

## **Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

February 13, 2021

## **Week Behind**

**COVID 19 Update**— During the month of January, the State of Washington posted updated guidance for religious services under the new two-phase reopening plan. The new guidelines permit live music and performances so long as individuals wear face coverings and adhere to physical distancing requirements. Soloist singers are permitted to sing during the service without a mask provided that the individual maintains 15 feet of physical distancing. I want to thank Giovanni and all the cantors who enhance our liturgies with their beautiful voices.

**REME HALO Air Purifier**— On Monday, January 8, Arturo installed a high-tech device in the air conditioning system of the Big Church. This product, REME HALO, actively purifies the air and kills bacteria and viruses. With this technology, the air circulating in the Big Church is being cleansed of any virus. The device works by producing hydroperoxide plasma and uses ultraviolet light to purify surfaces and the air inside our church building. Thanks to all the volunteers who stay after each Mass to clean the church. Please know that your help is really appreciated.

**Pre-marriage Classes**— On Friday, February 12, we began our first in-person pre-marriage course in Dillon Hall. Seventeen couples attended the English language session and seventeen more attended the Spanish language session the next day. Assisting couples in the development of sound communication skills is at the heart of this program. Couples share common experiences and issues within their relationships. Areas explored are: Faith, Fair Fighting (communication), Finances, Family, Fertility. The program aims to raise awareness of the couples' relationship strengths and encourages them to discuss some of the critical and practical issues surrounding the marriage commitment. My hope is that the classes will have very positive effects on the couples' relationships now and in their future married lives. Thanks to Father Cesar; Deacons Bill, Gustavo, Herman, Juan, and Edilberto; Joe Barajas; and all the volunteers who will be helping us during the classes.

**Knights of Columbus**—On Saturday, February 13, the Knights of Columbus deep-cleaned Dillon Hall's kitchen so that it will be ready for the first Drive-through Fish Fry dinner on Friday, February 19. I thank the Knights for their continuing support of the parish and the larger community.

**The 2021 Statewide Bishops' PREPARES Valentine Appeal**—This Valentine's Day, we are asked to reach out in love to help young families who have chosen life but are struggling to raise their children. PREPARES is a parish-based volunteer program, initiated by the bishops of our state, to assist young families in need during the first five years of their children's lives. It is their vision that every parish would have the PREPARES ministry to assist pregnant women and families who

do not have adequate resources. There are currently 167 parishes statewide that are actively providing this ministry with the help of nearly 1,000 volunteers. Nearly 10,000 women and families have been helped over the past six years through the efforts of parish volunteers and PREPARES statewide coordinators. **Here in Saint Joseph Parish**, we have a very active PREPARES ministry with a number of dedicated volunteers who distribute diapers, food, clothing, and other essential needs to those who seek our help. Volunteers also act as mentors to mothers and fathers in need. We are most grateful for the services these dedicated parishioners provide to this important ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous donations of parishioners. From those who cannot assist directly, PREPARES always welcomes financial contributions. This year the bishops of the state are asking the faithful to *OPEN THEIR HEARTS to this pro-life, pro-family initiative and contribute to the Valentine PREPARES Appeal*. The Catholic faithful are urged to respond to the Bishops' Valentine Appeal that you will receive in the mail **or** to go on-line to make donations at **PREPARESforlife.org**. Those of you attending Mass in person will find envelopes and flyers in the entry of the Big Church.

## Week Ahead

**Parish Office**—On Tuesday, February 16, our office will be open to limited numbers of people for the first time since March, 2020. If you want to see a priest or to come in person for a particular sacramental need, please come to the office. You can make appointments or just walk in. I want to thank the parish staff for working really hard the last few days to make our office building inviting and clean. Welcome back!

**Training Volunteers**— On Tuesday, February 16, at 6:30 pm in Dillon Hall we will be hosting a special training for volunteers who are helping us before during and after Mass. If you would like to volunteer for this special service, please come to the meeting this Tuesday.

**Ash Wednesday**—On Wednesday, February 17, we will begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence when Catholic Christians are directed not to eat meat or between meals. Masses and sprinkling of ashes will be at 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:05 pm, 5:30 pm (English) and 7:00 pm (Spanish), all in the Big Church. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and with one another through the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I invite you to participate in one of these liturgical celebrations in person or on-line. In addition, every Friday during Lent beginning Friday, February 19, we will be praying the Stations of the Cross in English at 5:30 pm and 6:30 in Spanish in the Big Church.

Happy Lenten Season