

Dear Padre,

What is the Church's view on having crystal stones or sage in the home to bring in positive energy?

The Church does not have an official position on every possible human action or activity. The Church believes in the discerning principle of maturity and fully expects that the people of God will use the ability that has been entrusted to them by the Creator in a positive manner. The Church understands the power of mystery and the power of symbols but rightfully assigns any “energy” that mystery and symbols may generate to the power of the Holy Spirit. Inanimate objects, by the very definition of “inanimate,” do not generate energy. They may be symbols of energy, but they do not have energy in and of themselves.

If you enjoy crystals because of their beauty or because of the way they diffuse light, then there is no harm in having them in your house. If you like the smell of sage, then use it and enjoy it. All symbols have different meanings, depending on how they are understood and used by the people who gathered, collect, and store them for use. These symbols have no power in and of themselves for good or for evil. However, if you live in a culture that has identified the meaning of a symbol, and that assigned meaning contradicts Christian belief and practice, it would be best to avoid that symbol. ●

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

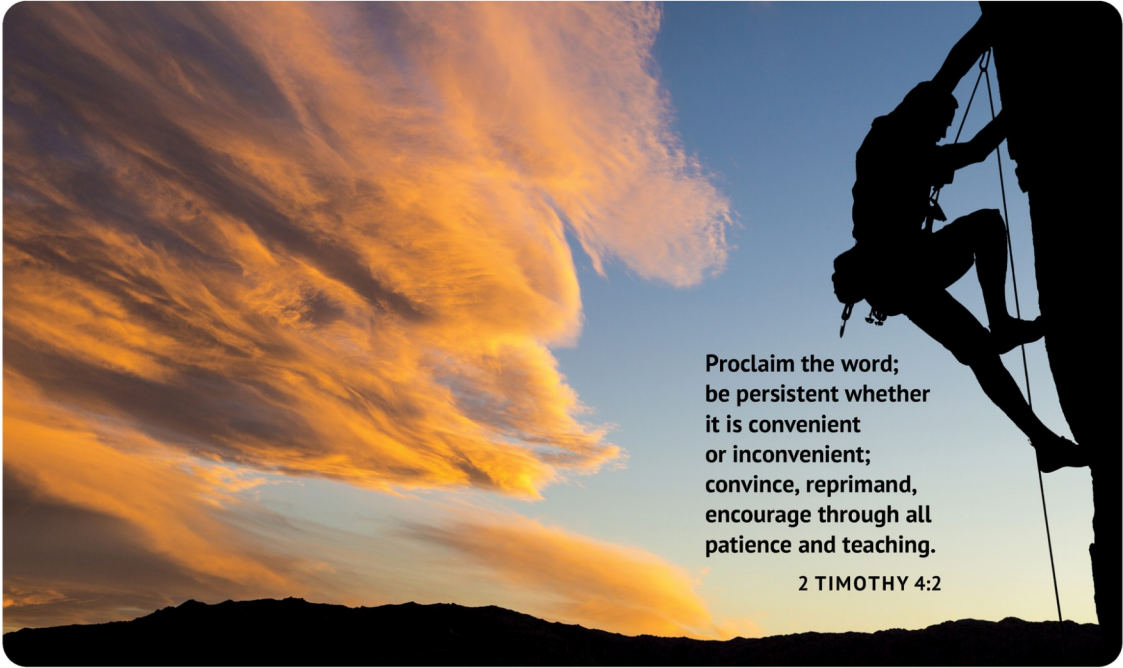
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



EATERNIA80/ISTOCK / PEXELS

Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 19, 2025
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Exodus 17:8–13 / 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2 / Luke 18:1–8



Proclaim the word;
be persistent whether
it is convenient
or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand,
encourage through all
patience and teaching.

2 TIMOTHY 4:2

The Widow God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I have a friend who likes to say that God always answers prayers; it's just that sometimes God says “no.” He'll say that not always getting what we pray for seems to fit the way life is. My difficulty with that piece of religious folk wisdom is that God then comes off as someone who sits around sorting out answers to prayers from the billions of daily requests sent God's way. When I object to my friend's saying, he's quick to remind me that God wants us to pray. Doesn't this week's parable about the widow who plagues the dishonest judge say just that? Don't give up praying. Yet God isn't like a dishonest judge who cares not for any human being. It also presumes that the sheer multiplication of words sent God's way increases the chances that we'll get a positive hearing,

and that God needs to be convinced to do good for us, or at least what we presume is good. But then that presumes that we know better than God. So perhaps God is not like the judge but like the widow, continually pleading that we might give him a hearing. The purpose of our prayer, then, is not to get God to do what we want, but rather to open ourselves to what God wants for us. That does take some trust, but don't we believe that God knows us better than we know ourselves? That's why the parable ends with the question, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” ●

Reflect

When I talk to God, do I also listen?

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Peace is first and foremost a gift. It is the first gift of Christ: “My peace I give to you” (John 14:27)... It engages and challenges each of us...demanding that first of all we work on ourselves. Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words. For words, too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill.



ERREROBERTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

AUDIENCE OF THE
HOLY FATHER, ROME,
MAY 16, 2025

Monday

October 20
Weekday
Rom 4:20–25
Lk 12:13–21

Tuesday

October 21
Weekday
Rom 5:12, 15b,
17–19, 20b–21
Lk 12:35–38

Wednesday

October 22
Weekday
Rom 6:12–18
Lk 12:39–48

Thursday

October 23
Weekday
Rom 6:19–33
Lk 12:49–53

Friday

October 24
Weekday
Rom 7:18–25a
Lk 12:54–59

Saturday

October 24
Weekday
Rom 8:1–11
Lk 13:1–9

Sunday

October 25
Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sir 35:12–14, 16–18
2 Tm 4:6–8, 16–18
Lk 18:9–14

"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

Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 19, 2025

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.
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

Cluster Mass Intentions October 18 to October 26, 2025

Saturday	October 18	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Doralyn Benson
Sunday	October 19	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Darlene Sieren Special Intention B.Rayner
Monday	October 20	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Draker Special Intention
Tuesday	October 21	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Service Of Prayer Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	October 22	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Gayle Kaalberg Service of Prayer
Thursday	October 23	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Bob & Kathy Pogge No Intention
Friday	October 24	8:30 AM	Atrium	Keith Grothe
Saturday	October 25	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Paul Yedlik
Sunday	October 26	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Jack & Helene Saleminck 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!



SIGNS FROM GOD ~ MIRACLES AND THEIR MEANING ~

MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF..

- Science testing faith - human heart tissue found in communion hosts
- Bolivian woman who experiences **current day stigmata** (wounds of Christ)
- Statues that weep tears and human blood

MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN CHALLENGED..

- Why are you Catholic?
- Why **stay** Catholic after corruption?
- What is the meaning of suffering?
- Why do you confess to a priest?



JOIN

TIM FRANCIS

As he shares his quest for truth!

- From altar boy to party boy
- From non-demoninational mega church
back to the Roman Catholic Church

Join us for either presentation!
(Same presentation both nights)

Sunday
October 19th
3:00-5:30 pm

or

Monday
October 20th
6:00-8:30 pm

Find out more here



www.sciencetestsfaith.com/James



Keep Fr. David in your prayers as
he travels home to Ghana, Afri-
ca. Fr. David will spend all of Oc-
tober in Africa and will return
Tuesday, November 4th.



During the month of November we
will be praying for the deceased of our
cluster parishes and family members.

The 25-26 ADA campaign has begun. Envelopes and QR cards will be located at entrances of the church. Your generosity supports the missions and ministries that serve parish communities across our diocese. The Diocese of Davenport has assigned the following goals for each of our parishes:

Hills = \$11,405.00

Lone Tree = \$10, 670.00

Nichols= \$8,114.00

We need everyone's help & generosity to meet these parish goals.

Support
OUR MISSION





Classes have begun!

Registration forms are on church entry tables & online.

Religious Education is after the 4pm Mass in Lone Tree and before the 10am Mass in Hills. Registration forms are on the church entry tables and on our website: stsmariyoseph.com under the bulletins and forms tab. Questions may be directed to Nancy Waldschmidt at 319-331-2077.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet October 28 at **Atrium Village**, 2nd floor study/lounge at 6:30 PM.

Contact Melody Hobert-Mellecker—319-936-3287, call or text — if you are interested, or just come!

CEDAR VALLEY CHURCH

Soup SUPPER

October 22nd

Homemade Soups, Sandwiches, and Pies

4:00 - 7:00 PM

1791 155th Street West Liberty

Free-will Donations welcome; to be used toward local mission projects

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.

Holy Trinity Church: 571 Howard St., Richmond, IA (Kalona)

Drive Through Fall Dinner

Sunday, October 26, 11 AM until 1 PM

Fried Chicken & Pork Loin

Beef & Noodles, Potatoes, Green Beans, & Roll

And don’t miss our famous pies!

FREE WILL DONATION

Be sure to bid in our online auction: SirenAuctionSales.com

Auction begins October 17 and ends October 24, at 7 PM!

Payment and pickup: October 26 at Holy Trinity, Richmond

real life CATHOLIC

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

7:00 - 9:30 PM

St. Mary Catholic Church

228 E Jefferson St, Iowa City, IA 52245

REBOOT

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY!

It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.

SCAN QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT OR GO TO:

<https://buytickets.at/realLIFEcatholic/1849330>

Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle C Reading						
	10/18/2025 Fr. Tim	10/25/2025 Fr. Tim	11/01/2025 Fr. Tim	11/08/2025 Fr. David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Bernie Lorack	Barb Dinsmore	Carter Parrish	Barb Dinsmore	Envelopes	\$670.00
Lector	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	Landon Parrish	Jill Welter	Offertory	\$70.00
Cross Bearer	Joel Yedlik	Joel Yedlik	Logan Parrish	Joel Yedlik	Fuel	\$50.00
Servers	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Newman Cnt	\$10.00
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe	Trudi Westfall	Paula Moore		
Collection	Joel Yedlik	Joel Yedlik	Dani Parrish	Joel Yedlik		
	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Carter Parrish	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Joel & Mary Ellen	Dani, Carter Parrish	Joel, Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle C Reading						
	10/19/2025 Fr. Lou	10/26/2025 Fr. Lou	11/02/2025 Fr. Lou	11/09/2025 Fr. Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Bruce & Margaret Matt	Bruce & Margaret Matt	Envelopes	\$1,015.00
Lector	Missy Lenz	Renetta Burlage	Carol Kaalberg	Missy Lenz	Offertory	\$80.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	Michael Burlage	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger		
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Missy Lenz	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Missy Lenz		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Kory Kaalberg	Kory Kaalberg	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger		
	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale	Kory Kaalberg		
Gifts	Dennis Truesdale	Mary Lou Yedlik	Michael & Renetta Burlage	Julia Elder		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle C Reading						
	10/19/2025 Fr. Lou	10/26/2025 Fr. Lou	11/02/2025 Fr. Lou	11/09/2025 Fr. David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Lily Westemeyer	Choir	Lily Westemyer	Robynn Anderson	Envelopes	\$665.00
Greeter	Judy Stebral	Liz & Rich Lockhart	Dick & Alice Grimm	Judy Stebral	Offertory	\$115.00
Lector	Mike Waldschmidt	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Joyce Gauger		
			Mike Sieverding/Messi Akodegnon			
Server	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry	Mike Sieverding		Emy Rivera/Wendy Berry		
Eucharist -host	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Jolene Van Eshan		
Eucharist - cup	Bob Jenn	Kristee Malmberg	Deanne Eden	Arlene Johnston		
Eucharist - cup	Carol Kirkpatrick	Bob Jenn	Emy Rivera	Mike Sieverding		
Collection	Emy Rivera	Mike Waldschmidt	Barb Mahanna	Lora Sieverding		
	Aboumou Akodegon	Nancy Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker	Mike Sieverding		
Gifts	Volunteers	Family of Dean & Alice Cole	Family of Keith Stevens	Family of Bernie Prybil		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Lora Sieverding		

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

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.

St. Joseph Church, Hills.

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.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting: October 20, 6:30 PM.

Parishioners are welcome to attend council meetings. Please see a council member if you have agenda items. Members include: Rick Cole, Kay Evans, Karen Karr, Thom Kirkpatrick, Kristee Malmberg, Shelagh McDonald, Brian Moran, and Jim Schneider (President).

Please welcome our new parishioners Ari Ramos and Trevor Nida. The couple plan to exchange wedding vows on June 19th, 2026, at St. Joseph. *Welcome to our Sts. Mary and St. Joseph cluster parishes family.*

Thank you to Mike Parker, who chose St. Joseph Church Food Pantry as his Hills Bank Friends Club Spot-light beneficiary. Hills Bank donated \$250 on his behalf.

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Steve Michel, who passed away last week. Steve is the brother of Jerry Michel. 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.

During the month of October Hills Bank & Trust will have a collection box located in our church lobby, to collect items for the homeless of Johnson County. Some items of need: soap, toilet paper, hand/feet warmers, gloves, blankets, socks, protein bars, winter hats, water, toothpaste, tooth brush, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, razors, feminine products, Chapstick, combs/brushes. Questions may be directed to Melissa Reineke at Hills Bank, 319-679-5000.



Social Justice Committee is collecting items to send to **Matt Waldschmidt** & his platoon, stationed in the Middle East. A list of suggested items, along with things that are restricted can be found on the church entry table. A collection box for items is at the church entry as well. The next shipment of goodies will depart for Matt at the end of October....this will arrive around the holidays, so let's send some Christmas love from home...to Matt, and all of our soldiers working to keep us safe.

St. Mary Church, Lone Tree and Nichols

Lone Tree Food Pantry is open each Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-5:00 PM. For more information, please call 319-629-4900.

Nichols Parish Council & Finance Council: New officers were elected: Adam Gauger, President, Michael Burlage, VP, Carol Kaalberg, Secretary. Thank you to Kory Kaalberg, who retired as council president, but will now serve as treasurer of Finance Council. Next meeting TBD.

Lone Tree Parish Council: Next meeting will be November 15th, following Mass at the church hall. A light luncheon will be served to all attending Mass that Saturday. Plan to join us for the hospitality.

ATTENTION ALL LAY DIRECTORS, ALL PARISHES

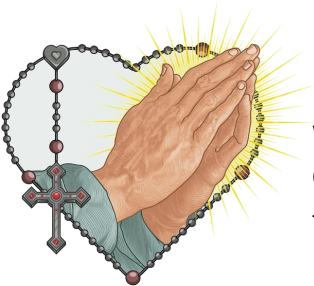
There will be a Mandatory Diocesan Board Meeting for all **Lay Directors** via ZOOM.

Attendance is required on one of the two dates:

Sunday, October 26, at 4 PM

or

Monday, October 27, at 7 PM



We will be praying the rosary before all weekend Masses during the month of October. Join us 25 minutes before Mass as we pray to our Blessed Mother for the needs of our cluster and our world.



Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday 6 PM—7 PM St. Joseph, Hills



TODAY IS THE DAY TO GET YOUR TOOTSIE ROLLS!
Joe Harper, local Knights of Columbus member, will be leading the Tootsie Roll Drive, following Masses this week-end.
Please be generous to help benefit Special Olympics.