

## Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 31, 2021

## Week Behind

**Candidate for Permanent Diaconate Received the Rite of Lector** -- On Sunday, December 26, 2021, I celebrated the 11 am Mass with an additional rite: the Institution to Ministry of Lector for deacon candidate **Mike Palmieri**. *"The lector is instituted to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, with the exception of the Gospel. He may also announce the intentions for the Universal Prayer and, in the absence of a psalmist, recite the Psalm between the readings"* (GIRM #99). We offer our congratulations to Mike, his wife, and family! Deacons receive one of three major orders of the Sacrament of Holy Orders; the other major orders are received by priests and bishops. Deacons may officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals, read the Gospel and preach at Mass, and help with the canonical process for marriage and baptism, but their greatest priority is service to the poor and marginalized. We are blessed to have 5 deacons in our parish and, God willing, we will have one more next year.

**Annual Catholic Appeal** —Thanks to your response to our in-church promotion of the ACA in November, we are nearly 75% of the way to achieving our goal! As of December 9, 274 households in Saint Joseph Parish have pledged to the ACA. Thank you! In order to achieve our parish's goal, we need the participation of every parishioner. There are over 2,000 registered families in our parish. Let's continue to work together to make the ACA a success by increasing our percentage of participation. Close to 14% of parishioners have donated to the ACA so far. We can do better.

**Parish Pastoral Plan** -- On Sunday, August 29, 2021, Parish Council members and I began a process to develop a parish vision and goals for the next five years. Jeff Odell Korgen, president of Korgen Associates, has been helping us in the process with coaching, planning and evaluation. There was a great response to our parish survey: over 700 parishioners participated. On October 14 we had the parish listening sessions. Again we had great response from the approximately 50 parishioners who showed up. There was a lot of engagement and energy in the process. As a result, we have created the following vision statement: *Saint Joseph's of Kennewick is a multicultural, evangelizing community, united in faith*. Over the next five years, we will achieve our vision by focusing on the following 5 goals:

1. Promote Christian unity among the many cultural groups in the parish. (**Vocation and Evangelization**)
2. Deepen understanding of the faith through age- and culturally-appropriate means of formation and catechesis. (**Education and Formation**)
3. Build a stronger sense of community in the parish among all its constituent groups. (**Sacraments, Worship, and Community Events**)
4. Foster works of mercy in the community through parish ministries and organizations. (**Social Services and Outreach**)
5. Promote stewardship of time, talent, and treasure among all members of the parish. (**Governance and Finance**)

*Now I ask you again to provide input on how we can best achieve our goals. In the foyer you will find small pieces of paper on which to write your suggestions for achieving each of the goals. If you are not able to do that today, please take paper, write your suggestions at home, and bring the paper back next Saturday or Sunday. The suggestion box will be stationed in the foyer during the month of January. Thank you again for your participation.*

## Week Ahead

**Hope Medical Baby Bottle Campaign** — On January 8, 2022, we will kick off our annual Baby Bottle Campaign benefiting Hope Medical. Your generous contributions allow Hope Medical to positively impact mothers, fathers, and the unborn through ultrasounds, pregnancy testing, education, and much more! The campaign makes it easy for you to participate in the ministry of Hope Medical. Just pick up a bottle as you leave the weekend of January 8 and 9 and fill it with coins; envelopes will also be available for cash or checks. Then drop the bottle or envelope off in the church foyer anytime in January. I thank Jerry Johnson for organizing this fundraising campaign which reminds us of the need to create and support a culture of life in our society.

**Encountering Jesus in the New Year** — Some years ago, I heard a priest speak on the conversion of St. Paul. Each January I am reminded of his idea that it wasn't falling or being blinded that moved Saul to change his ways. It was his encounter with Jesus during an otherwise "ordinary" day. I pray that as we begin a new year you find time to meet Jesus each day. It's easy to get caught up in ordinary activities and miss those opportunities. As we move into the New Year and the upcoming Ordinary Time in the liturgical year, here are some ways to invite an encounter with Jesus and grow in relationship with Him in just a few moments each day:

**Pause and pray** Throughout the day, take a minute to direct your attention to the Lord. Pray for a friend or family member in need when you do a repetitive task, pray the Angelus at noon, or offer a prayer of gratitude for a safe commute as you enter your car.

**Set aside a few minutes to learn something about the faith** One year, I read the Pope's messages at his Wednesday audiences before I ate lunch. I know someone who read about the saint of the day while the coffee brewed. Longer lessons are great, but simple, short ones are an excellent way to begin.

**Practice opportunities for meaningful connection** Greet the delivery driver with a smile and eye contact. When people drop by or make a request, ask how their day is going. Leave your phone on the counter when you greet your family upon arriving home.

As we begin the New Year, the Church invites us to newness and growth. As the sparkle of the New Year starts to fade, making time to encounter Jesus can brighten up even the grayest of winter days.

