

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: April 10, 2021

Week Behind

Father Larry Reilly — Our dear Father Larry Reilly had an automobile accident on April 2, 2021 in Kennewick. He was flown by helicopter to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane. A few parishioners drove to Spokane to see him, and he looked stable. On Tuesday, April 6, Father Reilly returned home. He is recovering from a broken clavicle and three broken ribs, but he is in good spirits. Let us keep him in our prayers as we continue to pray for all our parishioners who are ill or injured.

Deacon Bill Mich — On Wednesday, March 31, Deacon Bill had neck surgery. He experienced problems with walking due to a nerve issue. The recommended physical therapy is in-patient rehab for two weeks. He very much appreciates your prayers.

Volunteers — Thank you, all volunteers who participated in the Holy Triduum. Our liturgies were enhanced by the participation of deacons, acolytes, altar servers, ushers, and musicians as well as those who produced the Scripture booklets. Special thanks to Liliana Rangel, Marlene Landeros, and Liliana Villaseñor for decorating both the Small and Big Churches so beautifully. Our parish community is very grateful to all who shared their time and talents.

Bishop Joseph Tyson— On Thursday, April 8, Bishop Joseph Tyson met with the priests from the Benton County Deanery. We had lunch with the Bishop, and he met with each of us individually. Please keep Bishop Tyson and all the clergy in your prayers.

Confirmation— On Saturday, April 10, Bishop Tyson confirmed more than 100 students in our parish! I want to express my sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who assisted with the Confirmation programs in Spanish and English. I had the opportunity to visit the classrooms, and the young men and women were well-prepared to receive the sacrament.

COVID 19 Vaccines — We received prayer cards and bookmarks from our Diocese to be distributed on Sunday, April 11. These will help us promote vaccinations and pray for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us pray so that we can all work together to promote the common good of our community through the mass vaccination efforts underway. This effort will also help us re-open our parishes, schools, and agencies more fully. If you have any questions or concerns about the vaccines, please read the following: On March 2, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine recently approved for use in the United States. "The approval of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine for use in the United States again raises questions about the moral

permissibility of using vaccines developed, tested, and/or produced with the help of abortion-derived cell lines. Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines raised concerns because an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them, but not in their production. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, was developed, tested, and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines raising additional moral concerns. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has judged that *'when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.'* However, if one can choose among equally-safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's. *While we should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies stop using abortion-derived cell lines, given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good.*"

Parish Staff — Two of our staff members have been infected with COVID-19 recently. I am keenly aware that we are all tired of COVID-19 protocols. Some parishioners are physically and emotionally exhausted. But, please, let us keep wearing our masks and practicing social distancing when we are in public areas and especially when we are at Mass and church events. We are almost there. If you are not vaccinated yet, I encourage you to get vaccinated so that we all will be protected and safe.

Week Ahead

Catholic Engaged Encounter — In collaboration with other dioceses, Catholic Engaged Encounter of Central Washington is offering a virtual marriage preparation retreat April 16-18. Please pray for its success. The retreat will encourage couples to share honest and intensive communication about their future lives together. To register, please call Paul and Pegi Ackerman at 509-575-4931. For more information, please visit <http://ecentralwa.org/>

Chaplaincy Health Care — On Wednesday, April 14, I will be participating in a panel discussion for clergy and lay leaders from our community based on the Bible verse Micah 6:8: *You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.* The question guiding the discussion will be: What does the Lord require of me during the time of the pandemic? Thanks to Timothy J. Ledbetter, the chaplain supervisor at Chaplaincy Health Care, for this opportunity and for the good programs he has developed for families, especially those who struggle with mental illnesses.