

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: September 4, 2021

Week Behind

New Face Covering Requirements -- I want to remind you that as of Monday, August 23, all parishioners are required to wear suitable face coverings when indoors in our buildings due to the substantial rise in COVID case counts caused by the Delta variant. This requirement applies to all, regardless of vaccination status, including those who are fully-vaccinated. For certain exceptions, please visit the dioceseyakima.org website.

Fundraisers for the Confirmation Class Retreat – On Sunday, August 29, our Confirmation class 2022 had a fundraiser for their Annual Retreat. On behalf of ALL the Confirmation candidates, I thank you for the generous support you gave to our youth, who will be going on retreat at the end of October. Popsicle sales raised a little over \$400 and the 50/50 Raffle tickets raised about \$1600 so far. Raffle tickets are still available through Susan Marsh in the Parish Office and through many of our candidates who may be reaching out to you! Please keep our Confirmation class in your prayers.

Parish Survey -- On Sunday, August 29, Father Cesar and I started to promote the parish survey. The survey will help the parish council and me develop a vision and goals for our parish for the next five years. I hope that all parishioners participate in the survey. For the next two weeks the link to do the survey will be on our Facebook page, our website, and I will email the link to the survey to our parishioners. If you have not done the survey here is the link--
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7HGYYW>

A New Academic Year – On Monday, August 30, our school began the new academic year with a prayer and blessing by Father Cesar. The school community welcomed more than 98 new students. These include 38 in grades K through 8 and 60 new children in preschool. The school year begins with a total enrollment of 304 students in preschool and grades K through 8, as well as numerous students for the Montessori program. I am grateful to Perry Kelly, principal; Trisha Osborn, Children's Center coordinator, all our teachers and school volunteers who worked hard to welcome all students and ease the transition for the new children.

Welcoming Committee – On Tuesday, August 31, our Welcoming Committee met to start a phone call marathon contacting parishioners. Expect a phone call in the next few weeks to see how you and your family are doing and if you have any prayer requests for the priests and the community. I thank the committee members for their hard work on this initiative to welcome people back to active participation in the parish.

Training for Teaching Virtus to Children – On Wednesday, September 1, as part of their continuing education on how to teach children about safe environment, 40 Religious Education teachers from our parish undertook the Virtus Program training: “Protecting God’s Children.” Article 12 of the Dallas Charter and the Essential Norms calls us to this instruction, motivated by Christ’s love and our deep concern for all our young people who participate each year in our programs. I want to thank Amalia Del Pozo and Susan Marsh for choosing Religious Education teachers from our community and ensuring their participation in this required training.

The PAC- School Gym –Last week a family from our school community painted the interior of the PAC. The gym looks amazing! One of our future projects is to paint the outside and update the AC system and the kitchen. We are grateful to Daniel Marquina, Patricia Arias DeDios, Laura Marquina and David Osorio for donating their time and talent to paint the inside of the gym.

Week Ahead

Healing Light retreat – On Sunday, September 5, you will find pamphlets in the foyer with information about the Healing Light retreat. The retreat will take place in the Small Church on Saturday, October 1, beginning with Mass at 8:30 am. In this retreat the participants will find a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Moreover it will offer retreatants a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing.

Religious Education – On Tuesday, September 7, the Religious Education program in Spanish will begin with an orientation program for students and parents. We are so happy to welcome more than 300 students this year. We will have about 200 students preparing for First Confession and First Communion and about 100 students for Confirmation. The English program will have its orientation day on Sunday, September 26 at 4:00pm. We are also expecting about 250 students. I am grateful to Amalia del Pozo and Susan Marsh and all the volunteers who help pass the faith to the next generation of Catholics.