

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter May 8, 2022

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

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: stsmaryandjoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmaryandjoseph

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 May 9, 2022 to May 30, 2022

Music Ministry: St. Joseph, Hills, Lily Westemeyer. Church of St. Mary, Nichols, Jean Mengel. 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: Toni Wilson, 319-723-4468; Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324

St. Mary, Lone Tree Prayer Line: Nancy Ford, 319-430-0882; Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324

Sts. Mary and Joseph Cluster Confession Schedule

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

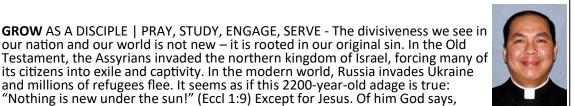
3:30 p.m. to 3:50 pm on Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 am on Sundays St. Mary, Lone Tree Church of St. Mary St. Joseph, Hills 9:30 a.m. to 9:50 am on Sundays Let us come to reconcile to God and others!

First Saturday Masses There will be no first Saturday Mass in June; next First Saturday Mass is July 2 in Nichols.

Local food pantries have an ongoing need for food items.

Containers are available at all times 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.



May 8, 2022

our nation and our world is not new – it is rooted in our original sin. In the Old Testament, the Assyrians invaded the northern kingdom of Israel, forcing many of its citizens into exile and captivity. In the modern world, Russia invades Ukraine and millions of refugees flee. It seems as if this 2200-year-old adage is true: "Nothing is new under the sun!" (Eccl 1:9) Except for Jesus. Of him God says, "Behold I make all things new." (Rev 21:5) As we hear in today's first reading, conflict between Jews and Gentiles forced Paul and Barnabas to leave Antioch. In contrast, John in Revelation envisions a world where "every nation, race, people, and tongue" stand before the Lord. For us as for them, Jesus is the path to the unity we desire. That's not to gloss over real differences and even worse, the horror of war. However, it can be a reminder that no matter what else we do, we need to turn to the Lord first in prayer, asking him to guide us in our response; asking the Holy Spirit to help us see people of all nations, and indeed our very own neighbors, as our brothers and sisters.

GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT - Judging by the volume wars during our family television sessions, it seems that people have varying levels of ability to hear certain accents and types of voices. We may wonder if this capacity to hear properly, or with the necessary level of attention, can sometimes apply to our ability to hear, really hear, the words of Jesus. Perhaps we're too busy, or other preoccupations crowd out his voice. Today's Gospel reminds us to tune back in. "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me," Jesus says. In the first reading, Luke describes the Gentiles who lived in Antioch and were "delighted" in hearing the Good News of salvation and who "glorified the word of the Lord," spreading it "through the whole region." Today and every day, we can emulate the early Christians by opening our ears (or eyes!) to the word of God through the Scriptures, and in turn sharing that light of salvation to all who need it. PRAY: Pray Pope Francis' prayer for peace, found on the USCCB website: www.usccb.org/prayers/pope-francis-prayer-peace. Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! (Grow + Go)

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED - As Jesus' co-workers, you and I are called to help and support those who have not come to God's house after the COVID 19 pandemic. Carol Kaalberg, Judy Stebral and I have worked to contact them. We sent them bulletins during the time of the pandemic. We called them and sent them two letters with our Lenten & Easter schedule and Advent & Christmas schedule with bulletins. However, we have not heard from most of them yet. Many of them do not use their home phones anymore; and we do not know their cell phone numbers. We need your help. If you know anyone, especially young families, in our cluster parishes whom you do not see after the church re-opens for Mass, please let them know that Masses are celebrated in person now and invite them to come to church. If their health condition cannot allow them to attend Mass in person, please let me know. I will contact them and go to see them and offer them sacraments they need. We are a community of faith, a family of God. We need to make God's house (our cluster churches) fill up with prayers, praises, and joys. We need to help, pray for, and support one another! Thank you so much for everything that you and your families have done for our cluster parishes. Know that you and your's are always in my daily prayers and thoughts. May God protect and bless you all!

Happy Mother's Day and a grace-filled week ahead to all of you and your loved ones!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Hai Dinh