

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 5, 2020

Week Behind

Giving Tuesday--- On Tuesday, December 1, 41 people from our community donated blood to the Red Cross. I want to thank Joe Gallegos, Manuel Guerrero and Joe Haverluk for organizing the blood drive. Such a great cause! As you know, thousands of people end up in the hospital every year, many of them needing blood transfusions. People who donate blood save lives. The next blood drive will be February 2, 2021.

Religious Education—On Wednesday, December 2, and Thursday, December 3, the children from our Religious Education Program (*Growing Up Catholic*) celebrated their First Reconciliation at 6:00 pm in the Big Church. About 47 children experienced the mercy and love of God through the Sacrament of Penance. I am grateful to the Religious Education volunteers. Special thanks to Susan Marsh for her hard work preparing the kids for confession. A job well done!

The Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe -- The novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe began December 3 and continues through December 11 at 6:30pm in Spanish every day in the Big Church. (On Thursday, December 3, because of the First Reconciliation students' confessions in the Big Church, we prayed the novena prayers in the Small Church right after the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.) We will be praying the novena rosary in English after the 8:30 am Mass beginning December 3. If, for any reason you are not able to be with us in person, please pray the rosary with your family at home that day, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Americas.

Non-perishable Food Items---On Friday, December 4, Arturo Biebrich, our Parish and School maintenance man (and soon to be Deacon) collected non-perishable food items from the parish and school community. This food will benefit the parishes that were damaged by the fires this summer, mainly Father Luta's parish communities of Okanogan, Tonasket and Oroville. These donations will be distributed to needy families on Sunday, December 6, the Feast Day of St. Nicholas. I want to thank Arturo for taking the initiative to help families in need in the Diocese of Spokane.

Advent --- On Sunday, November 29, we began the Advent season. Advent provides opportunities for all of us to take more time for prayer and reflection on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I introduced the program *Rejoice! Advent Meditations with the Holy Family*. The idea is for our whole parish to take up *Rejoice!* and journey together as a community. If you did not get a book, please call the Parish Office. Special thanks to Nancy Trinidad for her help organizing the distribution of books.

Church Decoration --- My thanks to Lily Rangel and all the volunteers who decorated the church for Thanksgiving and Advent. The church looks beautiful! The talent and time of many volunteers makes that beauty possible. The Lord has blessed Saint Joseph Parish with the support of many generous men and women.

The 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. Our parish goal is \$147,114.00 So far 216 families have pledged (\$93,076.00.) Please help us reach our goal! Please return your ACA pledges as soon as possible. Thank you for your contribution.

Week Ahead

Feast of the Immaculate Conception—On Monday, December 7, in the Big Church, our community will gather in person at 5:30 pm for the Vigil Mass in honor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States. The Mass on December 8, the Feast Day itself, Mass in English at 6:30am, 8:30am and 5:30 pm in the Big Church. If you are not able to come in person, please join us via Facebook at 5:30pm, Saint Joseph Parish. We give special thanks for Mary's protection of our parish and school community and we ask for her continued guidance as we seek to follow her Son as faithful disciples.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Our parish community will be celebrating the Feast of Our lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 12. We will open the doors at 4:00 am and begin with the rosary at 4:30 am followed by Mass in Spanish at 5:00 am. Thank you to those who worked so hard to ensure the success of this celebration. We continue to ask Our Lady's blessing on the Church throughout the Americas and on Saint Joseph Parish in particular.

Please pray this prayer during the Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe (from Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles, California)

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world and for all our families the protection of your Holy Angels that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful. Wipe away their tears and help them to trust

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate Mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection. Keep us in the embrace of your arms. Help us always to know the love of your Son Jesus. Amen.