



WELCOME!

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

Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 26, 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

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 24, 2021 to January 10,

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, Location, and Intention. Lists mass intentions for December 24 to January 10 across three parishes.

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!

There will be no reconciliation or adoration at the January First Saturday Masses.

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.

PEACE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

December 26, 2021

CHRISTMAS SEASON

Paul advised the Colossians about family and faith. He writes that in putting on holiness, kindness, gentleness, and forgiving one another, we "put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." Fathers, mothers, and children are to love one another, seeking and choosing the good for one another, and helping each other along life's journey - whether for an hour in the car, a three-day hike, or a lifetime in every situation.



On this feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we honor their perfect holiness and love, and pray that God may continue to perfect us in holiness and love within our own families, that we may bear good fruit for the Kingdom.

Three Days? Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus for three days! Any parent who has had a child missing for a few seconds understands the anxiety Mary and Joseph experienced in three long days of searching for Jesus. In the end, though, all is well and the peace of Christ casts out their fears. The Holy Family models a way of living for us to imitate, and to witness to others.

As a family, choose an activity that allows you to think outside yourselves and serve others. Donate to the food pantry or visit an elderly relative who is homebound. Or make a plan to read the Scripture for each day of the upcoming week; have each person choose a favorite verse to memorize each day. You may be surprised how often these verses enter your mind throughout the week. Let us grow in faith and go sharing God's blessings for us with those who live around us! (Grow + Go)

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK

This year we invite you to take part in an old tradition of "chalking the door" to celebrate the Epiphany, the day that marks the arrival of the magi, to the place where Jesus was born! Chalks will be provided. However, it is fine if you want to bring your own chalks to be blessed during Mass. The home blessing can be done as follows:

Use the blessed chalk to write: 20+C+M+B+XX 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." As you are writing, pray one of the following prayers: "May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen."

"Lord our God, bless this household. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. We give thanks to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen"

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

Next Sunday, we will celebrate New Year's 2022 with a Mass at 10:00am at St. Joseph church and then we go to the 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!

As we are at the end of the year 2021, I would like to say many thanks to all of you and your families for your prayers, support and Christmas cards and gifts, especially for everything that you have done for our cluster parishes. Know that you all are always in my prayers and daily thoughts.

Wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful Christmas season and a Grace-filled New Year 2022! Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Hai Dinh