

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: January 2, 2021

Week Behind

Catholic Charities – The 2020 Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities was taken up in our parish on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Your generosity will help Catholic Charities bring hope to life by embracing people, strengthening families, and empowering them to thrive. Thank you for your monetary gifts to support this ministry.

Confirmation – First and second year Confirmation students collected personal items, food, and clothing for men, women and children. Their donations, delivered to Tri-City Union Gospel Mission before Christmas, were very much appreciated. Thanks again to the Confirmation students for helping the needy in our community.

Volunteers—A group of volunteers meets once a week to count the weekend collections. I am grateful to all for donating time to this important task. Thanks also to Tina Daily, who trains and organizes new volunteers as they count the weekend donations.

The Annual Catholic Appeal—Thanks to 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.

How much should you give? It does not matter how little or how much you give! What matters is that you donate a sufficient amount to challenge you to change your spending habits. This year our parish goal is \$147,114. So far 311 families have pledged \$117,617. We need at least 100 more families to pledge to the ACA so that we can reach our goal.

When you give to the Annual Catholic Appeal, you educate future priests and deacons. You bring Christ to students at Central Washington University. You nurture the literary growth of migrant children through Literacy Wagon. By Migrant Ministry, you reach people who could not otherwise attend Mass or receive the sacraments. You enable the Spanish and English communities to grow closer together through joint programs such as *Magnificat*. You contribute to the development of our parish Religious Education staff and volunteers. You provide the opportunity for our parish to receive a rebate to use locally. You are the face of Christ for others!

The Octave Day of Christmas, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. We closed out the Christmas Octave—the eight days following the birth of Christ—with a celebration honoring Mary as the Mother of God. On the same day, we also commemorated World Day of Peace. I am grateful to those whose work enhanced our vigil and holy day liturgies. We continue to ask Our Lady's blessing on our diocese and on Saint Joseph Parish in particular.

Week Ahead

Religious Education— Religious Education families will each be given the name of a seminarian to keep in prayer for the month of January in preparation for lesson four of the program: vocations and Holy Orders. I am grateful to Susan Marsh and all the volunteers for this initiative. At present we have 11 seminarians studying for the Diocese of Yakima. Please keep these men in your prayers as they continue to discern the will of God for their lives.

Faith Formation—The Diocese of Yakima faith formation team invites us to participate in the *Magnificat* program this year. This is a program of faith formation for all people who want to know more about the Catholic faith. Participants will learn the fundamentals through theology classes taught by Bishop Joseph Tyson and Father Dan Steele. The next class will be Thursday, February 4, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, classes will be conducted on Zoom. Please check the diocesan website for more information.

On the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the lectionary included a reading from the book of Numbers 6:22-27 which contains my favorite blessing. As we begin this New Year, 2021, I send this blessing to all of you:

The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!