

Dear Padre,

Adam and Eve had two sons and maybe others not mentioned in the Bible. How were others born without having committed incest?

This is a perfectly valid question, and one that I think many people have probably asked themselves at one time or another. Unfortunately, it is the wrong question, because it does not reflect the true meaning of the story.

The story about Adam and Eve is not a literal story or, in other words, a story that would be reported by CNN or FOX News. It is a teaching story, intended to encourage belief in the creative power of God at work in his creation. It is not, nor has it ever been, a literal step-by-step tutorial of the early days of the human race.

The bible includes different literary forms: narrative or history, poetry and songs, parables, letters, genealogies, and more. Knowing what form is being used, the purpose of the passage, who is writing or talking, and the intended audience is the work of Scripture scholars. The story of creation is not intended to be literal; it is inspirational. ●



OSCAR IVAN ESQUIVEL / UNSPLASH

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

September 21
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13
Mt 9:9–13

Wednesday

September 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Prv 30:5–9
Lk 9:1–6

Saturday

September 26
Weekday
Eccl 11:9–12:8
Lk 9:43b–45

Tuesday

September 22
Weekday
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13
Lk 8:19–21

Thursday

September 24
Weekday
Eccl 1:2–11
Lk 9:7–9

Friday

September 25
Weekday
Eccl 3:1–11
Lk 9:18–22

Sunday

September 27
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25–28
Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5
Mt 21:28–32



FADIL ABHIMANTRA / UNSPLASH

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith: it is...a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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Next Up!

MIGUEL DULICK

I keep hearing preachers say this is their least favorite gospel, because it makes people so mad! All the workers in a vineyard get a full day's pay—which folks interpret as heaven—even the ones who came at the last hour of the afternoon. “You mean, I work hard my whole life, and some nobody from nowhere just waltzes into heaven ahead of me?” But wait a minute! You think you *deserve* your “pay”? None of us is anywhere or anything, even breathing, without God's grace. It's not a competition; it's our only hope! We should be dancing in the street to celebrate God's generosity. Matthew himself must have chuckled at this parable, since he was also a latecomer, having spent his life grinding his own brothers and sisters into poverty to feed the tax maw of the Roman Empire. Then, Jesus called him! I love the twist in the parable: the owner not only pays the last ones equally, but he pays them *first*!



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

If you don't like standing in line, you could be like Paul, who wants to just skip to the end: “I long to depart this life and be with Christ” (Philippians 1:23). As he says, “To me life is Christ, and death is gain” (Philippians 1:21). We should all be so eager. Just concentrate on the “fruitful labor” of service to others. Put everyone else ahead of you, and don't be afraid of some hard work. Any vineyard is a challenge, even when that vineyard is the Church. ●

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, [says] the Lord.

ISAIAH 55:8



Reflect

Do I feel more deserving than others or struggle with envy?

"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

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 20, 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 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 September 19 to September 27, 2026

Saturday	September 19	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Luther Hartley
Sunday	September 20	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Lawrence & Geneva Salemin Dean & Alice Cole
Monday	September 21	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	No Mass
Tuesday	September 22	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	No Mass Olin Lloyd Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	September 23	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	No Mass Shirley Streb
Thursday	September 24	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Draker family Martin Warson
Friday	September 25	8:30 AM	Atrium	Hazen & Irene Loan
Saturday	September 26	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Gayle Kaalberg
Sunday	September 27	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Sonny, Karleen, Tom O'Toole Judy Ball

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!*

DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

A Journey with Mary: A Rosary Walk for Evangelization and Vocations



All are warmly invited to participate in a special Marian pilgrimage/Rosary walk in our Diocese on **Saturday, October 10, 2026**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Stanislaus, 5423 Maier Ave SW, Riverside to St. Joseph, Hills City Park. Buses will be available at Hills City Park by 7: 00.AM to pick you up to take you to St. Stanislaus if you want to walk. Please, park your car in Hills. Together, we will walk prayerfully, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary and asking our Blessed Mother to renew us in faith and to revive our Diocese through evangelization and an increase in vocations.

Inspired by the theme, **"And Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah" (Luke 1:39)**, this Rosary Walk invites us to follow Mary's example of bringing Christ to others with faith, joy, and missionary zeal. The pilgrimage will conclude with Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Dennis Walsh at approximately 11:00 a.m. at Hills City Park. Those who are unable to participate in the walk are warmly invited to join us for Mass and lunch.

Come and walk with Mary. Pray for peace. Pray for vocations. Be renewed in faith. Bring your family and friends as we journey together in hope.

For more information, please contact:

Fr. David Paintsil – paintsild@diodav.org
Carol Kirkpatrick -cjkkirk@sharontc.net



**Sign up sheets are
also available at all
church entries.
Please let us know
by September 27th if
you plan to attend.**



DIOCESE of DAVENPORT

A Journey with Mary

A Rosary Walk for
Evangelization and Vocations
to Conclude the Eucharistic Rosary Congress

**St. Stanislaus 5423 Maier Ave SW, Riverside
to St. Joseph, Hills City Park**

Saturday, October 10th, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Pilgrimage will end with Mass
at Hills City Park with Bishop Dennis Walsh
at 11:00 AM. Lunch and hospitality will follow.
Those unable to walk may join for Mass and Lunch.

Buses will be available at Hills City Park by
7:00 AM to pick you to St. Stanislaus, if you
want to walk. Park your car in Hills.

Please use the QR code to RSVP for the walk
so we can have an accurate count for lunch.

And Mary arose in those days and went
into the hill country with haste, into the city of Judah
(Luke 1: 39)



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 to be announced, as needed.

Lone Tree Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting will be Monday, September 28, at 6PM in the Lone Tree parish hall.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, September 21 at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet September 8 & 22 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!

Prayer Corner

Faith is seeing light with your heart when all your eyes see is darkness.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

6 PM-7PM

St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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

Religious Education will begin September 23, 2026.

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						
	09/19/2026 David	09/26/2026 David	10/03/2026 Lou	10/10/2026 Lou	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Bernie Lorack	Virginia Schlapkohl	Bernie Lorack	Lynn Bland	Envelopes	\$945.00
Lector	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	Offertory	\$80.00
Cross Bearer	Nancy Ford	Joel Yedlik	Jerry Ford	Glen Gerot	Fuel	\$75.00
Servers	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland	Sherry Nicola	Jill Welter	Religious Ed	\$25.00
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	ACH	\$215.00
Eucharist	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Nancy Ford	Joel Yedlik	Jerry Ford	Betty Gerot		
	Jill Welter	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Nancy Ford	Glen Gerot		
Gifts	Jill Welter, Nancy Ford	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Jerry & Nancy Ford	Betty, Glen Gerot		
Commentator	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland	Sherry Nicola	Jill Welter		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	09/20/2026 David	09/27/2026 David	10/04/2026 David	10/11/2026 David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Envelopes	\$355.00
Lector	Missy Lenz	Tom Barr	Rennetta Burlage	Carol Kaalberg	Offertory	\$30.00
Cross Bearer	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Lector	Michael Burlage	Wayne Mengel	Fuel	\$50.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Catholic U	\$1.00
Eucharist	Missy Lenz	Tom Barr	Jeanne Green	Adam Gauger	ACH	\$250.00
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Kory Kaalberg	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger		
	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Kory Kaalberg		
Gifts	Joel & Rose Harper	Kelsi Lampe	Lori Leggins	Cindy Massey		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	09/20/2026 David	09/27/2026 David	10/04/2026 David	10/11/2026 David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	\$670.00
Greeter	Jim & Hope Frantz	Janet Goss	Lee & Katheryn Campion	Marcia Mellecker	Offertory	\$152.00
Lector	Mike Waldschmidt	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Mike Waldschmidt	Catholic U	\$40.00
	Messi Akodegnon,					
Server	Mike Sieverding	Mike Sieverding	Jean Burr, Josh Ayelazuno	Emy Rivera, Mike Sieverding	ADA overage	\$1,180.00
Eucharist -host	Jolene VanEschen	Mike Sieverding	Mike Sieverding	Bob Jenn	ACH	\$410.00
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Deanne Eden	Kay Evans	Arlene Johnston		
Eucharist - cup	Mike Sieverding	Bob Jenn	Emy Rivera	Kristee Malmberg		
Collection	Jim Frantz	Mike Waldschmidt	Brian Moran	Marcia Mellecker		
	Hope Frantz	Nancy Waldschmidt	Mike Waldschmidt	Barb Mahanna		
			Jack & Rose Mary Ruth	Bob & Renita Rummelhart		
Gifts	Dean & Alice Cole family	Judy Ball family	family	family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding		

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

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

The Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) has begun, everyone should have received a mailing from the Diocese of Davenport this past week. The ADA allows the diocese to work together in ways no parish can accomplish alone. Gifts to the Appeal support the formation of future priests and deacons, faith formation for children, youth and adults, outreach to those in need, and many ministries that serve Catholics across Southeast Iowa. Each parish has its own unique gifts, yet together we form one diocesan family. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous support.

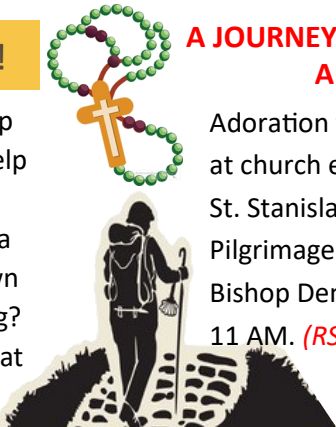
Please mail your donation envelope directly to the diocese.

SAT., OCT. 3		SUN., OCT. 4		MON., OCT. 5		TUES., OCT. 6	
11:00 AM	K. Evans	11:00 AM		9:00 AM	L. Duwa	9:00 AM	
NOON		NOON		10:00 AM		10:00 AM	
1:00 PM		1:00 PM		11:00 AM	M. Waldschmidt	11:00 AM	
2:00 PM		2:00 PM		NOON		NOON	
3:00 PM		3:00 PM		1:00 PM		1:00 PM	
4:00 PM		4:00 PM		2:00 PM		2:00 PM	
WED., OCT. 7		THURS., OCT. 8		FRI., OCT. 9			
9:00 AM		9:00 AM	L. Duwa	9:00 AM	K. Simon		
10:00 AM		10:00 AM		10:00 AM			
11:00 AM		11:00 AM	K. Evans	11:00 AM			
NOON		NOON		NOON			
1:00 PM		1:00 PM		1:00 PM			
2:00 PM		2:00 PM		2:00 PM			

We are in search of WORKER BEES!



Oct. 10
Are you able to help set up chairs? Help park cars? Help serve meals following Mass? And/or assist with a variety of set up/tear down projects Saturday morning? A sign up sheet is located at church entries.



A JOURNEY WITH MARY ADORATION AND PILGRIMAGE

Adoration times are listed above. Sign up at church entries. Pilgrimage to start at St. Stanislaus at 8 AM, **October 10**. Pilgrimage will conclude with Mass with Bishop Dennis, at the city park in Hills at 11 AM. *(RSVP at church entry)*

Lunch following Mass.

Mentors wanted

We are looking for mentor volunteers for Wednesday night religion class. Mentors will sit with paired student and help them with activities and share insights into the lessons. Each student will be paired with a mentor for the year, hopefully you will create a lasting bond that will encourage continued spiritual growth for both parties.

Mentor Requirements:

- *Confirmed
 - *Catholic in good standing (attend church regularly)
 - *Complete Veritas training.
 - *Background check
 - *Available Wednesday nights 6:30 to 7:30
 - *Desire to help a student with spiritual growth
- Mentors can be parents, siblings or other relative, family friend or a parishioner the student hasn't met yet.

If interested please contact Nancy Waldschmidt
njwald1@gmail.com or 319-331-2077

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Jim Mills, on the loss his wife, Marilyn Mills. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her 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 family of Brent & Meaghan Peters, on the loss of Brent's mom, Cheryl Peters. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Father David the Bringing the World to Jesus through Mary conclusion at the St. Augustine conference in St. Louis.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. Registration forms can be found at church entries. No fees. Questions? Contact Nancy Waldschmidt at njwald1@gmail.com or 319-331-2077

CLASSES BEGIN THIS WEEK!

Pray for safe travels for Fr. Lou as he visits his Canadian family for a couple of weeks.

He will return October 2nd.



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

