

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

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 4, 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 Nancy Waldschmidt, Director of Faith Formation, 319-331-2077; email: nwaldschmidt@gwaea.org Cluster Website: stsmaryandjoseph.com Cluster Facebook: www.facebook.com/stsmaryandjoseph Rev. Lou Leonhardt (retired priest in residence at the Lone Tree Rectory); PO Box 454, Lone Tree, IA 52755 319-629-4339

Cluster Mass Intentions September 3, 2022 to September 25, 2022

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Music Ministry: St. Joseph, Hills: Lily Westemeyer, Lura Loan, Robynn Anderson. 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: 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
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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
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First Saturday Masses Next First Saturday Mass is October 1, at the Church of St. Mary, Nichols. Confessions at 8:30 a.m. Mass at 9:00 a.m. Adoration follows until 11:00 a.m. Signup sheets for Adoration times at all churches.

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,

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE - We know that Jesus loves us, shepherds us, forgives us ... but he also challenges us! He reminds us today that being a disciple requires that we go all in, prepared to place our relationship with Jesus above all else. Easier said than done. But we can start, one minute at a time, with our prayers, priorities, and actions. We can also follow the example of saints such as Paul, imprisoned for preaching the Gospel, and the saints among us who teach us by example.



GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT - We could consider saints who have not let suffering and loss shake their faith. There are the saints we Catholics celebrate each day: Francis, who threw off the cloak of privilege to live for Christ; Mother Teresa, who served others day in and day out even as she faced a spiritual drought; Paul, the one-time persecutor who built up the early Church and whose letters continue to inspire Christians. Each of them took Jesus' words at face value and laid down their lives for him. Learning how to be a disciple of Christ from studying the lives of the saints can be an ongoing pursuit throughout our lives. But perhaps we can also learn from a "living saint," if the opportunity presents itself, and ask, in so many words, "what's your secret?" It may be praying first thing in the morning, or something practical that we had not considered, such as managing their time in such a way that allows them to volunteer regularly or to be a continuous presence in the life of someone who needs them. If other priorities have gotten in the way of our relationship with Jesus, perhaps we can challenge ourselves to develop new habits. Even an incremental change – such as spending less time or money on nonessentials or reading an inspirational book – can help us reignite our faith and free up our time to focus on someone or something other than ourselves. STUDY: Take time to read about the lives of a few saints. What habits did they create to lead holy lives? What vices did they give up for Christ's sake to truly become his disciple?

Religious Education (RE) Classes – Please read Nancy Waldschmidt's Faith Formation message on page 5 of this bulletin.

We will be offering the blood of Christ this weekend. If you are interested in being a Eucharistic Minister for the blood of Christ, kindly let us know.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA - Next weekend, September 10 & 11, we will have the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Please be generous.

A PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY - Almighty God, Creator of the world, we give you thanks for the gift of stewardship and work. Deliver us, in our various occupations, from the service of self alone, that we may do our work in truth and beauty and for the common. God of justice, we pray for all workers, that they would receive fair compensation and treatment in their labor. For those who seek work, provide jobs. We ask all these things for our good and your glory. Amen.

Wishing you and your loved ones all the best!

Have a grace-filled Labor Day weekend and a nice week ahead!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Hai Dinh

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