

Dear Padre,

I struggle to relate to traditional devotions like the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Any advice?

Christ instructed his followers to love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, and mind. (See Matthew 22:37.) We seek a deeper union with God not only through reason and understanding but also through feelings and affections. However, as Pope Francis pointed out, “Many people feel safer...in the more readily controllable domain of intelligence and will” (*Dilexit Nos* [On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ], 10). Descartes said of us, “I think, therefore I am,” but it can also be said that “I am my heart, for my heart is what sets me apart, shapes my spiritual identity, and puts me in communion with other people” (*DN* 14).

Moreover, the heart “is the place of encounter” with God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2563). Pope Francis acknowledges that some people today may not find the Sacred Heart image to be meaningful (See *DN* 2.), but it’s “a summons to make room for an encounter with Christ...in whatever way we wish to picture him” (*DN* 57). “More than any other part of his body, the heart of Jesus” represents “his boundless love” (*DN* 48). Therefore, “any act of love or worship of his heart is thus ‘really and truly given to Christ himself,’ since it spontaneously refers back to him and is ‘a symbol and a tender image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ’” (*DN* 50). ●



JOAN SUTTER / CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday
1 Kgs 21:1–16	1 Kgs 21:17–29	2 Kgs 2:1, 6–14	Sir 48:1–14	2 Kgs 11:1–4, 9–18, 20	2 Chr 24:17–25	<i>in Ordinary</i>
Mt 5:38–42	Mt 5:43–48	Mt 6:1–6, 16–18	Mt 6:7–15	Mt 6:19–23	Mt 6:24–34	Time
						Jer 20:10–13
						Rom 5:12–15
						Mt 10:26–33

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



CRISTIAN GUTIERREZ, LIC / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Humility is really freedom from ourselves.... Those who exalt themselves generally think that nothing is more interesting than themselves; yet, deep down, they are quite insecure.... Dear friends, today let us pray that the Church will always be a school of humility for everyone, a home where all are welcome, a place where rivalries are set aside and where Jesus...teaches us to imitate his own humility and freedom.

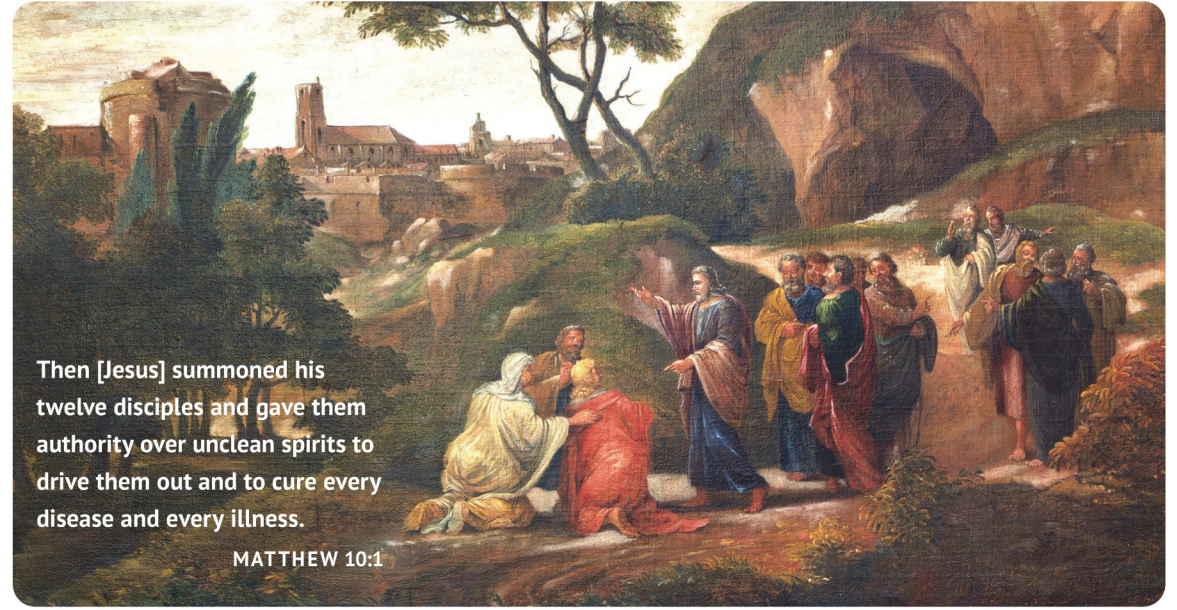
ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 31, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 14, 2026

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Exodus 19:2–6a / Romans 5:6–11 / Matthew 9:36–10:8



Then [Jesus] summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.

MATTHEW 10:1

Jesus Calls Together the Twelve

ANN M. GARRIDO

Almost everyone who has picked up a Bible has heard of the twelve tribes of Israel. Named after the twelve sons of the patriarch Jacob, the twelve tribes feature prominently in the Hebrew Scriptures. The twelve tribes are freed from slavery in Egypt and enter the Promised Land together. They then choose from among themselves a king. What would Vacation Bible School be without stories of the twelve tribes?

But read beyond the familiar lore of VBS, and one quickly discovers that the twelve tribes did not remain united. First, the tribes in the North were conquered by the Assyrians. Later, the tribes of the South were decimated by the Babylonians. The family once called by God to become a holy nation was scattered by war and the political machinations of their own leaders. They became like sheep without a shepherd, no longer a flock.

And that is where Jesus steps in, as we read in today’s gospel. As he looks at his people—God’s chosen family—he sees how wounded and lost they are; how polarized they have become. Jesus knows what he needs to do. He calls together the Twelve—a significant number. Jesus saw himself as reuniting his people after a season of painful separation from one another.

Today, Jesus continues to call people to participate in the ministry of reconciliation. Can you imagine your name included among the “twelve” as one who will help heal a divided nation? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Do I unite people by my words and actions, or am I more of a divider?



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**

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 14, 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 June 13 to June 21

Saturday	June 13	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Kevin Mullinnix
Sunday	June 14	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Gayle Kaalberg Bob, Renita Rummelhart
Monday	June 15	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Monica Leonhardt
Tuesday	June 16	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Dorothy Cooney Clayton & Maryann Michel Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	June 17	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Carol Gleason Liv & Dec of Draker Family
Thursday	June 18	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Gary Hotka Martin Warson
Friday	June 19	8:30 AM	Atrium	Bob & Kathy Pogge
Saturday	June 20	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	All Fathers
Sunday	June 21	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	All Fathers All Fathers

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!*

Pray for Father David's safe travels as he returns from his studies in
Washington, D.C.



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, June 15 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 June 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

Prayer is the most powerful tool available on the market.



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday,
June 17, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

Lone Tree Parish Council

Elections will be this weekend.



We will be looking for 2 council members, 1 man & 1 woman, for a 3 year term.

Thank you to
Steve Moore and Jenni Eden
who have served the last three years

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

	06/13/2026 Lou	06/20/2026 David	06/27/2026 David	07/04/2026 Lou	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Barb Dinsmore	Envelopes	\$1,900.00
Lector	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Offertory	\$32.00
Cross Bearer	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Nancy Ford	Joel Yedlik	Communication	\$20.00
Servers	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Peter's Pence	\$20.00
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Paula Moore	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe	Sisters of Immacul	\$40.00
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Lynn Bland	Joel Yedlik	Glen Gerot	Joel Yedlik		
	Joan Davis	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Betty Gerot	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Betty, Glen Gerot	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter		

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

	06/14/2026 Lou	06/21/2026 David	06/28/2026 David	07/05/2026 David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Dennis Truesdale	Jeanne Green	Envelopes	\$303.00
Lector	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Renetta Burlage	Tom Barr	Offertory	\$24.25
Cross Bearer	David Ollendick	Dennis Truesdale	Michael Burlage	Dennis Truesdale	Cemetery	\$40.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Sisters of Immacul	\$125.00
Eucharist	Adam Gauger	Trudi Westfall	Tom Barr	Tom Barr		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Jeanne Green	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg		
	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger		
Gifts	Cindy Massey	Wayne Mengel	Brent & Meaghan Peters	Dennis Truesdale		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

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

	06/14/2026 Lou	06/21/2026 David	06/28/2026 Lou	07/05/2026 David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Lily Westemyer & Choir	Lily Westemyer & Choir	Haylee Osmonson & Choir	Robyn Anderson	Envelopes	\$835.00
Greeter	Jim & Marilyn Mills	Marcia Mellecker	Jim & Hope Frantz	Judy Stebral	Offertory	\$122.00
Lector	Carol Kirkpatrick	Mike Waldschmidt	Lora Sieverding	Kezia Attitse	Communication	\$10.00
Server	Wendy Berry, Jean Burr	Emy Rivera, Jean Burr	Mike Sieverding, Emy Rivera	Messi Akodegnon, Emy Rivera	Sisters of Immac	\$120.00
Eucharist -host	Bob Jenn	Mike Sieverding	Carol Kaalberg	Kay Evans		
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Deanne Eden		
Eucharist - cup	Deanne Eden	Bob Jenn	Deanne Eden	Mike Sieverding		
Collection	Jim Mills	Marcia Mellecker	Jim Frantz	Barb Mahanna		
	Marilynn Mills	Jim Frantz	Hope Frantz	Marcia Mellecker		
Gifts	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family	Mike, Matt Waldschmidt, Brian Moran	Dave Ipsen family	Maynard Rayner family		
Commentator	Carol Kirkpatrick	Lora Sieverding	Carol Kaalberg	Lora Sieverding		

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



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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.



Please join us in the parish hall for coffee and donuts after Mass today.



Sunday
June 28th

Per request of
Fr. Lou,
NO GIFTS!

St. Joseph, Hills will be hosting a luncheon celebration following Mass,

Sunday, June 28.

We will honor Fr. Lou Leonhardt's 70th year of ordination into the priesthood.



Father Lou celebrated his 70th year of ordination with residents at Pioneer Park on Wednesday, June 3.



Congratulations to Emily O'Brien and Josh Ayelazuno, who exchanged wedding vows at St. Joseph, Hills, May 30th.

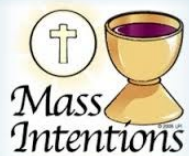


Parish AED Training will be Thursday, June 25, at 7 PM, in the St. Mary, Lone Tree hall. This is parish wide training for the new AED systems we recently updated. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend. You will receive instruction on how to operate the Automated External Defibrillator.



Congratulations to Theo Dewayne Dowdy and Winter Cecilia Dowdy who were baptized last weekend at St. Mary, Lone Tree. Parents are Anthony & Shaundria (Squiers) Dowdy.

NO HEALING MASS IN JULY!
Next healing Mass will be Saturday, August 1, 2026.
Hospitality provided by St. Mary, Lone Tree.


Mass Intentions
Friendly Reminder:
All requested Mass Intentions are now \$10 each.



Vacation Bible School will be August 3-7 in Nichols. Rides from Lone Tree to Nichols will be offered. Please contact Linda Abbott for more information: 563-357-8733.