

## **Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: October 16, 2021

## **Week Behind**

**The Synod of Bishops on Synodality** – Last Sunday Pope Francis officially opened the preparation process for the 2023 Synod of Bishops on Synodality which will explore and envision how the universal Church might better walk together into the future. Click on the following links for more information about the celebration with the Holy Father: [Walking Together on the Same Road](#) This coming Sunday Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, Bishop Joseph Tyson will open the diocesan phase of the synodal process with special Masses at 11:00 am in English and 1:00 pm in Spanish. All are invited, and we are encouraging special prayers at all the Masses for the success of the Synod process.

**PREPARES Ministry** -- In October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect for Life month. PREPARES ministry helps so many women and men choose life and assists them to raise their children. Here at Saint Joseph Parish in Kennewick, we have a very active PREPARES ministry with 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. Despite the pandemic, our PREPARES ministry has continued to assist many families in the Tri-Cities.

**Traveling Crucifixes** -- The Traveling Crucifixes continue to rotate among parishioners' households for one week beginning after the 9:00 am and 1:00 pm Masses. I thank all the parishioners who have prayed for vocations during the last two months. When parishioners take the crucifixes to their homes as focal points for daily prayer, the aim is to pray for vocations and to help young men and woman consider a priestly or religious vocation. As we all know, vocations begin at home with prayer. Thanks to the Serra Club of the Tri Cities for providing the Traveling Crucifixes and promoting this beautiful ministry.

**Women of Saint Joseph Ministry** -- On Wednesday, October 13, the Women of Saint Joseph had their monthly meeting where they decided to provide the funds to purchase a much-needed lawn mower. Deacon Arturo will be happy about that purchase! He has been mowing the lawn with an old machine and it takes him a long time to finish. In addition, the Women of Saint Joseph purchased a new heating/AC unit for the PAC. For the last year the PAC has only had one operating unit to provide heat and AC for the gym. The new unit will reduce the cost of electricity and better distribute heat and air conditioning in the PAC. Many thanks to the Women of Saint Joseph for their generous gifts to the parish and school.

**FUN RUN at Saint Joseph Catholic School** -- On Wednesday, October 13, we had our school's annual FUN RUN event. All the students from pre-school to grade 8 participated in the Fun Run. Thanks to all the parents, teachers and volunteers who organized such a wonderful fundraiser

for the school. I was able to complete five laps, unfortunately, Fr. Cesar was not able to join us, he was celebrating a funeral Mass. When the pledges have been collected, the event will have raised more than \$37,000! Job well done, students! Thank you, donors!

**Listening Sessions** – On Thursday, October 14, parish listening sessions completed the last part of the preparation for formulating the 5-year pastoral plan for the parish. Thanks to all the people who participated in the sessions. Our community was well-represented. Once we gather all the data from the survey and listening sessions, the Parish Council and I will develop a 5-year pastoral plan for our parish. Thank you, everyone, for your participation in this process. Saint Joseph, pray for us!

**Men's Retreat** –On Saturday, October 16, Bishop Joseph Tyson gave a wonderful retreat on the Parable of the Prodigal Son for the Year of Saint Joseph. The parish staff worked hard to organize the retreat. I thank the staff and all the men who attended the retreat. It was a great success.

**Sunday Liturgy Reflections** -- Father Riccardo Keolker continues to give great reflections on the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings every Wednesday at 9:00 am, live on our Facebook page. He also posts Prayer and Pondering Points for each day's readings. Other parishes in our diocese have picked up on Father Riccardo's Sunday reflections and are posting them on their parish Facebook pages. We will not be able to have Bible Study this year, but Father Riccardo's work provides us great resources to prepare for Sunday Mass. Hopefully, we can resume Bible Studies next year as well.

### **Week Ahead**

**October, the Month of the Rosary** -- Please continue to pray the rosary during the month of October:

1. for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, and witnesses of lives with the flavor of the Gospel.
2. for an end of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. for the success of the five-year pastoral plan in our parish.
4. for the protection of life from the moment of conception to natural death and the dignity of the human person.