

Dear Padre,

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●

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



VASYCHENKO NIKITA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

While unity attracts, division scatters....

Therefore, in order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ's love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples' feet: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY,
ROME, JANUARY 7, 2026



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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 20
Weekday
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8
Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday

July 21
Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday

July 22
St. Mary Magdalene
Sg 3:1-4b or
2 Cor 5:14-17
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday

July 23
Weekday
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8,
12-13
Mt 13:10-17

Friday

July 24
Weekday
Jer 3:14-17
Mt 13:18-23

Saturday

July 25
St. James, Apostle
2 Cor 4:7-15
Mt 20:20-28

Sunday

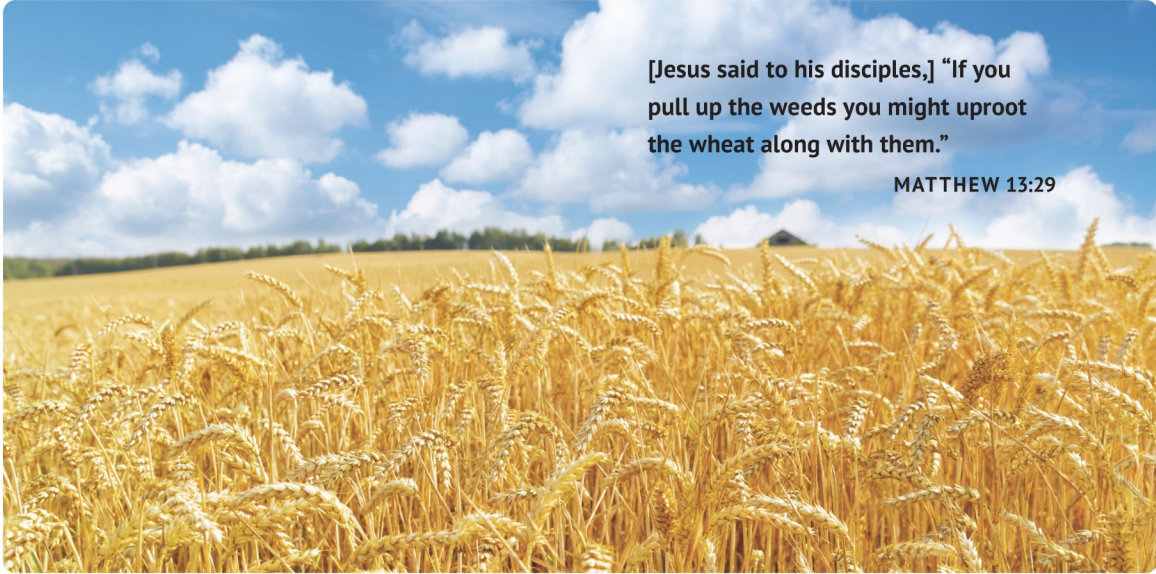
July 26
Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52
or 13:44-46

Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 / Romans 8:26-27 / Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30



[Jesus said to his disciples,] "If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them."

MATTHEW 13:29

Weeds in Wheat

MIGUEL DULICK

Jesus loved parables. "He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]'" (Matthew 13:34-35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn't force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it's his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn't God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it's difficult to tell the difference. Those who are "wheat" should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be "weeds." The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God's own time. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Are you tempted to give up on someone? Or yourself?



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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

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

July 19, 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 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: Robynn Anderson, 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 issues
from our cluster and
beyond.*

Cluster Mass Intentions July 18 to July 26, 2026

Saturday	July 18	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Paul Yedlik
Sunday	July 19	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Tim Leggins Jeremy Jenn
Monday	July 20	8:00 AM	Lone Tree R	Bill Leonhardt
Tuesday	July 21	8:00 AM 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium PP CC	Henry Leonhardt Colton Allen Cluster Parishioners
Wednesday	July 22	8:00 AM 8:30 AM	Lone Tree R Atrium	Fr. Bob Leonhardt Angela Roper
Thursday	July 23	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Atrium PPCC	Veva Jenn Martin Warson
Friday	July 24	8:30 AM	Atrium	Sp Intent of Betty Rayner
Saturday	July 25	4:00 PM	Lone Tree	Marvin Klebe
Sunday	July 26	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Nichols Hills	Tim Leggins 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!*

Part II

Make Your Home a Church

The Biblical Foundation of the Family

Last week, we began our series on rediscovering the family as the Domestic Church, reflecting on how our homes can become places where Christ is welcomed, loved, and followed. This week, we continue our journey by exploring the biblical foundation of the family.

From the very beginning of Sacred Scripture, we discover that the family is not simply a human invention but part of God's loving plan for humanity. The Bible begins with the story of creation, where God creates man and woman in His own image and unites them in marriage. "Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Marriage and family are sacred gifts through which God's love is reflected in the world.

Throughout the Old Testament, the family was the primary place where faith was handed from one generation to the next. Moses instructed the people of Israel: "Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children... when you lie down and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:6–7). Faith was not confined to the synagogue or the Temple but was woven into the ordinary rhythm of family life.

In the New Testament, God chose to enter the world through a family. Jesus spent most of His earthly life in the home of Mary and Joseph at Nazareth. By living in a family, He sanctified family life and revealed that ordinary homes can become places of extraordinary grace. Jesus also reaffirmed God's original plan for marriage, declaring, "What God has joined together, let no one separate" (Matthew 19:6).

The apostles continued this teaching. St. Paul urged parents to raise their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Many of the earliest Christian communities even gathered in homes for prayer, the breaking of bread, and the teaching of the apostles. These homes became centers of evangelization where faith was lived and shared.

The message of Scripture remains just as relevant today. Whether our families are large or small, thriving or struggling, Christ desires to dwell among us. Every home can become a place where God's Word is read, prayer is offered, forgiveness is practiced, and love is shared.

This week, I encourage every family to choose one time each day to read a short passage from the Gospel together. Even five minutes spent listening to God's Word can gradually transform a house into a true Domestic Church.

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 Monday, August 24 at 6PM, parish hall.

Hills Parish Council: Next meeting will be Monday, July 20 at 6:30 PM. Finance Council meeting Thurs., September 17, 2026, 6:00 PM.

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet July 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

When a person is a ‘picture of health’, it is because they are in a happy frame of mind.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, July 22, 2026. 6 PM-7PM

St. Joseph, Hills

Confessions are available at this time.

VBS

Vacation Bible School will be August 3-7 at Nichols Christian Church. 9 am until 11:30 am. For students 5-12 years old. Rides from Lone Tree to Nichols will be offered. Please contact Linda Abbott for more information: 563-357-8733.

Our new Facebook address is Sts. Mary and Joseph of Hills, Lone Tree, and Nichols.

Liturgical Ministers—Lone Tree St. Mary Saturday 4:00 pm Cycle A Reading						
	07/18/2026 Lou	07/25/2026 David	08/01/2026 Lou	08/08/2026 David	Lone Tree	Parish Support
Greeter	Nancy Ford	Bernie Lorack	Virginia Schlapkohl	Paula Moore	Envelopes	\$845.00
Lector	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter	Offertory	\$57.00
Cross Bearer	Glen Gerot	Mike Parker	Nancy Ford	Lynn Bland	Works of Charity	\$20.00
Servers	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter		
Eucharist	Jerry Ford	Paula Moore	Jerry Ford	Judy Grothe		
Eucharist	Nancy Ford	Sherry Nicola	Nancy Ford	Sherry Nicola		
Collection	Betty Gerot	Mike Parker	Glen Gerot	Joan Davis		
	Glen Gerot	Lucy Parker	Betty Gerot	Lynn Bland		
Gifts	Betty Gerot, Glen Gerot	Mike & Lucy Parker	Betty Gerot, Glen Gerot	Joan Davis, Lynn Bland		
Commentator	Jerry Ford	Sherry Nicola	Jerry Ford	Jill Welter		

Liturgical Ministers—Nichols Church of St. Mary Sunday 8:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	07/19/2026 David	07/26/2026 David	08/02/2026 David	08/09/2026 Lou	Nichols	Parish Support
Greeter	Jeanne Green	Jeanne Green	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Envelopes	\$290.00
Lector	Renetta Burlage	Missy Lenz	Trudi Westfall	Tom Barr	Offertory	\$42.00
Cross Bearer	Michael Burlage	Adam Gauger	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Air Conditioning	\$15.00
Server	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Trudi Westfall		
Eucharist	Carol Kaalberg	Missy Lenz	Tom Barr	Tom Barr		
Eucharist	Adam Gauger	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Trudi Westfall		
Collection	Wayne Mengel	Adam Gauger	Wayne Mengel	Kory Kaalberg		
	Joe Harper	Kory Kaalberg	Dennis Truesdale	Adam Gauger		
Gifts	Michael & Renetta Burlage	Tom & Maggie Gouger	Adam Gauger	Kelsie Lampe		
Commentator	Carol Kaalberg	Carol Kaalberg	Trudi Westfall	Trudi Westfall		

Liturgical Ministers—Hills St. Joseph Sunday 10:00 am Cycle A Reading						
	07/19/2026 David	07/26/2026 Lou	08/02/2026 David	08/09/2026 David	Hills	Parish Support
Music Ministry	Choir	Haylee Osmonson & Choir	Robynn Anderson	Choir	Envelopes	\$823.00
Greeter	Jim & Marilyn Mills	Jim & Hope Frantz	Judy Stebral	Janet Goss	Offertory	\$172.00
Lector	Shelagh McDonald	Mike Waldschmidt	Kay Evans	Nancy Waldschmidt		
	Emy Rivera, Josh Ayela-zuno					
Server		Mike Sieverding	Jean Burr, Messi Akodegnan	Emy Rivera, Wendy Berry		
Eucharist -host	Jolene Van Eschen	Deanne Eden	Jolene Van Eschen	Jolene Van Eschen		
Eucharist - cup	Arlene Johnston	Arlene Johnston	Deanne Eden	Mike Sieverding		
Eucharist - cup	Kristee Malmberg	Emy Rivera	Kristee Malmberg	Bob Jenn		
Collection	Jim Mills	Jim Frantz	Mike Sieverding	Mike Waldschmidt		
	Marilyn Mills	Hope Frantz	Lora Sieverding	Nancy Waldschmidt		
		Bob & Renita Rummelhart				
Gifts	Jeremy Jenn Family	Family	Kenny Swenka Family	Joe & Rita Jenn Family		
Commentator	Lora Sieverding	Shelagh McDonlad	Lora Sieverding	Lora Sieverding		

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



COLLECTION BOX In St. Joseph Church foyer.

Hills Bank is collecting donations for Shelter House of Iowa City. Items should help *beat the heat*...bottled water, sports drinks, sunscreen, lip balm, hats, sunglasses, mini fans, cooling towels, etc. *Collection will end on August 14th.*

LOST KEYS OF THE KINGDOM
HUNT FOR GOD'S 10 KEYS TO SALVATION!
FOLLOW THE CLUES, UNLOCK THE TREASURES, DISCOVER GOD'S PATH TO TRUE FREEDOM!
JOHN 14:15
HOLY FAMILY PARISH - ST. MARY'S, RIVERSIDE

Gathered in faith, united in prayer
JULY 27 -31

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM (GRADES 1-6) 9AM-3PM
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM (GRADES 7-12) 6:30PM-8:45PM

CONTACT US riversideholymfamilyym@diodav.org or spyderb@diodav.org

All are welcome

- + Daily Mass
- + Fun songs & skits
- + Interactive Catholic faith lessons
- + Hands-on activities
- + Games & recreations
- + Eucharistic Adoration & Opportunities for Reconciliation



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

Healing Mass Schedule

August 1, at St. Joseph, Hills

9:00 AM Confessions

9:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Healing Mass

Hospitality provided by
St. Mary, Lone Tree

My sincere apologies to St. Joseph parish-ioners, Marcia Mellecker, and the Jean Mellecker family regarding the miscommu-nication of our coffee and donut hour last week. We had the hall rented but Marcia was not informed, so donuts were pur-chased, and therefore, handed out to pa-rishioners on the way out the door. Thank you for taking a donut! Thank you to the Mellecker family for your patience with the hall! Thank you to Marcia for graciously helping me fix my error! The next coffee & donut hour will be July 26th.

Lora Sieverding



Knights of Columbus Annual Tootsie Roll Campaign to support Special Olympics athletes will be July 25 & July 26. Joe & Rose Harper will be here to pass out tootsie rolls and collect your donations following Mass at our cluster parishes.



Rest in Peace: Our parish sympathy is extended to the family of Henry Schaapveld, who passed away this week. He is husband of Janice Schaapveld. 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.



THANK YOU! To the 'Ladies of the 90-year-old club' who raked and swept up the tree debris that was in the parking lot of St. Mary, Lone Tree, ... we are so grateful you are willing to help!

THANK YOU!!

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
Coming Soon!
Please contact Fr. David Paintsil or Carol Kirkpatrick if interested.



Josh and Emily recently returned from Josh's home of Ghana. Father David was gifted some new Ghana-wear upon their return. Welcome Back Josh and Emily.

Thank you, Fr. David



Will you be celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary this year? If you were married in 1976 the diocese will be honoring you and your spouse on October 18th at St. Patrick's, Iowa City. Please let your parish office know your anniversary date **before** August 23, 2026.

A group of the Seven Sisters Apostolate has been established for the cluster of Hills, Lone Tree and Nichols parishes to pray for our priest. Each day of the week one Sister commits to praying a Holy Hour for our priest. Sunday and Thursday are covered, but Sisters are still needed for the remaining days of the week. Please consider devoting one hour each week to lifting up our priest and covering him in prayer. Please contact anchoress Judee Albert at 319-325-4026 with questions or to volunteer, and visit sevensistersapostolate.org for more information.