

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

Epiphany of the Lord

January 2, 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 January 1, 2022 to January 20, 2022

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 Food pantry items are being accepted Father Hai is available to hear confessions before Mass at the below anytime in our cluster churches. times: Baskets are available at Lone Tree and St. Mary, Lone Tree: 3:30 p.m. to 3:50 pm on Saturdays Nichols and items can be dropped off Church of St. Mary: 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 am on Sundays at Hills in the food pantry in the parish St. Joseph, Hills: 9:30 a.m. to 9:50 am on Sundays hall. Thank you for your generosity to Let us come to reconcile to God and others! our food pantries. There will be no reconciliation or adoration at the January First Saturday Masses.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

January 2, 2022

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The journey of the Magi reminds us to pause and look. Just as they saw the star rising and followed it to Jesus, we, too, can seek God in our surroundings, our relationships, and the beauty of creation—the next step is to follow where God leads us. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, the Magi represent " the journeying of humanity toward Christ." (Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives). We may falter from the path from time to time, but Isaiah's prophesy reminds us of our destination: "You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."



The Epiphany is early this year, falling right on the heels of New Year's Day. If you haven't made our New Year's resolutions yet, now is a good time to do so. In addition to typical resolutions such as reducing clutter or getting fit, we can set some spiritual goals as well. The definition of epiphany (lower case) is "a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way." As we reflect on today's readings, let us ask the Holy Spirit to provide us an epiphany—into how we can grow closer to Jesus during this year ahead. Just as their encounter with the infant Jesus caused the Magi to be transformed from outsiders to faithful believers, and to take a different route home, our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist is meant to transform all of us and set us on a new path to light and life.

New Year's resolutions are great! Why not add a couple of spiritual resolutions to the list—perhaps to pray the rosary more often, spend time in Eucharistic adoration, or go on that retreat you have been meaning to attend. Ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and see where it leads. (*Grow* + *Go*)

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK

At Masses this weekend, we will have a "blessing of the chalk." The home blessing can be done as follows:

Use the blessed chalk to write: **20+C+M+B+22** above the doorways: 20XX for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi – Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar – and for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, Latin for "May Christ Bless this House."

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

On New Year's Day, January 1st, we will celebrate New Year's 2022 with a Mass at 10:00 am at St. Joseph church and then you are all invited to go to the Parish Hall to enjoy coffee, donuts, cookies, orange juice, especially homemade egg rolls, while watching the 2022 VRBO CITRUS BOWL. Come and share the spirit of this holy season with each other and wish one another a New Year 2022 with good health, joy, peace, and love! All are welcome!

Thank you very much for your personal Christmas cards, gifts, and wishes, especially for everything that you and your family have done for our cluster parishes.

A special thank you to those who have made this Holy Season of Advent and Christmas special — to the greeters, servers, lectors, commentators, Eucharistic ministers, our musicians, and those who helped with decorating our parishes. Know that you and your loved ones are always in my daily prayers and thoughts. May God continue to protect and bless you all!

Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful Christmas Season and a grace-filled Yew Year 2022 with good health, peace, happiness and success!

Sincerely yours in Infant Jesus,

Fr. Hai Dinh