kaalberg       | Dave Ollendick        | Kory Kaalberg    |           |                |
|              | Dennis Truesdale | Adam Gauger         | Wayne Mengel          | Adam Gauger      |           |                |
| Gifts        | Jeanne Green     | Tom & Maggie Gouger | Kory & Chris Kaalberg | Missy Lenz       |           |                |
| Commentator  | Carol Kaalberg   | Carol Kaalberg      | Carol Kaalberg        | Carol Kaalberg   |           |                |

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

|                 | 05/10/2026 David                 | 05/17/2026 David                | 05/24/2026 David           | 05/31/2026 Lou                 | Hills          | Parish Support |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Music Ministry  | Lily & Choir                     | Lily & Choir                    | Haylee & Choir             | Choir                          | Envelopes      | \$475.00       |
| Greeter         | Marcia Mellecker                 | Volunteer                       | Jim & Hope Frantz          | Marcia Mellecker               | Offertory      | \$194.00       |
| Lector          | Nancy Waldschmidt                | Bob Jenn                        | Mike Waldschmidt           | Alyssa Moran                   | Missions       | \$20.00        |
| Server          | Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry          | Josh Ayeluzuno, Mike Sieverding | Jean Burr, Messi Akodegnon | Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry        | Latin America  | \$171.00       |
| Eucharist -host | Bob Jenn                         | Deanne Eden                     | Mike Sieverding            | Jolene Van Eschen              | St. Stanislaus | \$20.00        |
| Eucharist - cup | Carol Kirkpatrick                | Bob Jenn                        | Deanne Eden                | Mike Sieverding                | ACH            | \$948.00       |
| Eucharist - cup | Deanne Eden                      | Arlene Johnston                 | Arlene Johnston            | Carol Kirkpatrick              |                |                |
| Collection      | Brian Moran                      | Mike Waldschmidt                | Jim Frantz                 | Marcia Mellecker               |                |                |
|                 | Matt Waldschmidt                 | Lora Sieverding                 | Hope Frantz                | Barbara Mahanna                |                |                |
| Gifts           | Alyssa Moran, Lauren Waldschmidt | Kenny Swenka family             | John Schneider family      | Bob & Renita Rummelhart family |                |                |
| Commentator     | Carol Kirkpatrick                | Lora Sieverding                 | Lora Sieverding            | Lora Sieverding                |                |                |

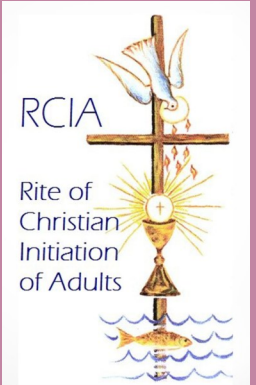
If you are unavailable for the above ministry assignment, please find your own replacement. Thank you.



**Hills Fire & Rescue Breakfast**  
 Sunday, May 10, 2026  
 Serving from 7 AM until 1 PM  
 Freewill Offering  
*Please help support our local fire & rescue department.*

**NO POTLUCK,  
 2nd Tuesday of  
 Month, due to  
 lack of interest**

Are you interested in learning more about our Catholic faith, or know someone who would like to become Catholic, if so, please contact Fr. David Paintsil or Carol Kirkpatrick to let them know of your interest. Classes will begin this fall. An exact date and time will be determined.



**Altar & Rosary**  
 Meeting,  
 Monday, May 11,  
 2 PM,  
 St. Joseph  
 Parish Hall,  
 planning for Fr.  
 Lou's 70th year of  
 ordination party.



Congratulations to **Dustin Flake**, Lone Tree parishioner, who received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion) at the Easter Vigil at St. Wenceslaus, Iowa City. Congratulations Dustin, and welcome to the Catholic Church.



Baccalaureates:

**Lone Tree High School:** Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 PM, Lone Tree School South Gym

**West Liberty High School:** Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 PM, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



**Lone Tree Fire & Rescue Department**  
**Chicken Dinner**  
**Wednesday, May 13** 🔥 5-7 PM  
**Lone Tree American Legion**



**Life  
 in the Spirit  
 Seminar**  
 Sunday, May 24 at 3PM  
**St. Mary, Lone Tree**



**MAY CROWNING**  
 This weekend at  
 all parishes.



**Congratulations**  
 to our First Communion recipients.  
**Josephine Catherine Hotz,**  
 daughter of Michael & Jessica Hotz  
 and  
**Adeline Rose VanBuskirk,**  
 daughter of Thomas & Lydia VanBuskirk  
  
*Continue your prayers for these students and their families as they received the sacrament of the First Eucharist last week.*



Be sure to finish Fr. Lou's comments regarding his classmate, The Most Reverend Bishop Franklin, pictured front row, second from left.  
  
*The photo was from one of Fr. Lou's class reunions he hosted while pastor at St. Joseph's. He is the only remaining class member.*