

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: November 21, 2020

Week behind

Saint Joseph Catholic School—On Monday, November 16, PUD workers started working on our school grounds. They have been digging new trenches and replacing the power cable up to the meter. On Friday, November 6, a transformer on one of the power poles behind the school failed and we were left with only partial power in our school buildings. The PUD has decided it needs to replace the main power cable all the way up to the power box in front of the school. We are grateful to Perry Kelly and the school office staff for acting diligently in communicating with our school parents right away.

COVID 19 update—On Sunday, November 15, in response to a fresh outbreak of COVID-19 cases in the state and nation, Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced new restrictions statewide effective November 16 through December 14. **Religious Services** are limited to 25 percent of indoor occupancy limits, or no more than 200 people, whichever is fewer. Congregation members/attendees must wear facial coverings at all times and congregational singing is prohibited. No choir, band, or ensemble shall perform during the service. Vocal or instrumental soloists are permitted to perform, and vocal soloists may have a single accompanist. The good news is that we can still have our weekend Masses with a maximum of 200 people. We just need to remember that congregational singing is not allowed at present. And it is necessary to follow the protocols in place so that we can keep everyone safe and healthy in our buildings.

Please know that we had a “non-teaching” staff member at Saint Joseph School who tested positive for COVID-19 and we have a couple of students who are doing remote learning due to COVID-19. In following the guidelines directed by the Health Department and our Diocese, we are doing our best to curb this latest COVID-19 outbreak. We continue to pray for the quick development of effective vaccines and treatments, and for all those suffering the effects of the pandemic.

Annual Catholic Appeal—I thank all the people who have pledged or given to the Annual Catholic Appeal. If you have not participated yet, please prayerfully consider giving this year. You will find envelopes in the foyer. We have a special opportunity each year to answer Christ’s call to support the wider Church through the ACA. This year our parish goal is \$147,114.00. So far 88 families have pledged and we still need 320 more. Remember, it not about how much or how little each gives; it is about everyone participating. Please be generous

Week ahead

Deacon Michael Kelly – Deacon Michael will be stationed in our parish from November 22 through January 9. He is from Holy Spirit Parish and he loves the Tri Cities. He will reside at the new Saint Joseph rectory with the priests and seminarian Ethan Pfeifer. Deacon Michael is a 4th Year Theology student. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary, is allowing students to attend their classes on-line starting November 30 through the month of December until their Christmas break. Although Deacon Michael will be doing distance learning, he also will be helping us during liturgies and especially during Christmas. We are grateful for his presence during our busiest season. Please extend a warm welcome to him.

Faith Formation-- Advent is a special season for the Church — it is the time when the world prepares to celebrate anew the coming of Christ. Often, we lose sight of the point of this season. We get caught up in our preparations and arrive at Christmas no more transformed than we were at the start of Advent. One way that our parish is seeking to prepare for Jesus' birth and experience true transformation in this powerful season is by engaging with a new program from Ascension Press: *Rejoice! Advent Meditations with the Holy Family*. This year, we will walk with Mary and Joseph as they prepare to welcome their son, the Savior of the World. We will follow the Holy Family on the journey to Bethlehem. Because we want this Advent to be a journey we take together as a parish, we will be watching a 5 minute introductory video on November 28 and 29 at all the weekend Masses. Each family will receive a *Rejoice!* Journal, filled with beautiful art and meaningful meditations, to accompany them throughout the entire Advent season

Rejoice! is a resource to help us enter the season of Advent intentionally and receive the grace God is waiting to give us in this holy season. Join us at weekend Masses to take full advantage of this transformative experience. I am grateful to Laura Sieler, Joe and Pat Barajas and my office staff for coordinating this program.