



WELCOME!

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

Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 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: 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 January 8, 2022 to January 29, 2022

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, Location, Intention. Lists mass intentions for each day from Jan 8 to Jan 29, 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

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.

God promises a safe landing...
Not a calm passage.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

January 9, 2022



CHRISTMAS SEASON – A SAVIOR IS BORN FOR US; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

For cradle Catholics, baptism may be the most important step on the Christian journey that none of us actually remembers. After all, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) instructs us that baptism is “the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit.” (CCC 1213) Yes, baptism cleanses us of original sin, but it’s much more than that! We need only look to Jesus to see that. Though without sin, Jesus’ baptism is a turning point in his life all the same. The Holy Spirit descends upon him and a voice from heaven cries out, “You are my beloved Son.” So begins the public ministry, in which Jesus would carry out his Father’s saving mission. Through our baptism, at any age, we, too, become God’s beloved sons and daughters. Through word and sacrament, Jesus invites us to share in his mission by turning our lives over to our Father as we embrace our Christian journey.

Baptism is often referred to as “the doorway to the Church” because through this sacrament, our sins are forgiven and we are united to Christ and his Church. It is the door which gives access to all the other sacraments. (CCC 1213) At the conclusion, the celebrant asks God to continue to pour out his blessing upon those being baptized, and send his peace to all who are gathered. As baptized Christians, we are now adopted children of God; we are disciples who are empowered, through the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit, to share the Good News and help build the kingdom of God on earth.

Each day that we “put on Christ” and do his work, God is re-creating us and making us into something far better than we could ever be on our own. Embrace this faith you have been given and go out and share your gifts and talents with others, confident in the Spirit that guides you. Think of something you have been told you are very good at by friends or coworkers – something for which you have been “anointed,” in a sense. In what way can you do something specific to lead others with care in this area, or perhaps do a very particular good yourself? (Grow + Go)

Stewardship Quote – Baptism of the Lord – Jesus, whom God called “my beloved Son, “is also the “servant” of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow his example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.

Open House Reception – Due to the weather last weekend, the Open House Reception will be rescheduled on FIRST SUNDAY OF FEBRUARY, February 6, after the 10 am Mass, at St. Joseph church’s Hall. All are invited!

Happy Feast of Baptism of the Lord to all of you and yours!

Have a grace-filled New Year with good health, peace, happiness and success!

Sincerely yours in Infant Jesus,

Fr. Hai Dinh