Dear Padre,



Why do some parishes have only priests who can't speak English well?

The short answer to your question is that in many instances, a diocese does not have enough priests to staff all its parishes. In this case, the bishop "recruits" priests from parts of the world where the number of priests is more abundant.

This is not a new practice. In the 1830s, American bishops were recruiting priests from Europe to staff the parishes in the United States. As a result, men like St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos came to the United States. They worked not only for the German immigrants, whose language they knew because they were German themselves, but also for the Irish, the French-speaking, the Native Americans, and any other Catholic group that needed Catholic pastoral service.

In the first half of the twentieth century, the American Church was able to send missionaries to Latin America, Asia, and Africa, where there were not enough Catholic priests. The Maryknoll Missionaries, for instance, were founded for this purpose.

Today, the situation has reversed. The places with the most Catholic priests are in Asia, Africa, and some Latin American countries, as well as in Eastern Europe. If these men are willing to make the sacrifice of leaving their homeland, family, and friends to serve us, shouldn't we make the effort to show some gratitude and hospitality to them? ●

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 23	November 24	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29
Weekday	*St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs*	*Weekday*	*Thanksgiving Day (USA)*	*Weekday*	*Weekday*	*First Sunday of Advent*
Rv 14:1–3, 4b–5	Rv 14:14–19	Rv 15:1–4	Sir 50:22–24	Rv 20:1–4, 11–21:2	Rv 22:1–7	Is 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7
Lk 21:1–4	Lk 21:5–11	Lk 21:12–19	1 Cor 1:3–9	Lk 21:29–33	Lk 21:34–36	1 Cor 1:3–9
			Lk 17:11–19			Mk 13:33–37



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Artificial intelligence now demands to be "disarmed," freed from logics that turn it into an instrument of domination, exclusion, and death. Like nuclear energy, it must be at the service of all and of the common good. Decisions about technology must never be separated from conscience and responsibility.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 25, 2026

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[The righteous will say,] "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?"
MATTHEW 25:44

Living the Beatitudes

MIGUEL DULICK

For his last sermon, Jesus revisits his first. In the Sermon on the Mount, if you are poor, or in mourning, or meek; if you hunger and thirst for righteousness; if you are merciful or clean of heart or a peacemaker or even persecuted, you are blessed! Now, Jesus reframes the Beatitudes as blessings bestowed, ultimately, on Jesus himself, in the persons of his "least brothers" with very specific needs: I was hungry; I was thirsty; I was a stranger; I was naked; I was sick; I was in jail. "Whatever you did, you did for me!"

Indeed, Jesus may be anticipating the last few days of his own life, when he will himself know every need: he will be hungry, thirsty, displaced, naked, hurt, and jailed, at least for one wicked night. Who "did" for him?

Once, I visited friends with their first baby. They said, "Oh, Miguel, we admire you so much. You're always helping people." This—while they're holding their newborn!

I just laughed and quoted Jesus: "When I was hungry, when I was thirsty, homeless, naked, sick, in prison.... You do *all* of this every day with your baby—except for the jail thing! Who is more 'least' than a newborn?"

"We never thought of it like that."

"Yes! Your baby is Jesus!"

And maybe Jesus is always a baby. Even Michelangelo's *Pieta* depicts Jesus as the size of a child in a teen mother's lap. ●

Reflect

Who are the "least" in my world? Is there anyone I'm ignoring?

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

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"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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe **November 22, 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: stsmaryjoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmaryandjoseph
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 November 21 to November 29, 2026

Saturday	November 21	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Donald Kout
Sunday	November 22	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Ann Wieskamp Dean & Alice Cole
Monday	November 23	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Raymond Herring
Tuesday	November 24	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Rosella Attig Draker family Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	November 25	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Harry Attig Veva Jenn
Thursday	November 26	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Mary Ann Kline Martin Warson
Friday	November 27	8:30 AM	Atrium	Beth Murphy
Saturday	November 28	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Keith Grothe
Sunday	November 29	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Donald Joslin Green John, Darlene & Tony Schott

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!



Sunday, November 22, at 2:00 PM

An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service of Prayer

at St. Mary, Lone Tree

Hospitality to follow. Please join us.

Thursday, November 26th is Thanksgiving.

Mass will be at Atrium Village Chapel at 8:30 AM.

Mass will be at Pioneer Park at 10:00 AM.

Gobble up God's blessings with family and friends and have a wonderful and fulfilling Thanksgiving Day!

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: Wednesday 10 am to noon. Directors: Mike and Lucy Parker 319-679-2420. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PARISH COUNCILS



Minutes are posted at all church entries.

Nichols Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting to be January 24, 2027, following Mass. We will be planning for our pancake breakfast, Sunday March 7th.

Lone Tree Parish Council & Finance Council: Next meeting will be Monday, February 8, at 6PM in the Lone Tree parish hall. We will be planning for our pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 7th.

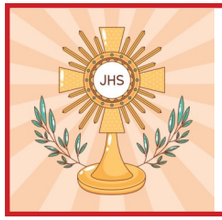
Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, January 18, at 6:30 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet December 8, *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!



Count your blessings instead of your crosses.
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes.
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your health instead of your wealth.
Count on God instead of yourself.



Eucharistic Adoration
Every Wednesday,
5:30 – 6:30 PM.
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions at this time.

Meeting November 22.

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
NO CLASS on November 25th!
At the Lone Tree St. Mary Parish Hall

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

	11/21/2026 Fr. Tim	11/28/2026 Fr. Lou	12/05/2026 Fr. Lou	12/12/2026 Fr. David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Bernie Lorack	Paula Moore	Envelopes	$1,065.00
Lector	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	Offertory	$57.00
Cross Bearer	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Mike Parker	Joel Yedlik	ACH	$215.00
Servers	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola	CCHD	$40.00
Eucharist	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe	Judy Grothe	Paula Moore		
Eucharist	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland	Sherry Nicola	Judy Grothe		
Collection	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Mike Parker	Joel Yedlik		
	Joan Davis	Nancy Ford	Lucy Parker	Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Gifts	Lynn Bland, Joan Davis	Jerry & Nancy Ford	Mike & Lucy Parker	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik		
Commentator	Sherry Nicola	Lynn Bland	Jill Welter	Sherry Nicola		

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

	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	11/29/2026 Fr. David	12/06/2026 Fr. David	12/13/2026 Fr. Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Joe Harper	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Envelopes	$805.00
Lector	Trudi Westfall	Carol Kaalberg	Renita Burlage	Jeanne Green	Offertory	$59.00
Cross Bearer	Trudi Westfall	Adam Gauger	Michael Burlage	Wayne Mengel	ACH	$250.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	CCHD	$20.00
Eucharist	Trudi Westfall	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Jeanne Green		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	Wayne Mengel	Kory Kaalberg	David Ollendick	Joe Harper		
	Joe Harper	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Gauger		
Gifts	Rhonda Meredith	Mary Lou Yedlik	Renita & Michael Burlage	Jeanne Green		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

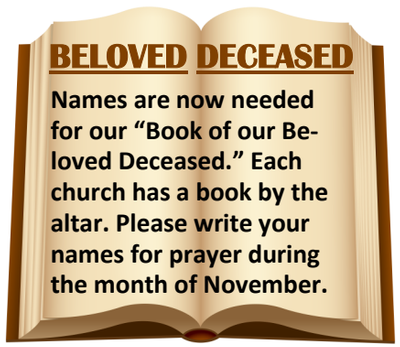
Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading

	11/22/2026 Fr. Lou	11/29/2026 Fr. David	12/06/2026 Fr. David	12/13/2026 Fr. David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	$830.00
Greeter	Lee & Kathryn Campion	Carol Kirkpatrick	Janet Goss	Marcia Mellecker	Offertory	$84.00
Lector	Shelagh McDonald	Carol Kirkpatrick	Shelagh McDonald	Shelagh McDonald	ACH	$390.00
Server	Mike Sieverding	Josh Ayelazuno, Emy Rivera	Jean Burr, Messi Akodegnon	Mike Sieverding Josh Ayelazuno	CCHD	$200.00
Eucharist -host	Deanne Eden	Jolene VanEschen	Jolene VanEschen	Bob Jenn		
Eucharist - cup	Mike Sieverding	Carol Kirkpatrick	Carol Kirkpatrick	Deanne Eden		
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Bob Jenn	Kristi Malmberg		
Collection	Josh Ayeazuno	Mike Sieverding	Mike Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker		
	Emily Ayeazuno	Lora Sieverding	Nancy Waldschmidt	Barb Mahanna		
Gifts	Dean & Alice Cole family	Darlene Schott family	Maynard Rayner family	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding		

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

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Frank Gase, who passed away last weekend. Frank was a St. Joseph parishioner and Atrium Village resident. 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.

Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Matthew Polk, who died November 3, in Church Falls, VA. Matthew was the son-in-law of Carl & Judy Cambridge and grandson-in-law to Lucille Duwa. 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 St. Joseph parish hall for coffee and donuts following Mass today.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FR. DAVID, who will celebrate his birthday this Tuesday, November 24. Continue to pray for his safe return to us, this week.



Altar & Rosary will meet after Mass this morning, in the parish hall, to discuss our Parish Potluck.

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

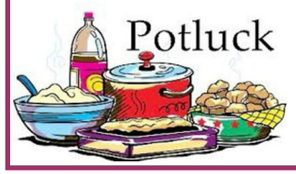
November Classes: November 22.

See Carol Kaalberg or Fr. David for more information.

No class November 29th.

SAVE THE DATE...PARISH POTLUCK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, AFTER MASS



St. Joseph Altar & Rosary will supply meat, drinks, & table service.



Betty Rayner will be replacing Joan Gringer in our Prayer Line. If prayers are needed please let one of these ladies know.

Lucille Duwa, 319-679-2406 or

Betty Rayner, 319-330-1945.

NICHOLS COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER









Johnson County Birthright Collection & Secret Santa Giving

During the Season of Advent our cluster will collect baby items for Johnson County Birthright and cash donations for our Secret Santa project to purchase toys for local families in need. Items & donations may be left at the church entrances and they will be taken to Lone Tree for distribution.

Thank you to Birthright Chairperson, Paula Moore and Secret Santa Chairperson, Joanne Havel.

Items needed will be included in next week's bulletin.

'Tis the season of giving and counting our many blessings!

Blue Christmas … Service of Remembrance

Sunday, December 6, 2 PM, at UPC in Lone Tree

This is a quiet reflective service for those families who have lost a loved one during the past year. Join us for prayer & lighting a candle in memory.

Sponsored by Sts. Mary & Joseph & United Presbyterian Churches.



Reminder: This weekend is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection. This collection funds community based groups that work to address the root causes of poverty and empowers low income people to make their communities more responsive to their unique needs.