

Dear Padre,

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, and (4) by a legitimate authority. According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there, and thus is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law. As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, “Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God” (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God’s revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism. Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences. ●

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR / DearPadre.org



MIND AND / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself.... Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one’s own dominion.

ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORE, ROME, JANUARY 9, 2026



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 30, 2026
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Jeremiah 20:7–9 / Romans 12:1–2 / Matthew 16:21–27



I Just Told You!

MIGUEL DULICK

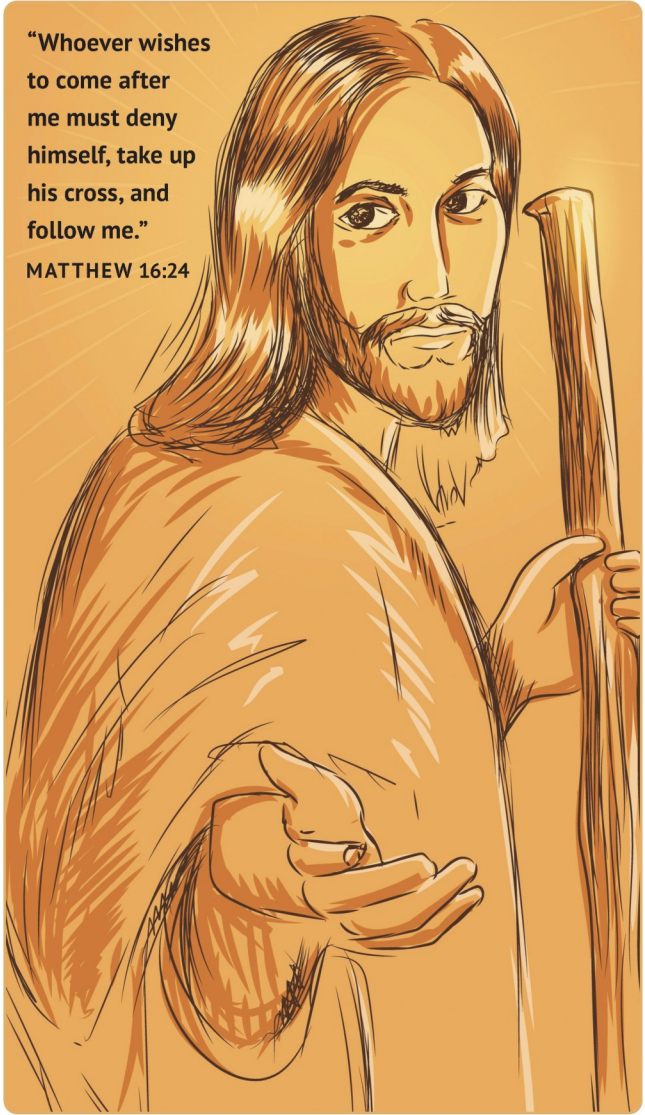
Would it surprise you to know that Jesus uses the same Greek verb to chase Peter away—“Get behind me, Satan!” (Matthew 16:23) that he used to call him in the first place—“Come after me” (Matthew 4:19)? Pity the translator who must assign opposite meanings to the same word! Jesus changed Simon’s name to Peter when he called him, and now he changes it to Satan for his demotion. But, as harsh as the rebuke is, maybe we could say Jesus does want Peter behind him, but not *too* far behind. In fact, immediately after dealing with Peter, Jesus issues a general call, using the same “trigger” word: “Whoever wishes to *come after* me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

The cross! That’s how the controversy started, when Peter “took Jesus aside” (literally, “collared” him) to forbid even the thought of any passion or any cross. (See Matthew 16:22.)

How am I tempted as Peter was to avoid any talk of a cross? I don’t even want to admit I’m a sinner, much less that there is a cross for me. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, has some advice for all of us who think like Satan: “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God,” and “Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God” (Romans 12:1–2). Everything for Jesus. ●

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

MATTHEW 16:24



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What cross are you carrying? Can you unite it with Jesus’ cross and offer it as prayer?



"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

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 30, 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 29 to September 6, 2026

Saturday	August 29	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Mildred Lovetinsky
Sunday	August 30	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Jennifer Saleminck Maynard Rayner
Monday	August 31	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Fr. Bob Leonhardt
Tuesday	September 1	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	No Intention Veva Jenn Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	September 2	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Irene Droll Rudolph & Bert Simon
Thursday	September 3	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Jack & Rose Marie Ruth Martin Warson
Friday	September 4	8:30 AM	Atrium	Liv & Dec of Hebl Family
Saturday	September 5	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Norma Hartley
Sunday	September 6	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Ann Wieskamp 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!*

DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

A Journey with Mary: A Rosary Walk for Evangelization and Vocations

All are warmly invited to participate in a special Marian pilgrimage/Rosary walk in our Diocese on Saturday, October 10, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Iowa City. Together, we will walk prayerfully to Hills, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary and asking our Blessed Mother to renew us in faith and to revive our Diocese through evangelization and an increase in vocations.

Inspired by the theme, "And Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah" (Luke 1:39), this Rosary Walk invites us to follow Mary's example of bringing Christ to others with faith, joy, and missionary zeal. The pilgrimage will conclude with Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop Dennis Walsh at approximately 11:00 a.m. at Hills City Park. Those who are unable to participate in the walk are warmly invited to join us for Mass and lunch.

Come and walk with Mary. Pray for peace. Pray for vocations. Be renewed in faith. Bring your family and friends as we journey together in hope.

For more information, please contact:

Fr. David Paintsil – paintsild@diodav.org

Fr. Andrew Rauenbuehler – RauenbuehlerA@diodav.org

Important Note:

In order to plan accordingly for seating, food and more, please be sure to RSVP as soon as possible. Use the QR code at the bottom right of this page. Use your cell phone in camera mode and point to square QR code, a link will appear in your screen, click on it, a google form will appear for you to complete. It has 5 questions for you to complete.



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)



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

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 will be Monday, September 28, at 6PM in the Lone Tree parish hall.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, September 21 at 6:30 PM. Finance Council meeting Thurs., September 17, 2026, 6:00 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet September 14 & 28 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

Christ is the head of the house, the unseen guest at every meal, and the silent listener to every conversation.

Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday,
September 2, 2026.
6 PM-7PM
St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

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

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						
	08/29/2026 Lou	09/05/2026 Lou	09/12/2026 David	09/19/2026 David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Bernie Lorack	Barb Dinsmore	Paula Moore	Bernie Lorack	Envelopes	\$520.00
Lector	Lynn Bland	Judy Grothe	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford	Offertory	\$22.00
Cross Bearer	Mike Parker	Carol Kaalberg	Joel Yedlik	Lynn Bland		
Servers	Carol Kaalberg	Jerry Ford	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford		
Eucharist	Judy Grothe	Carol Kaalberg	Paula Moore	Judy Grothe		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Judy Grothe	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford		
Collection	Mike Parker	Jerry Ford	Joel Yedlik	Nancy Ford		
	Lucy Parker	Nancy Ford	Mary Ellen Yedlik	Jill Welter		
Gifts	Mike & Lucy Parker	Jerry Ford, Nancy Ford	Joel & Mary Ellen Yedlik	Jill Welter, Nancy Ford		
Commentator	Carol/Lynn Bland	Carol Kaalberg/Lynn Bland	Lynn Bland	Jerry Ford		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	08/30/2026 David	09/06/2026 Lou	09/13/2026 Lou	09/20/2026 David	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Wayne Mengel	Envelopes	\$1,765.00
Lector	Missy Lenz	Renetta Burlage	Tom Barr	Missy Lenz	Offertory	\$35.93
Cross Bearer	David Ollindick	Michael Burlage	Adam Gauger	Dennis Truesdale		
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Eucharist	Missy Lenz	Jeanne Green	Tom Barr	Missy Lenz		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		
Collection	David Ollendick	Kory Kaalberg	Wayne Mengel	David Ollendick		
	Dennis Truesdale	Joe Harper	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Gauger		
Gifts	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger	Julie Elder	Joel & Rose Harper		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	08/30/2026 David	09/06/2026 Lou	09/13/2026 David	09/20/2026 David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Haylee Osmonson/Choir	Envelopes	\$315.00
Greeter	Lee & Katheryn Campion	Janet Goss	Marcia Mellecker	Jim & Hope Frantz	Offertory	\$73.00
Lector	Bob Jenn	Bob Jenn	Mike Waldschmidt	Mike Waldschmidt	Assumption	\$20.00
	Messi Akodegnon, Mike Sieverding	Josh Ayelazuno, Jean Burr	Jean Burr, Josh Ayelazuno	Messi Akodegnon, Mike Sieverding	Works of Charity	\$20.00
Server						
Eucharist -host	Jolene Van Eschen	Kristee Malmberg	Jolene VanEschen	Jolene VanEschen	Communication	\$20.00
Eucharist - cup	Mike Sieverding	Kay Evans	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Peter’s Pence	\$20.00
Eucharist - cup	Kristee Malmberg	Deanne Eden	Bob Jenn	Mike Sieverding		
Collection	Marcia Mellecker	Mike Waldschmidt	Marcia Mellecker	Jim Frantz		
	Brian Moran	Nancy Waldschmidt	Jim Mills	Hope Frantz		
Gifts	Maynard Rayner family	Bob & Renita Rummelhart family	Mary E Rummelhart family	Dean & Alice Cole family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonald	Lora Sieverding		

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



St. Mary, Nichols has a fresh coat of paint on the church entrance door and outdoor railings.

THANK YOU...

To Brian Westfall for getting and pulling our float in the Lone Tree Fall Festival Parade. Thank you to Trudi, Carol, Jon Mengel, and Fr. David who rode on the float and tossed out religious bracelets and candy during the parade. It was a beautiful and fun day for evangelization.



ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS OF ST. MARY LONE TREE, ST. MARY NICHOLS, ST. JOSEPH HILLS:
A Journey with Mary pilgrimage hosted by St. Mary, Iowa City and St. Joseph, Hills is being planned for October 10, 2026.

An RSVP is essential for proper planning. Please use the QR code to RSVP.
Pilgrimage begins at St. Mary, Iowa City at 8 AM with Rosary Walk. Rosary Walk will end at Hills city park, with Mass said by Bishop Dennis Walsh at 11 AM.

Lunch will be served at the park, following Mass.

Questions may be directed to Carol Kirkpatrick or Fr. David Paintsil.



GREAT WORK!
All time slots have at least one volunteer, some have three or more (but only two are listed here). We have some time slots needing a second volunteer.
Thank you
to all who have volunteered!

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



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	Catherine Simon
4:00 PM	Emy Rivera	
5:00 PM	Sandra Reese	
6:00 PM	Piham Adjeye	
7:00 PM	Sue Lehmann	Mary Anderson
8:00 PM	Shelagh McDonald	Renetta Burlage
9:00 PM	Shelagh McDondald	Mike Sieverding
10:00 PM	Lura Loan	
11:00 PM	Marcia Mellecker	
THURS. SEPT 3, 2026	THURS. SEPT 3, 2026	THURS. SEPT 3, 2026
MIDNIGHT	Jim & Louella Schneider	
1:00 AM	Nancy Waldschmidt	
2:00 AM	Carol Kirkpatrick	
3:00 AM	Carol Kirkpatrick	
4:00 AM	Jean Burr	
5:00 AM	Jean Burr	
6:00 AM	Trudi Westfall	
7:00 AM	Fr. David Paintsil	
8:00 AM	Jerry & Robynn Anderson	