**Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 4, 2021

**Week Behind**

**The Annual Catholic Appeal** – I thank all the people who have pledged or given to the Annual Catholic Appeal. If you have not participated yet, please prayerfully consider giving this year. Our parish goal is $136,575. So far, 228 families have pledged ($75,076.00.) Help us reach our goal! Please return your ACA pledges as soon as possible. Thank you for your contributions.

**Church Decoration** – My thanks to Lily Rangel and all the volunteers who decorated the church for Thanksgiving and Advent. The church looks beautiful! The talent and time of many volunteers makes that beauty possible. The Lord has blessed Saint Joseph Parish with the support of many generous men and women.

**Knights of Columbus** – Since Saturday, November 27, the Knights of Columbus have been selling Christmas trees in the church parking lot. We are grateful to the Knights for the many contributions they make to Saint Joseph Parish and the entire community of Kennewick. I congratulate Jeremy Strohmeyer, current Grand Knight, and all the active members of our Council for their continued support of priests and bishops and for their service to the Church and community, coming to the aid of those most in need in society.

**The Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe --** The novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe began Friday, December 3. This novena in Spanish continues through December 11 at 6:30 pm every day in the Big Church. Also on December 3, we began praying the novena rosary in English before the 8:30 am Mass. If, for any reason you are not able to be with us in person, please pray the rosary with your family at home. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, pray for us!

**Week Ahead**

**Blood Drive ---** On Tuesday, December 7, once again our community will be asked to donate blood to the Red Cross. I thank the Knights of Columbus for organizing and hosting the blood drive from noon to 5 pm next Tuesday in Dillon Hall. Such a great cause! As you know, thousands of people end up in the hospital every year, many of them needing blood transfusions. People who donate blood save lives. To make an appointment to donate, please contact the Red Cross at www.redcrossblood.org

**Giving Tree** – Through your generosity and support we have been able to help forty-two families this year, many of them single parents or families struggling to make ends meet and get back on their feet.  We hope and pray that you will continue to support the Giving Tree ministry generously this Christmas. What a wonderful example of sharing our Catholic faith! Donation envelops are available next to the Giving Tree and at the foyer. Giving Tree applications will be available Monday and Tuesday, December 6-7, at the Parish Office from 9 am-noon and 1pm-6pm. Applicants must have valid ID’s and proof of Kennewick addresses.

***Growing up Catholic* Program**—On Tuesday, December 7, the children from our Religious Education Program (*Growing Up Catholic*) will have their last class before their First Reconciliation on December 14 at 6:15 pm in the Big Church. About 24 children will experience the mercy and love of God through the Sacrament of Penance for the first time. I am grateful to all the Religious Education volunteers, especially Danielle Muzatko and her teenage kids who have been helping during the six sessions of the *Growing Up Catholic* program by setting up and cleaning up. A job well done!

**Consecration to Saint Joseph—** On Wednesday, December 8, our five deacons, Father Cesar and I will make our consecrations to Saint Joseph. Our clergy have been doing the 33 day preparation and consecration as a group. Please pray for us as we consecrate ourselves to our parish patron. Saint Joseph, pray for us!

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**—On Wednesday, December 8, in the Big Church, our community will gather to celebrate Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States. Masses in English will be celebrated at 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:05 pm and 5:30 pm in the Big Church. Mass in Spanish will be at 7:00 pm. If you are not able to come in person, please join us via Facebook at 5:30 pm, Saint Joseph Parish. We give special thanks for Mary’s protection of our parish and school community, and we ask for her continued guidance as we seek to follow her Son as faithful disciples.

**Program in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe** – On Saturday, December 11, our community will celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe with a rosary at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7 pm in Spanish. Afterward, in Dillon Hall from 8 pm to 11:55 pm, we will sing traditional songs in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well as enjoy traditional Mexican dances and a small representation of the apparition of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego. At midnight, we will have the traditional mananitas. The master of ceremonies will make announcements in both English and Spanish. We will follow the COVID-19 protocols and everyone is welcome.

**Giovanni Liguori’s Mother To Cook a Meal for Us Priests** – I am looking forward to Friday, December 10, when our Music Director Giovanni Liguori’s mother will cook a meal for us priests. Giovanni’s parents are visiting from Italy. They arrived November 20 and will stay until December 20. I thank Giovanni for sharing his parents with us. They are a lot of fun! Grazie Mille.