**Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 11, 2021

**Week Behind**

**New Religious Education Coordinator** – On Tuesday, December 7, I hired Doris Rosenow as the new Religious Education Coordinator for the program in English. Doris comes to us from Moses Lake, and she is very experienced in working with children and youth. She will help us finish the school year as we prepare for the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Her primary responsibility will be to coordinate and oversee the parish elementary Religious Education program and students’ preparation for First Communion and First Reconciliation. A secondary responsibility will be to offer general support to the Confirmation program. Thank you, Doris, for helping us finish the school year. We welcome Doris Rosenow to our parish and to our parish staff.

**80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor --** Tuesday, December 7, marked the tragic day when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. The United States then joined the Allied nations in defense of freedom and the safety of our people and those of other nations. This anniversary is a reminder that we need to pray constantly for peace in our nation and in the world. Our Lady of Peace, pray for us.

**Pandemic –** I remind everyone that wearing masks in our Church, School, and Office buildings is required. Please be considerate of all our people, from the most mature to infants and children. If you are ill, taking care of someone who is sick, have a weak immune system, or are otherwise unable to join us, please stay home and watch our livestreamed Masses. New COVID variants remind us that the pandemic is continuing. There is still danger of spreading the disease.

**Annual Catholic Appeal** – There is still time to share in the ministry of the “larger Church” and our Bishop through the ACA. Extra pledge envelopes are in the vestibule. Thank you to all who have responded and those who will.

**The Giving Tree –** We continue our annual effort to relieve the needs of our local people by collecting and distributing money and gift cards through our Giving Tree ministry. I thank all the people who have donated to this ministry.

**Catholic Charities** **Serving Central Washington** – Last Sunday we welcomed Cindy Sauceda from Catholic Charities. She reminded us of our opportunity to share the mission of Catholic Charities of Central Washington through our donations to the Christmas collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

**Reconciliation** – Because we are unable to have our traditional Advent communal celebrations of Reconciliation, Father Cesar and I will be available to hear confessions during Advent by appointment. Furthermore, we will start hearing confessions on Saturdays at 3:30 pm. We remind everyone that confession is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas. Please join us by appointment or on Saturday at 3:30 pm except on Saturday, December 25.

**Volunteers –** A group of volunteers meets once a week to count the Sunday collection. I am grateful to all who donate their time to this important task. In addition, I thank Tina Daily who provides training and organization to new volunteers when they count the weekend donations.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe –** I thank the different ministries of our parish who participated in the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning December 3 and ending December 12. Special thanks to the Guadalupanas and to all the people who participated on the evening of December 11. It was a great success. Every year this celebration helps many families come closer to Christ and prepare their hearts for His birth.

**Week Ahead**

***Growing Up Catholic* Program** – On Tuesday, December 14, about 24 children will experience the mercy and love of God through the Sacrament of Penance. I am grateful to the Religious Education volunteers with special thanks to Dani Muzatko and her teenage kids who have been setting up and cleaning up for the *Growing Up Catholic* program. A job well done!

**Staff Lunch at Dillon Hall** – On Friday, December 17, Saint Joseph School, Children’s Center, and Parish Office staff members will enjoy their annual pre-Christmas gathering beginning at noon with midday prayer and lunch in Dillon Hall. This is always an occasion of great joy and thanksgiving among our staff members. I give special thanks to Perry Kelly, our school principal; Trisha Osborn, our Children’s Center coordinator; and all the staff members of the Parish Office, School, and Children’s Center who minister to parishioners, students, and parents with great patience and love. My God bless us all as we prepare for Christmas.

**Las Posadas** – On Friday, December 17, beginning at 7:00 pm we will celebrate one posada in Dillon Hall. Everyone is invited to this traditional Hispanic celebration re-enacting Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging before the birth of Jesus. There will be fellowship, Christmas carols, pinatas, and goodie bags.

**Father Riccardo Keolker** – On Saturday, December 18, our beloved Father Riccardo will be celebrating the 58th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Father Riccardo is a great mentor for many priests in our diocese and he dedicates himself to several ministries at Saint Joseph Parish. He helps with RCIA, he celebrates weekday and Sunday Masses, and he explains so much about the upcoming Sundays’ Scripture readings on Wednesdays via Facebook. Father Riccardo’s commitment to his vocation is a constant reminder that we are called to fully dedicate ourselves to our vocations in life. On behalf of the parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish, I thank you, Father Riccardo, for everything you do for us. Ad multos annos!