

# Dear Padre,

## What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin’s evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn’t written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, 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*.

| Monday      | Tuesday     | Wednesday  | Thursday                                    | Friday           | Saturday                                 | Sunday                               |
|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| August 17   | August 18   | August 19  | August 20                                   | August 21        | August 22                                | August 23                            |
| Weekday     | Weekday     | Weekday    | St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church | St. Pius X, Pope | The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Ez 24:15–23 | Ez 28:1–10  | Ez 34:1–11 | Ez 36:23–28                                 | Ez 37:1–14       | Ez 43:1–7ab                              | Is 22:19–23                          |
| Mt 19:16–22 | Mt 19:23–30 | Mt 20:1–16 | Mt 22:1–14                                  | Mt 22:34–40      | Mt 23:1–12                               | Rom 11:33–36                         |
|             |             |            |                                             |                  |                                          | Mt 16:13–20                          |

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ’s own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior’s prayer for the unity of all.

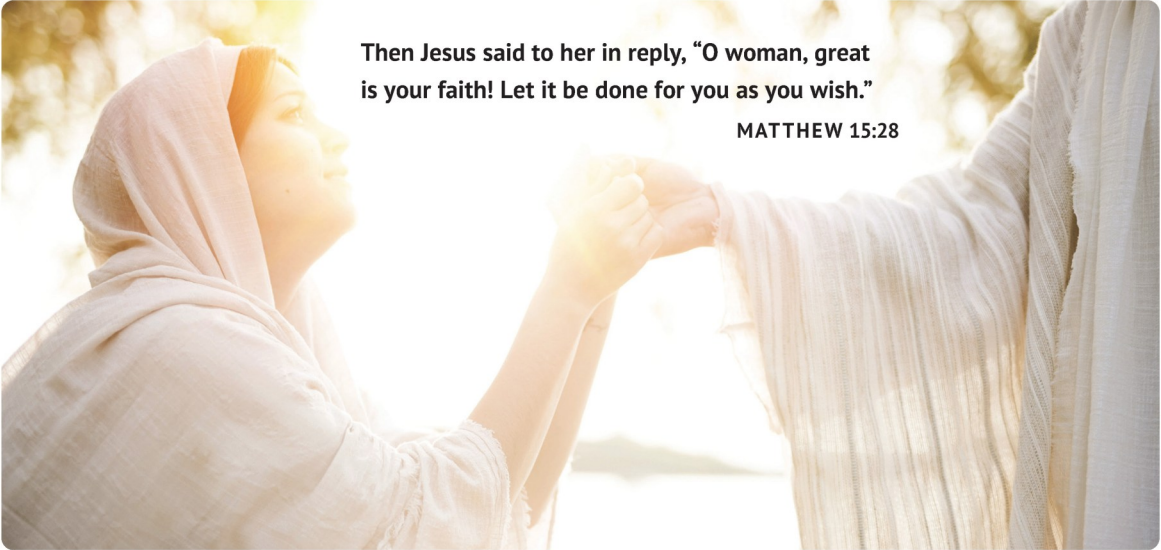
MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 16, 2026  
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
Isaiah 56:1, 6–7 / Romans 11:13–15, 29–32 / Matthew 15:21–28



## Still Redeemable?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today’s gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for “the lost sheep” of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

“Faith in what?” one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

### Reflect

How strong is my faith? Strong enough to be persistent?



"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

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 16, 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 August 15 to August 23, 2026

|           |           |                                |                                |                                                        |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | August 15 | 4:00 PM                        | Lone Tree                      | Kevin Mullinnix                                        |
| Sunday    | August 16 | 8:00 AM<br>10:00 AM            | Nichols<br>Hills               | Elmer & Bernadine Sieren<br>Degenhart family           |
| Monday    | August 17 | 8:00 AM                        | Lone Tree R                    | Monica Leonhardt                                       |
| Tuesday   | August 18 | 8:00 AM<br>8:30 AM<br>10:00 AM | Lone Tree R<br>Atrium<br>PP CC | Bill Leonhardt<br>Angela Roper<br>Cluster Parishioners |
| Wednesday | August 19 | 8:00 AM<br>8:30 AM             | Lone Tree R<br>Atrium          | Henry Leonhardt<br>John & Darlene Schott               |
| Thursday  | August 20 | 8:30 AM<br>10:00 AM            | Atrium<br>PPCC                 | Leo Knebel<br>Martin Warson                            |
| Friday    | August 21 | 8:30 AM                        | Atrium                         | Bob & Kathy Pogge                                      |
| Saturday  | August 22 | 4:00 PM                        | Lone Tree                      | Donald Kout                                            |
| Sunday    | August 23 | 8:00 AM<br>10:00 AM            | Nichols<br>Hills               | Paul Yedlik<br>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!*

## The Assumption of Mary: A Hope for Our Spiritual Journey

On August 15, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, proclaiming that Mary was taken body and soul into the glory of heaven at the end of her earthly life. This great mystery is not only a privilege given to Mary; it is also a sign of hope and a reminder of our own destiny in Christ.

The Assumption reveals the **dignity of the human person**. God created us as embodied persons, and He desires to bring the whole person—body and soul—into eternal communion with Him. In Mary, we see the fulfillment of this promise. Her Assumption reminds us that our bodies, our relationships, our work, our joys, and even our struggles have meaning in God's plan. Christianity does not teach us to escape from ordinary life but to live it faithfully in preparation for eternal life.

The Assumption also gives us **hope amid suffering and uncertainty**. Mary knew joy and sorrow, from Bethlehem to Calvary. Yet her journey did not end at the foot of the Cross. God brought her into the fullness of glory. Her Assumption reminds us that suffering, aging, illness, disappointment, and loss do not have the final word. For those who remain faithful to Christ, eternal life is our ultimate hope.

Mary also teaches us the importance of **faithful surrender to God**. At the Annunciation she said, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). She continued to trust God even when she did not fully understand His plan. The Assumption is the culmination of a life lived in obedience and faith. We too are called to say yes to God in the ordinary circumstances of our lives—in our families, work, relationships, responsibilities, and trials.

Moreover, Mary's glory should lead us to **greater love and service**. After receiving God's call, Mary went in haste to serve Elizabeth (Luke 1:39). Her life reminds us that authentic devotion always leads to charity. The closer we draw to Mary, the more we should become like her: humble, prayerful, generous, and attentive to the needs of others.

Finally, the Assumption directs our eyes toward **heaven while keeping our feet firmly on earth**. Mary is a sign of what the Church hopes to become. She reminds us that our earthly journey has an eternal destination. Every prayer, sacrifice, act of love, work of mercy, and faithful response to God's call can become part of our journey toward heaven.

As we celebrate the Feast of Assumption this weekend, let us ask Mary to help us live with deeper faith, hope, and love. May she teach us to recognize God's presence in our daily lives, remain faithful in times of difficulty, and keep our hearts fixed on Jesus Christ.

**Mary, assumed body and soul into heaven, pray for us and lead us ever closer to your Son.**

**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 Monday, August 24 at 6PM, parish hall.

**Hills Parish Council:** Next meeting will be Monday, August 17 at 6:30 PM. Finance Council meeting Thurs., September 17, 2026, 6:00 PM.

Bible Study

**Bible Study** will meet August 25 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!

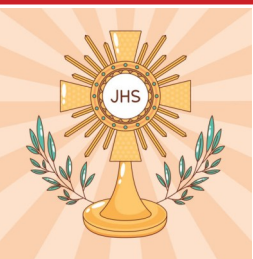


Prayer Corner

Personality has the power to open many doors, but character must keep them open.



Back to school is just around the corner. If you need assistance with Catholic school tuition, please let your parish office know.



Eucharistic Adoration  
Wednesday,  
August 19, 2026.  
6 PM-7PM  
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
ALYSSA MORAN,  
319-330-3676  
amwaldschmidt@gmail.com

| Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle A Reading |                          |                          |                         |                        |                  |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                                                                          | 08/15/2026 Lou           | 08/22/2026 David         | 08/29/2026 Lou          | 09/05/2026 Lou         | Lone Tree        | Parish Support |
| Greeter                                                                  | Barb Dinsmore            | Paula Moore              | Bernie Lorack           | Barb Dinsmore          | Envelopes        | \$2,510.00     |
| Lector                                                                   | Trudi Westfall           | Sherry Nicola            | Jerry Ford              | Judy Grothe            | Offertory        | \$177.00       |
| Cross Bearer                                                             | Joel Yedlik              | Joel Yedlik              | Glen Gerot              | Jerry Ford             | Works of Charity | \$20.00        |
| Servers                                                                  | Trudi Westfall           | Sherry Nicola            | Jerry Ford              | Jerry Ford             |                  |                |
| Eucharist                                                                | Judy Grothe              | Paula Moore              | Jerry Ford              | Jerry Ford             |                  |                |
| Eucharist                                                                | Trudi Westfall           | Sherry Nicola            | Nancy Ford              | Judy Grothe            |                  |                |
| Collection                                                               | Joel Yedlik              | Joel Yedlik              | Glen Gerot              | Lynn Bland             |                  |                |
|                                                                          | Mary Ellen Yedlik        | Mary Ellen Yedlik        | Betty Gerot             | Nancy Ford             |                  |                |
| Gifts                                                                    | Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik | Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik | Glen Gerot, Betty Gerot | Lynn Bland, Nancy Ford |                  |                |
| Commentator                                                              | Trudi Westfall           | Sherry Nicola            | Jerry Ford              | Jerry Ford             |                  |                |

| Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading |                       |                |                  |                  |           |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
|                                                                                | 08/16/2026 David      | 08/23/2026 Lou | 08/30/2026 David | 09/06/2026 David | Nichols   | Parish Support |
| Greeter                                                                        | Adam Gauger           | Adam Gauger    | Adam Gauger      | Wayne Mengel     | Envelopes | \$945.00       |
| Lector                                                                         | Renetta Burlage       | Tom Barr       | Missy Lenz       | Renetta Burlage  | Offertory | \$65.85        |
| Cross Bearer                                                                   | Michael Burlage       | Adam Gauger    | David Ollindick  | Michael Burlage  | AC        | \$60.00        |
| Server                                                                         | Carol Kaalberg        | Carol Kaalberg | Carol Kaalberg   | Carol Kaalberg   |           |                |
| Eucharist                                                                      | Jeanne Green          | Tom Barr       | Missy Lenz       | Jeanne Green     |           |                |
| Eucharist                                                                      | Carol Kaalberg        | Carol Kaalberg | Carol Kaalberg   | Carol Kaalberg   |           |                |
| Collection                                                                     | David Ollendick       | Wayne Mengel   | David Ollendick  | Kory Kaalberg    |           |                |
|                                                                                | Dennis Truesdale      | Adam Gauger    | Dennis Truesdale | Joe Harper       |           |                |
| Gifts                                                                          | Bruce & Margaret Matt | Cindy Massey   | Wayne Mengel     | Adam Gauger      |           |                |
| Commentator                                                                    | Carol Kaalberg        | Carol Kaalberg | Carol Kaalberg   | Carol Kaalberg   |           |                |

| Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading |                       |                                |                       |                                |            |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
|                                                                       | 08/16/2026 David      | 08/23/2026 Lou                 | 08/30/2026 David      | 09/06/2026 David               | Hills      | Parish Support |
| Music Ministry                                                        | Haylee Osmonson/Choir | Haylee Osmonson/Choir          | Haylee Osmonson/Choir | Haylee Osmonson/Choir          | Envelopes  | \$1,202.00     |
| Greeter                                                               | Jim & Hope Frantz     | Marcia Mellecker               | Lee & Kathryn Campion | Janet Goss                     | Offertory  | \$164.00       |
| Lector                                                                | Nancy Waldschmidt     | Kezie Atitse                   | Bob Jenn              | Bob Jenn                       | Assumption | \$35.00        |
|                                                                       | Josh Ayelazuno,       |                                | Messi Akogegnon,      | Josh Ayelazuno,                |            |                |
| Server                                                                | Jean Burr             | Jean Burr, Mike Sieverding     | Emy Rivera            | Mike Sieverding                |            |                |
| Eucharist -host                                                       | Kristee Malmberg      | Deanne Eden                    | Jolene Van Eschen     | Kristee Malmberg               |            |                |
| Eucharist - cup                                                       | Arlene Johnston       | Arlene Johnston                | Mike Sieverding       | Kay Evans                      |            |                |
| Eucharist - cup                                                       | Deanne Eden           | Kristee Malmberg               | Kristee Malmberg      | Deanne Eden                    |            |                |
| Collection                                                            | Jim Frantz            | Jim Frantz                     | Marcia Mellecker      | Mike Waldschmidt               |            |                |
|                                                                       | Hope Frantz           | Hope Frantz                    | Brian Moran           | Nancy Waldschmidt              |            |                |
| Gifts                                                                 | volunteers            | Bob & Renita Rummelhart family | Maynard Rayner family | Bob & Renita Rummelhart family |            |                |
| Commentator                                                           | Shelagh McDonald      | Shelagh McDonald               | Lora Sieverding       | Lora Sieverding                |            |                |

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

### FAMILY BIBLE STUDY GROUP FORMING



Alyssa Moran, [amwaldschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:amwaldschmidt@gmail.com) or text 319-330-3676.

Anyone interested in joining, please sign up at the church entry or reach out to



**LovefromLevi** is seeking volunteer sewers/crafters to help create customized felt hospital books for children ages 3–5 facing cancer and other serious illnesses. No advanced sewing experience is needed—all skill levels are welcome. To learn more or volunteer, contact Beth Rundlett at [beth@lovefromlevi.com](mailto:beth@lovefromlevi.com) or visit [www.lovefromlevi.com](http://www.lovefromlevi.com).

DIOCESE of DAVENPORT

## A Journey with Mary

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

**St. Mary's, Iowa City to St. Joseph, Hills**

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.

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)



**Rest in Peace:** Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Jane Vetter, who passed away last week. Jane was a former member of St. Mary Nichols. 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 Rose Pedersen, who passed away last week. Rose lived at Atrium Village and most recently Pioneer Park. 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.



Bless Art will be at all parishes this weekend. Check out the beautiful hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of olive wood art. Proceeds to help families in the Holy Land.

**Cash, Checks and Credit Cards are accepted.**

### Healing Mass Schedule

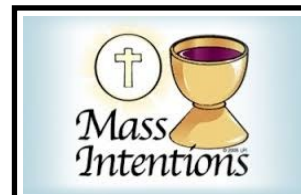
September 5, at St. Joseph, Hills

9:00 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Celebrant is Rev. Tim Regan



### Friendly Reminder:

All requested Mass Intentions are now \$10 each.

2026 dates are now full at Lone Tree and Nichols. Get your 2027 date requested to the office soon.

**OCCIA**

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

**Coming Soon!**

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



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PARADE FLOAT

Lone Tree Fall Festival Parade

August 22, 2026

If you can pull the float with your truck or would like to ride the float and toss bracelets, please let Joel Yedlik know ASAP.



### National Rosary Congress Pilgrimage

September 2 & 3, 2026.

24 Hour Adoration

Please use the QR code to sign up, or use the sign up sheet at the church entry.



| WED. SEPT 2, 2026   | VOLUNTEER            | VOLUNTEER           |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 9:00 AM             | Carol Kaalberg       | Jeanne Green        |
| 10:00 AM            | Ann Draker           | Judy Stebral        |
| 11:00 AM            | Mary Ann Waldschmidt |                     |
| NOON                | Lura Loan            | Joan Davis          |
| 1:00 PM             | Kay Evans            | Lynn Bland          |
| 2:00 PM             | Emy Rivera           | Carol Lively        |
| 3:00 PM             | Ama Kezia Atitse     |                     |
| 4:00 PM             | Emy Rivera           |                     |
| 5:00 PM             | Sandra Reese         |                     |
| 6:00 PM             | Piham Adjeye         |                     |
| 7:00 PM             |                      |                     |
| 8:00 PM             | Shelagh McDonald     | Renetta Burlage     |
| 9:00 PM             |                      |                     |
| 10:00 PM            |                      |                     |
| 11:00 PM            |                      |                     |
| THURS. SEPT 3, 2026 | THURS. SEPT 3, 2026  | THURS. SEPT 3, 2026 |
| MIDNIGHT            |                      |                     |
| 1:00 AM             |                      |                     |
| 2:00 AM             | Carol Kirkpatrick    |                     |
| 3:00 AM             | Carol Kirkpatrick    |                     |
| 4:00 AM             | Jean Burr            |                     |
| 5:00 AM             | Jean Burr            |                     |
| 6:00 AM             |                      |                     |
| 7:00 AM             | Fr. David Paintsil   |                     |
| 8:00 AM             |                      |                     |