

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 12, 2020

Week Behind

Daily Meditations by Father Riccardo—The daily Gospel meditations shown on Facebook and YouTube by Father Riccardo Keolker will be replaced by live-streaming the 8:30 am daily Masses on Mondays through Fridays. Each weekday, you will have the opportunity to hear the daily Gospel as well as the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm and a homily by one of five priests: Fathers Reilly, Keolker, Vogl, Cesar, or me. Father Keolker will still do Wednesday presentations on the Scriptures for upcoming Sundays, sometimes joined by invited guests such as Father Cesar and/or me. Thank you so much, Father Riccardo, for all the time and work you spent on your daily Gospel presentations. We are most grateful that the Wednesday presentations will continue. And thanks to Nancy Trinidad, who records the presentations and helps Father Riccardo (and all of us) behind the scenes.

Yard Sale Storage – Even though we have been limited to receiving donations by appointment only during COVID 19, our Yard Sale workers are still busy. Thank you, generous parishioners, who donate appliances, other household goods, clothes, and furniture. Thank you, Women of Saint Joseph, who have been dedicated to this community service and fundraiser for many years. And special thanks, Teresa Thomas, who leads the Yard Sale committee, for organizing the storage building and keeping things nice and neat.

Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe--- The novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe (patron saint of the Americas) began December 3 and continued through December 11 at 6:30 pm. During the novena Father Cesar and I celebrated the Holy Eucharist and gave small talks about Mary and Joseph using the book *Rejoice! Advent Meditations with the Holy Family*. Thanks to our Music Director, Giovanni Liguori, and all the cantors for enhancing the beauty of the novena with their talents.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—On Saturday, **December 12**, we began the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Las Mañanitas at 4:00 a.m. followed by morning Mass at 5:00 a.m. in the Big Church. Due to the 200-person restriction in the Big Church, we celebrated a simultaneous Mass in Dillon Hall. We are grateful to our deacons and all the volunteers who every year organize this celebration. We continue to ask Our Lady's blessing on the Church throughout the Americas and on Saint Joseph Parish in particular.

Montessori Preschool and Children’s Center--The Prepares Program need your help. Prepares in Benton City needs the following items for moms and future families: toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, baby formula (Azul brand is requested), hats, gloves, mittens, sizes 4, 5 and 6 diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, etc. Donations will be accepted through December 18. Please place your donations in the crib outside Building C. If you have any questions, contact Teacher Leslie at lesliehieb@sjske.org or 509-586-0481. Thank you! The Lord truly blesses us with the support of generous men and women in our faith community.

Live-streaming Masses—One talent that is often overlooked is the expertise involved in live-streaming our liturgies on Facebook and YouTube. The video is important, but the audio is critical because, if people cannot hear well, it does not matter how great the video is. Many thanks to Deacon Herman who has spent hours helping us with the sound and video in the Big Church and now in the Small Church too. We appreciate everything you do, Deacon Herman.

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 280 families have pledged (\$110,212.00.) Please help us reach our goal! Please return your ACA pledges as soon as possible. Thank you for your contribution.

Week ahead

Pope Francis proclaims “Year of Saint Joseph”— In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, and a father in the shadows. The Letter marks 150 years since Blessed Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” which began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 extending to the same feast in 2021. “My desire to do the year of Saint Joseph increased during the months of the pandemic,” Pope Francis writes, noting that many people, like Saint Joseph, have made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect others. At the conclusion of his Letter, the Pope adds another prayer to Saint Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Starting Monday, December 14, we will be praying this prayer right before the Prayer after Communion.