



WELCOME!

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 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 18 to January 4, 2022

Sat	Dec 18	4:00pm	Lone Tree	Keith Stevens	Mon	Dec 27	8:00am	Lone Tree	Rosella Attig
Sun	Dec 19	8:00am	Nichols	Sr. Ramona Kaalberg	Tue	Dec 28	800am	Lone Tree	Raymond Herring
Sun	Dec 19	10:00am	Hills	Schott&Buline Families	Tue	Dec 28	8:30am	Atrium	Julia Ruppenkamp
Mon	Dec 20	8:00am	Lone Tree	Rosella Attig	Wed	Dec 29	8:00am	Lone Tree	Harry Attig
Tue	Dec 21	8:00am	Lone Tree	Raymond Herring	Wed	Dec 29	8:30am	Atrium	Veva Jenn
Tue	Dec 21	8:30am	Atrium	Leonard&Mary E. Rummelhart	Thur	Dec 30	8:30am	Atrium	Kathy Dalton
Wed	Dec 22	8:00am	Lone Tree	Harry Attig	Thur	Dec 30	10:00am	LT PP	Berneda Schnoebelen
Wed	Dec 22	8:30am	Atrium	Judi Droll	Fri	Dec 31	8:30am	Atrium	Ron Burr
Thur	Dec 23	8:30am	Atrium	Glenn&Alberta Kloos	Fri	Dec 31	4:00pm	Lone Tree	Donna Crawford
Thur	Dec 23	10:00am	PP CC	Sally Bowron	Fri	Dec 31	6:30pm	Hills	Cluster Parishioners
Fri	Dec 24	4:00pm	Nichols	Requested Intentions	Sat	Jan 1	9:00am	Lone Tree	Cluster Parishioners
Fri	Dec 24	5:00pm	Lone Tree	Requested Intentions	Sat	Jan 1	10:00am	Hills	Cluster Parishioners
Fri	Dec 24	6:30pm	Hills	Requested Intention	Sat	Jan 1	4:00pm	Lone Tree	Robert Welter
Sat	Dec 25	9:00am	Lone Tree	Requested Intentions	Sun	Jan 2	8:00am	Nichols	Sr. Ramona Kaalberg
Sat	Dec 25	10:00am	Hills	Requested Intentions	Sun	Jan 2	10:00am	Hills	Veva Jenn
Sat	Dec 25	4:00pm	Lone Tree	Requested Intentions	Mon	Jan 3	8:00am	Lone Tree	Raymond Herring
Sun	Dec 26	8:00am	Nichols	Requested Intentions	Tue	Jan 4	8:00am	Lone Tree	Rosella Attig
Sun	Dec 26	10:00am	Hills	John&Betty Soukup	Tue	Jan 4	8:30am	Atrium	John&Bess Gorman

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.

December 19, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

ADVENT SEASON

“You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.”

We do not have to go see the most recent superhero movie or binge-watch a streaming TV series that celebrates the underdog to feel the elation that comes with overcoming evil. We need only to look at our own lives and God’s plan of salvation for us to understand what it truly means to be triumphant. From tiny little Bethlehem—a town of no consequence—would arise the Savior of the world. He would be the One who came to do God’s will, and thus consecrated us to God through the offering of his own body as sacrifice, once for all. This is the One Mary carried in her womb and whom Elizabeth’s unborn child—we know to be John the Baptist—recognized. He is the child—most-vulnerable who would become King of the Universe, “stand[ing] firm and shepherd[ing] his flock by the strength of the Lord.”



This is the God we serve: the One who became like us so that we may one day be like him. We shall soon celebrate the anniversary of his birth, while also waiting in joyful hope for his coming again. In this time of preparation, then, we pray for the grace to know the Lord more fully and to appreciate with gratitude the Savior he truly is.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, now is the time many of us will begin to gather—as families, friends, and faith communities. What an ideal opportunity to renew our relationships with one another and with Jesus, asking the Holy Spirit to help us recognize the presence of God in our lives and in others. Micah’s prophesy from today’s first reading endures: “His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.”

Let’s do our part to share the peace and joy of Christ with those we encounter, witnessing to his saving grace in our lives, and offering others an opportunity to be a part of the greatest story, ever—of God’s saving action. Invite visiting family members or friends to our church for carols and music on Christmas Eve or worship. If that’s not possible, pray the O Antiphons together at home. *(Grow & Go)*

STEWARDSHIP QUOTES

As Jesus’s disciples and God’s stewards, we are called to practice and live out our discipleship worthily and gratefully. For this 4th week in Advent, *The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin, Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.*

NEW YEAR’S DAY CELEBRATION IN ST. JOSEPH’S HALL

There will be a change in the Open House at St. Joseph’s Rectory on New Year’s Day. All are invited to celebrate New Year’s Day 2022 with Mass at 10 am and then come to the St. Joseph’s Hall to enjoy coffee, donuts, cookies, orange juice, and especially homemade egg rolls—while watching the 2022 VRBO Citrus Bowl between the #17 Iowa Hawkeyes and #22 Kentucky Wildcats. Come enjoy fellowship, watch the football game, and wish one another a Happy New Year 2022 with good health, joy, peace and love. All from the cluster are welcome!

As we come closer to the end of the year, I would like to say many thanks to all of you and your families for everything that you have done for our cluster parishes. Know that you all are always in my prayers and daily thoughts. May God protect and bless you all!

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

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Hai Dinh

