

## **Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: September 11, 2020

## **Week Behind**

**Saint Joseph Catholic School** – On Tuesday, September 7, eighth grade students from our school began a 3-day retreat at Lutherhaven Camp on the shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene. The students were able to experience God in nature and in one another. The goal of the retreat was for the young people to see the importance of acting upon the words of God and following His will for their lives. I was able to be with them one full day. I celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist and exposed the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks to Catherine Valiant, our eighth-grade teacher, who led the retreat and to the parents who helped her.

**Parish Survey** – Thank you for participating in the Parish Survey. The Parish Council and I will use your responses to develop a vision and goals for our parish for the next five years. At present, we have about 700 responses. We want to hear from everyone! If you have not yet responded to this brief survey, please log on to our website ([stjoseph-kennewick.org](http://stjoseph-kennewick.org)) Under the photo of the statue of St. Joseph, see the heading “Vision and Goals Survey” and click on the prompt to take the survey in either English or Spanish or you can get a hard copy from the foyer.

**Welcoming Committee** – Our Welcoming Committee continues with their initiative to reach out to registered parishioners. Expect a phone call in the next few weeks to see how you and your family are doing. They will also request prayer intentions for which you would like the priests’ and community’s intercession. I thank the committee members for their time and effort to welcome people back to active participation in the parish. If you are not registered in our parish yet, please do so on our parish website ([stjoseph-kennewick.org](http://stjoseph-kennewick.org))

**Annual Catholic Appeal 2021** – Our parish goal for the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal is \$147,114.00 - **The amount pledged for this year is \$150,658.50 and the amount collected so far is \$133,523.67. Our ACA donors number 430 individuals and families.** Thank you for your donations to the ACA. If you have not fulfilled your pledges this year, you have until the end of October. We are \$13,591.00 dollars short. We are almost there! Thank you for your generosity.

**Adoration Chapel** – We care about your health and the health of the whole St. Joseph Parish community. Consequently, we have made a very difficult decision: as of Sunday, September 12, visitors will once again be restricted from the Adoration Chapel. We want to ensure that scheduled adorers will be able to maintain Perpetual Adoration despite the continuing presence of the COVID virus among us and the oncoming cold and flu season. The Small Church, which allows for social distancing, will be open for personal prayer from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

## Week Ahead

**Parish Yard Sale** – On Monday, September 13, the Women of Saint Joseph will start setting up for the annual Fall Yard Sale that will take place on Friday, September 17, and Saturday, September 18. They need volunteers to help set up and work during the Yard Sale. This event is a great fundraiser that benefits our parish and promotes community with our neighbors. Please know that we will follow all the guidelines and protocols given by the Benton County Health Department and the Diocese of Yakima. I hope you can participate. I thank all the volunteers and those people who have been donated items throughout the year.

**RCIA** – RCIA is an abbreviation for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is the process by which non-Catholics enter the Catholic Faith. To become a Catholic, one needs to understand the teachings of the Church, believe in those teachings, and be baptized in the Catholic faith. On Monday, September 13, the RCIA program in English will begin. In October we will begin the RCIA in Spanish. If you or anyone in your family needs the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion, this program is for you. If you have already been baptized and were raised in a different faith community, but want to become Catholic, RCIA is for you as well. Presently, we have about 35 people registered for the English and Spanish programs. Again, thank you, Amalia del Pozo and Susan Marsh, for organizing the RCIA programs.

**Catechetical Sunday** – On Sunday, September 19, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday with the theme “Say the Word and my soul shall be healed.” This year’s theme acknowledges that our world is in need of healing. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity to thank our catechists for the work they do. We have about 900 students who receive catechesis in our church buildings: more than 300 students in our Catholic school and more than 600 students in our English and Spanish religious education programs. We need to show our appreciation for our schoolteachers and our parish catechists who share their time and talents to pass on the Catholic faith to the next generation. Therefore, on September 19, at the 11:00 am and 1:00 pm Masses we will acknowledge all our teachers and pray for them.

Catechetical Sunday will also provide an opportunity for catechists to reflect on their calls to share and live out their faith. All catechists will be called forward to be commissioned for their ministry during the Eucharistic liturgy. The catechists will be introduced and will receive a special blessing. If you are a catechist, either at the school or in one of the Religious Education programs, please come to the 11:00 am or the 1:00 pm Masses next Sunday, September 19.