



WELCOME!

Our Three-Parish Cluster
Sts. Mary and Joseph Catholic Churches
Hills, Lone Tree and Nichols

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021

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

Rev. Hai Dinh, Pastor; 319-679-2271; email: dinhh@diodav.org
Mrs. Carol Kaalberg, Pastoral Associate; 319-330-5324; email: kaalbergc@diodav.org
Cluster Website: stsmariandjoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmariandjoseph
Trudi Westfall, Director of Religious Education, 319-629-4364; 319-330-2238
Rev. Lou Leonhardt (retired priest in residence at the Lone Tree Rectory); PO Box 454, Lone Tree, IA 52755 319-629-4339
Bulletin deadline: 10:00 am Tuesday. Contact Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324 or Judy Stebral, 319-331-8727

Cluster Mass Intentions December 11 to December 31, 2021

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, Location, Intention. Lists mass intentions for each day from Dec 11 to Dec 31.

Music Ministry: St. Joseph, Hills, Lily Westemeyer. Church of St. Mary, Nichols, Jean Mengel. St. Mary, Lone Tree, Steve Moore, Bob and Connie Shaw.

Sts. Mary and Joseph Cluster Confession Schedule

Father Hai is available to hear confessions before Mass at the below times:

- St. Mary, Lone Tree: 3:30 p.m. to 3:50 pm on Saturdays
Church of St. Mary: 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 am on Sundays
St. Joseph, Hills: 9:30 a.m. to 9:50 am on Sundays

Let us come to reconcile to God and others!

Food pantry items are being accepted anytime in our cluster churches.

Baskets are available at Lone Tree and Nichols and items can be dropped off at Hills in the food pantry in the parish hall. Thank you for your generosity to our food pantries.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

December 12, 2021

ADVENT SEASON

Today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice. Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."



As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, let us follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News. "What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."

Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer. As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.

STEWARDSHIP QUOTES

As Jesus's disciples and God's stewards, we are called to practice and live out our discipleship worthily and gratefully. Therefore, during this new liturgical year of the Church, there will be a stewardship quote each week to help us to reflect and live out our intentional discipleship and stewardship. For this 3rd week in Advent, the Gospel provides us a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

OPEN ST. JOSEPH'S RECTORY

Mark your calendar for New Year's Day after the 10 am Mass, St. Joseph's Rectory will be open to welcome all of you and your loved ones. There will be coffee, donuts, cookies, orange juice, especially homemade egg rolls. All from our cluster are invited! Come enjoy our fellowship and wish one another a New Year 2022 with good health, peace and joy!

Thank you very much for everything that you and your families have done for our cluster parishes. Know that you all are always in my prayers and daily thoughts. May God bless and keep you safe from all harm!

HAVE A JOYFUL AND GRACE-FILLED ADVENT AND A GREAT WEEK AHEAD!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Hai Dinh

