

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 19, 2020

Week Behind

Children's Christmas Program— On Tuesday, December 15, the preschool children from our Saint Joseph School performed a Christmas play in the Big Church. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the school and parish community were not able to attend; however, our principal Perry Kelly did a wonderful job recording the play and putting it on the school's Facebook page and YouTube. This is a special tradition in our parish that helps the children experience the intricacies of participating in a production as the actors. They learn how to memorize lines, how to deal with stage fright, and how to cooperate with others to put on a group performance. In addition, the children remind us of the real meaning of Christmas—the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The Giving Tree—Thanks to Jeannine McShane who helped coordinate the Giving Tree this year. And I want to thank all the people who donated to the Giving Tree fund. I am glad that COVID-19 could not prevent this beautiful tradition in our community. Many families will receive gifts this Christmas that will be very much appreciated. May God bless you for your generosity!

Our Lady of Guadalupe—Thanks to the members of different parish ministries who participated in the nine-day celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning December 3 and ending December 12, especially Marisela Farias, Marlen Aleman, Norma Dias and Liliana Villasenor who decorated Dillon hall and the image of Our Lady in the Big Church. Every year this celebration helps many families come closer to Christ and prepare their hearts for Christ's birth.

Las Posadas— On Thursday, December 17, beginning at 7:00 pm our Hispanic community will celebrate one posada beginning with Mass. Las posadas is a traditional Hispanic celebration re-enacting Mary and Joseph's search for lodging prior to the birth of Jesus.

Rejoice -Advent Meditations with the Holy Family— On Friday, December 18, we had our last Zoom meeting using the *Rejoice!* meditations. The participating parishioners and I appreciate the leadership and insights of the Bible study team, Father Riccardo, Father Cesar, and Ethan Pfeifer during the Zoom meetings. Special thanks to Nancy Trinidad, our receptionist, for handling the logistics of the program.

Week Ahead

Catholic Charities— Christmas Eve and Christmas Day your offering goes to support the work of Catholic Charities in Central Washington. Catholic Charities serves those most in need throughout their lifecycles—from expectant mothers and families with young children to grandparents raising their grandchildren and the elderly struggling to live independently. To learn more about Catholic Charities' network of services, visit www.catholiccharitiescw.org.

Christmas Decorations, Big Church—On Monday, December 21, our seminarian Ethan Pfeifer and volunteers will gather to decorate the Big Church for Christmas. This is always a time of great joy and thanksgiving in our community. May God bless us all as we prepare for Christmas.

Parish Office Closures—The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 23 at noon through December 25. Staff will be back on Monday, December 28, to answer your phone calls and e-mails.

Schedules for Christmas Eve (Vigil) and Christmas Day Masses

Christmas Eve, December 24

No morning Masses

Masses in English at 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and Midnight

Masses in Spanish at 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Christmas Day - Holy Day of Obligation, December 25

No morning Masses

Mass in English – 9:00 am--Mass in Spanish 11:00 am

All Masses in the big Church

Have a blessed Christmas celebration with your family and friends.

