

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: January 9, 2021

Week Behind

Update on the Re-keying Project of Saint Joseph's Buildings—All locks in the Small Church, the Big Church, Dillon Hall, and the Rectory have been changed to the new master key system. Most exterior doors have now been re-keyed. Digital locks have been installed at the entrances to the north vestibule and the parents' room of the Small Church and at the Adoration Chapel. The re-keyed locks for the interior doors have been installed. The new digital locks are connected to the network so that they can be managed remotely, better enabling us to add or remove codes for individuals, rather than using shared codes as we do today. Wi-Fi coverage to the Small and Big Churches was inadequate to control the locks, so we ordered equipment to extend our network to the Small Church and to improve coverage in the Big Church and Dillon Hall. Thanks to Jerry Johnson for his diligent work on this project.

Visiting Priest---On Monday, January 4, Father Richard Sedlacek celebrated a funeral Mass for one of our parishioners. In addition, on Friday, January 8, he concelebrated the funeral Mass of a long-time parishioner, Joe Gallegos. Thank you to Fr. Richard for such great service to our parish.

A Baby Bottle Campaign— This Saturday, January 9 and Sunday, January 10, we begin a baby bottle campaign for Hope Medical of Washington! If you are not aware, Hope Medical is a faith-based, non-profit medical clinic that is funded entirely through the generous gifts of donors. Since opening for business four years ago, Hope Medical has provided free pregnancy tests, ultrasound verifications, guided decision-making, and pregnancy support to hundreds of women. In 2019 alone the clinic performed nearly 300 pregnancy tests and 180 ultrasounds. Did you know that 80% of abortion-minded women who see their babies in ultrasound images will choose life? Thank you, Jerry Johnson, for coordinating this fundraiser.

Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of the Unborn— Friday, January 22, is a day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops recommends a 9-day Novena for Life beginning January 21 and ending January 29. You can find material for the Novena in the USCCB website. In addition, I take this opportunity to call our community to observe Friday, January 22, as a day of penitential practices of prayer, fasting and giving alms. We pray for full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and in penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults— On Sunday, January 10, we welcome into our Catholic community 3 catechumens and 12 candidates for full communion. Each year on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil, adult catechumens are baptized into the Catholic faith and candidates

received into full communion. Prior to beginning the process of becoming a Christian, an individual has a conversation with the priest or the director of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The person, known as an “inquirer,” may seek acceptance through the Rite of Acceptance or Welcoming. During this rite a catechumen stands within the parish community and states that he or she wants to become a baptized member of the Catholic Church or a candidate states that he or she wants to receive the sacraments of Communion and Confirmation. Thanks to Amalia del Pozo, Susan Marsh, and all the volunteers who help these individuals come to knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Week Ahead

Father Felipe Pulido- On Monday, January 11, I will be flying from Pasco to Mexico City for the annual visit to the seminarians at the Seminario Hispano de Santa María de Guadalupe. You might be wondering why I am going to Mexico City during this time of the year. As the Director of Vocations in the Diocese of Yakima, I supervise seminarians and I attend their annual evaluations. Presently we have three seminarians studying in Mexico City. Every year during ordination ceremonies Bishop Tyson asks me if I find the candidates for Holy Orders worthy and I have to be able to testify that I do. Therefore, I need to be informed by the rector of the seminary of the progress of a seminarian. By visiting the seminary, talking to the rector, and reviewing the evaluations, I will be able to tell the bishop, “This candidate is ready, or this candidate is not.” I will be in Mexico City from January 11 to January 18. During this visit, I will be present for the ordination of one of our seminarians, Eduardo Chavez, to the transitional diaconate. Bishop Joseph Tyson will ordain Mr. Chavez at the Seminario Hispano in Mexico City. The Rite of Ordination to Holy Orders will be livestreamed on the seminary’s Facebook page on Saturday, January 16 at 3:00pm. Then I will be taking 11 days’ vacation on the coast of Nayarit Mexico with my aunt Consuelo. I will be returning Friday, January 29. Upon my arrival home, I will be taking a COVID test and quarantining for 7 days. I expect to be able to celebrate Masses the first weekend in February.

I am very fortunate to have Fathers Reilly, Vogl, Riccardo, and Cesar and all the deacons helping during this time. I will be available to the office staff by phone in case of any emergencies.

I will not be able to write weekly letters during my time away. I will resume writing letters the first week in February.

Please keep me in your prayers.

Father Felipe