

## **Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: October 23, 2021

## **Week Behind**

**Saint Joseph's Catholic School** -- On Monday, October 17, a Fall Harvest party was celebrated outside the Montessori classrooms for the preschool kids. This was a great way to get children and teachers together to enjoy the season. This year the party featured beautiful decorations and farm animals such as goats, bunnies, chickens, and horses. Father Cesar blessed the event with prayer and the children had a wonderful time on a lovely fall day. Thanks to all the teachers who arranged this great event for the kids. Special thanks to teacher Janet Bambock for getting all the pumpkins for the preschool and K-8 students.

**Religious Education in English** – Susan Marsh is no longer on our parish staff. We thank her for all she has done for the parish. She will be greatly missed! Father Cesar, together with the RCIA core team, will be leading the RCIA program for the remainder of their preparation. The Confirmation core team and I will be leading the Confirmation classes, and both Father Cesar and I will oversee the Religious Education program on Wednesdays. In addition, I will be leading the “Growing Up Catholic” sessions for children who are preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion and their parents. This will be a great opportunity for Father Cesar and me to become better acquainted with the families of our parish and school.

**Listening Sessions and Parish Survey** – On Thursday, October 21, the Parish Council and I had a Zoom meeting with Jeff Korgen. In this meeting we looked at the outcomes of the survey and listening sessions. One of the words most frequently heard during the listening sessions was *unity*. As we move forward to develop our 5-year pastoral plan, I will be consulting with the Parish Council and other parish leaders on how we can grow in our unity as Christian brothers and sisters.

## **Week Ahead**

**Religious Education** -- On Wednesday, October 27, we will not be having Religious Education classes due to teacher and parent conferences in the school. We will resume classes the following Wednesday, November 3, 2021. Thank you for your patience.

**Virtual Cornerstone Catholic Conference** – You are invited to attend the virtual Cornerstone Catholic Conference presented by the Bishops of Washington State on October 29-30. The theme of the biennial conference is “Forming Disciples for Life and Justice.” Registration and attendance are free. For more information and schedule, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2y2mr2h3>. If you have any questions, please contact Valeria Flores at 509-965-7117 or via email [valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:valeria.flores@yakimadiocese.org).

As we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas, here are some future liturgies and events to keep in mind:

1. November 1, All Saints' Day, we will be offering the following Masses: 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (school Mass), 12:05 pm 5:30 pm in English and 7:00 pm in Spanish. Join us for the blessing of the new Saint Joseph statue after the 8:30 am, 5:30 pm, and 7:00 pm Masses.
2. We are cautiously optimistic that the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation will end on the first Sunday of Advent. Those with health concerns, which could include the fear of contracting COVID, should be assured that it would not be a serious sin for them to miss Mass, but they should continue to keep Sundays holy through their lives of prayer and with the help of livestreamed services. Ending the dispensation should be seen as an expression of confident hope in the future.
3. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, December 8, is a holy day of obligation. We will be offering the following Masses: 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (school Mass), 12:05 pm 5:30 pm in English and 7:00 pm in Spanish The obligation can also be satisfied by attendance at Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (transferred this year from Sunday, December 12, to Monday, December 13, in our diocese.)
4. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is Saturday, January 1, 2022, with Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm celebrated Friday, December 31. Because this solemnity falls on a Saturday, it is not a holy day of obligation. Nonetheless, in our parish we will have a 9:00 am Mass in English and an 11:00 am Mass in Spanish on January 1. The 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm evening Masses on that Saturday will be for the Vigil of the Epiphany, on Sunday, January 2. The Christmas Season ends Sunday, January 9, 2022, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.