**Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 18, 2021

**Week Behind**

**Knights of Columbus** — A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus who spent time in the cold and wind over the last two and a half weeks selling Christmas trees. This is a good way to promote the real meaning of Christmas in our community. We are grateful for all their hard work to support Catholic Christian values in our society.

**The Serra Club of the Tri-Cities** – On Tuesday, December 14, our Tri Cities Serra Club had a dinner to celebrate the upcoming Christmas Season and to honor priests from the Tri-Cities. I especially thank Dick and Celine Petersen for their efforts in our parish to celebrate the service of our priests. The Serra Club of the Tri-Cities involves members from six local parishes. Their main objectives are to pray for, foster, promote, and support vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to develop appreciation of the priesthood and of all religious vocations in the Church. In our parish and in St. Patrick and Christ the King parishes, members have provided and are coordinating the traveling vocation crucifixes which encourage families to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**Religious Education –** Last Wednesday, December 15 and Saturday December 18, the last Religious Education classes of 2021 were held. We will resume regular classes on Wednesday, January 5, and Saturday, January 8. I want to thank Amalia Del Pozo and Doris Rosenow who coordinate the Spanish and English programs, respectively, and all the volunteers who help with the Religious Education programs in our Parish. May God reward your service in this beautiful ministry.

**Children’s Christmas Program** – The week of December 13, the preschool classes of Saint Joseph School took turns performing their Nativity and choral pageants in the Big Church. This special tradition in our parish reminds us of the real reason for the season—the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Annual Catholic Appeal** – Today I ask you to prayerfully discern your response to this essential appeal, which is an opportunity to share more fully in the mission of the larger Church. We are the Church, not only of Saint Joseph Parish, but also of the Diocese of Yakima. We need everyone to have a share in this ministry to assist the many smaller parishes of our diocese, to foster religious education for children and adults, to teach deacons and priests to better serve our people, to reach out to the poor and needy, to assist our Catholic schools, to help in local emergencies and worldwide crises, and to support Bishop Tyson and his staff in their many responsibilities. Please turn your pledge cards in as soon as possible. (Extras are in the vestibule.) Our goal is that everyone will have a share in these ministries and efforts!

**Scam Text --** Some of you have been receiving a text, supposedly from me, that says, “I need a favor from you. Please kindly text me back as soon as possible.” I am not the sender of this text. Do not reply to the text. If you receive this text, please disregard it and delete it.

**Week Ahead**

**Christmas Decoration of the Big Church** – On Monday, December 21, our volunteers will gather to decorate our Big Church for the Christmas season. I thank all of them for helping us prepare for Christmas in such a beautiful way. This season is always a time of great joy and thanksgiving in our community. May God bless us all as we prepare for Christmas.

**Catholic Charities --** On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day your offerings will support the work of Catholic Charities of Central Washington. Catholic Charities serves those most in need throughout the lifecycle – from expectant mothers and families with young children to grandparents raising their grandchildren and the elderly struggling to live independently. To learn more about the Catholic Charities network of services, visit [www.catholiccharitiescw.org](http://www.catholiccharitiescw.org).

**Mike Palmieri --** After three years of discernment and study to become a deacon, Mike Palmieri will be installed as a Lector on Sunday, December 26, 2021. The Lectorate is the first stage in the process of ordination to the diaconate. We expect that Mike will be installed as an Acolyte during Lent and ordained a deacon sometime during the summer or early fall. We are grateful to the leaders of the Diaconate Formation Program in our diocese for their many contributions to the academic and spiritual formation of deacon candidates including Mike. Please keep Mike in your prayers as he journeys toward ordination.

**Parish Office Closure** – The Parish Office will be closed Friday, December 24. The staff will be back on Monday, December 27, to answer your phone calls and emails.

**Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24**

No morning Masses; Mass in English: 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and midnight; Mass in Spanish: 8:00pm

**Christmas Day, Saturday,** **December 25—Holy Day of Obligation**

Mass in English: 9:00 am; Mass in Spanish: 11:00 am; no confessions and no Vigil Masses on Christmas evening.

**Have a blessed Christmas celebration with your family and friends!**