

Dear Padre,

Is it wrong for children to dress up as zombies and devils and other evil creatures for Halloween?

No. It is perfectly acceptable to choose these kinds of costumes and to participate in the festivities of Halloween. Halloween is primarily a secular celebration. Although it is true that the original celebration is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition, that tradition is more properly celebrated during the great feast days of the Church that follow Halloween: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Mythological representations, and the costumes that remind us of these kind of characters, are to be understood with a sense of fun and mischief. There is no difference between a ghost, a goblin, a zombie, Captain America, Superman, or one of the Mario Brothers. They are all fictional characters in the very human stories we share with each other. The meaning we assign to them must be proportional to what they represent. On Halloween, they represent nothing more than a person in costume. It could be an entirely different story under different circumstances in which there might be the possibility of a misunderstanding about the meaning of such a costume. Halloween pretty much blurs that distinction and takes away the misunderstanding. It is meant to be entertaining and fun. That is all. ●

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*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

My own story is that of a citizen, the descendant of immigrants, who in turn chose to emigrate. All of us, in the course of our lives, can find ourselves healthy or sick, employed or unemployed, living in our native land or in a foreign country, yet our dignity always remains unchanged: it is the dignity of a creature willed and loved by God.

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



STEFANO SPAZIANI

Monday

October 27
Weekday
Rom 8:12–17
Lk 13:10–17

Tuesday

October 28
Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
Eph 2:19–22
Lk 6:12–16

Wednesday

October 29
Weekday
Rom 8:26–30
Lk 13:22–30

Thursday

October 30
Weekday
Rom 8:31b–39
Lk 13:31–35

Friday

October 31
Weekday
Rom 9:1–5
Lk 14:1–6

Saturday

November 1
All Saints
Rv 7:2–4, 9–14
1 Jn 3:1–3
Mt 5:1–12a

Sunday

November 2
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
Wis 3:1–9
Rom 5:5–11 or Rom 6:3–9
Jn 6:37–40
(These readings or any from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead)



FRANCO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sirach 35:12–14, 16–18 / 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18 / Luke 18:9–14



Like the Rings of a Tree

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

For some, going to confession can bring a sense of relief—as if the slate has now been wiped clean; as if we have gotten a do-over with life or the past has been left behind as though it never happened. Our past, however, is always with us—the good and the bad, the joys and the sadness, the grace and the sin. There are no do-overs. We carry with us the marks of our lives simply because every experience, every kindness and cruelty, every moment of generosity and selfishness, all have made us into who are. We are much like a tree that adds a ring to its trunk each year. The ring always bears the marks of that year, whether it has been a year of rain or drought, whether insects have attacked, or whether Mother Nature has been kind. The tree always remembers and carries with it forever the rings of what life has been.

Our lives are the same. The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector tells this tale. Like the Pharisee, we have much good in our lives. We too have prayed and have been generous. We have been kind and honest and cared for the poor. We have tried to be faithful. The Pharisee's downfall was that he forgot about his sinfulness; he forgot he needed God's mercy. The tax collector, on the other hand, remembered his failings. Both were in need of God's love. Only the tax collector seemed to realize it. ●

Reflect

How has my life been a mixture of sin and grace?

[Jesus said,] “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

LUKE 18:14



"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

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

October 26, 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 25 to November 2, 2025

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
Monday	October 27	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Gayle Kaalberg
Tuesday	October 28	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Service Of Prayer Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	October 29	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Gayle Kaalberg Service of Prayer
Thursday	October 30	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Rose Amelon No Intention
Friday	October 31	8:30 AM	Atrium	Joe & Jeremy Jenn
Saturday	November 1	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Gayle Kaalberg
Sunday	November 2	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Gayle Kaalberg Keith Stevens

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!

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



ATTENTION ALL LAY DIRECTORS, ALL PARISHES

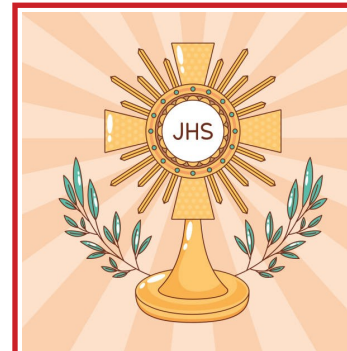
There will be a Mandatory Diocesan Board Meeting for
all Lay Directors via ZOOM.

Attendance is required on one of the two dates:

Sunday, October 26, at 4 PM

or

Monday, October 27, at 7 PM



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

Healing Mass

November 1, at St. Joseph, Hills

9:00 AM Confession

9:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Hospitality to follow,
provided by St. Mary, of Lone Tree.

Next Healing Mass: December 6

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!

PARISH YOUTH K-6



Catholic Messenger Christmas Card Contest

Card should focus on religious aspect of Christmas.
No black and white drawings.
Yellow must be outlined in black, as yellow does not reproduce.
DO NOT FOLD ENTRIES!
On back of drawing include: first & last name, age, grade, home address, school you attend and parish you attend.
Entries should be postmarked by November 19. Send to: Catholic Messenger, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804-1901.

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: SierenAuctionSales.com

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

Payment and pickup: October 26 at Holy Trinity, Richmond

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](https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1849330)

Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle C Reading						
	10/25/2025 Fr. Tim	11/01/2025 Fr. Tim	11/08/2025 Fr. David	11/15/2025 Fr. David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Barb Dinsmore	Carter Parrish	Barb Dinsmore	Betty Gerot	Envelopes	\$1,018.00
Lector	Sherry Nicola	Landon Parrish	Jill Welter	Jerry Ford	Offertory	\$75.34
Cross Bearer	Joel Yedlik	Logan Parrish	Joel Yedlik	Glen Gerot	ACH	\$215.00
Servers	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Jerry Ford	World Missions	\$25.00
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola	Sherry Nicola	Nancy Ford		
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Trudi Westfall	Paula Moore	Jerry Ford		
Collection	Joel Yedlik	Dani Parrish	Joel Yedlik	Glen Gerot		
	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Carter Parrish	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Betty Gerot		
Gifts	Joel & Mary Ellen	Dani, Carter Parrish	Joel, Mary Ellen Yedlik	Glen, Betty Gerot		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Jill Welter	Jerry Ford		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle C Reading						
	10/26/2025 Fr. Lou	11/02/2025 Fr. Lou	11/09/2025 Fr. Lou	11/16/2025 Fr. Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Wayne Mengel	Bruce & Margaret Matt	Bruce & Margaret Matt	Bruce & Margaret Matt	Envelopes	\$365.00
Lector	Renetta Burlage	Carol Kaalberg	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Offertory	\$54.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger	David Ollendick	ACH	\$250.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall		
Eucharist	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Missy Lenz	Missy Lenz		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall		
Collection	Kory Kaalberg	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger	David Ollendick		
	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale	Kory Kaalberg	Andrea Ollendick		
Gifts	Mary Lou Yedlik	Michael & Renetta Burlage	Julia Elder	Adam Gauger		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle C Reading						
	10/26/2025 Fr. Lou	11/02/2025 Fr. Lou	11/09/2025 Fr. David	11/16/2025 Fr. David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Choir	Lily Westemyer	Robynn Anderson	Lily Westemyer	Envelopes	\$695.00
Greeter	Liz & Rich Lockhart	Dick & Alice Grimm	Judy Stebral	Marcia Mellecker	Offertory	\$86.00
Lector	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Joyce Gauger	Joyce Gauger	ACH	\$535.00
Server	Mike Sieverding	Mike Sieverding/Messi Akodegnon	Emy Rivera/Wendy Berry	Emy Rivera/Wendy Berry	World Missions	\$62.00
Eucharist -host	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Jolene Van Eshan	Jolene Van Eshan	Memorials	\$565.00
Eucharist - cup	Mike Sieverding	Deanne Eden	Arlene Johnston	Kay Evans		
Eucharist - cup	Bob Jenn	Emy Rivera	Mike Sieverding	Arlene Johnston		
Collection	Mike Waldschmidt	Barb Mahanna	Lora Sieverding	Jean Burr		
	Nancy Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker	Mike Sieverding	Anoumou Akodegon		
	Family of Dean & Alice Cole	Family of Keith Stevens	Family of Bernie Prybil	Family of Veva Jenn		
Gifts						
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Lora Sieverding	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: November 17, 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). Minutes are at church entry.

Thank you to Mike Parker, who chose St. Joseph Church Food Pantry as his Hills Bank Friends Club Spotlight 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.



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

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.



FINAL CALL...SHIPMENTS GOING OUT THIS WEEK!

Social Justice Committee is collecting items to send to Matt Waldschmidt & his platoon, stationed in the Middle East. We are currently taking donations to help with shipping cost. It costs roughly \$25 per box and we have approximately 12 boxes to ship. If you would like to sponsor a box or donate to shipping, please put donation in an envelope, marked shipping, and put in the collection basket or basket at the church entrance.

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.

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.

LONE TREE & NICHOLS FOOD PANTRY

During the month November & The Season of Advent, we will be collecting food items and non-perishables for our local food pantry. The need is increasing so we are in need of your help. Baskets are at both church entrances for your donations.



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.



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.



The 2025 Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll campaign for persons with intellectual disabilities at our cluster totaled \$669.11. Thank you for your support!

Lone Tree parish, \$115.75
Nichols parish, \$409.00
Hills parish, \$146.36

Gratefully,
Joe & Rose Harper