

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: January 8, 2022

Week Behind

Parish Pastoral Plan -- Last weekend members of the Parish Council gave excellent presentations on the parish vision statement and five goals. Again, for those who were not present in our Masses last weekend, here are the vision statement and the goals.

Parish vision: *Saint Joseph Parish, Kennewick, is a multicultural, evangelizing community, united in faith.* Over the next five years we will achieve our vision by focusing on the following five 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**)

Please give us your input on how we can best achieve our goals. In the foyer you will find small pieces of paper on which you can write your suggestions for achieving each of the goals. Please take papers and write your suggestions for each goal. Bring them to Mass on Saturday or Sunday. The suggestion box will be stationed in the foyer for the month of January. Thank you again for your participation

Snow Removal – Last week we had a few days of snow. Thanks to Deacon Arturo Biebrich and Jose Arredondo who helped remove snow from the church and school parking lots. Extra kudos to Deacon Arturo who stayed even longer to remove snow from the sidewalks around the church and school grounds. We are very blessed to have such wonderful workers for our community.

Father Felipe Pulido – On Saturday, January 8, I will be flying from Yakima with my family to Baja, California, for my niece's quincenera. After the celebration we will tour Baja's small towns and cities for a week. Then I will be flying to Chula Vista Nayarit to visit my aunt Consuelo. The third week I will be in Mexico City making my annual visit to our three seminarians at Seminario Hispano. As Director of Vocations in the Diocese of Yakima, I supervise seminarians and I attend their annual evaluations. Every time we have an ordination, the bishop asks me if I find the candidate for Holy Orders worthy, and I testify that I do. Therefore, I need to be informed by the rectors of the seminaries about the progress of seminarians. I review their evaluations, so I will be able to say to the bishop, "This candidate is ready" or "This candidate is not." I will be in Mexico City from January 22 to January 29. Last, I will be present at the first Mass of Father Lalo Chavez in his hometown near Puebla. I will be back home on Friday, February 4, ready for the first weekend Masses in February. I am very fortunate to have Fathers Reilly, Vogl, Keolker, and Izquierdo and all the deacons helping during this time. I will be available to the office staff by phone for any emergency. I won't be able to write the weekly letter during my time away. I will resume writing the letter the second week in February.

Please keep me in your prayers.

Baby Bottle Campaign -- On Saturday, January 8 and Sunday, January 9 we began a baby bottle campaign for Hope Medical of Washington. Hope Medical is a faith-based, non-profit medical clinic that is funded entirely through the generous gifts of donors. Since opening for business four years ago, Hope Medical staff and volunteers have provided free pregnancy tests, ultrasound verifications, guided decision-making, and pregnancy support to hundreds of women. In 2019 alone they performed nearly 300 pregnancy tests and 180 ultrasounds. Did you know that 80% of abortion-minded women who see their babies in ultrasound tests will choose life? I want to thank Jerry Johnson for coordinating this fundraising campaign.

Week ahead

Take a Minute to See What's on the Church Calendar for January

1. We celebrated the Solemnities of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on January 1 and the Epiphany of the Lord on January 2.
2. We celebrated the memorials of three North American saints – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint John Neumann and Saint Andre Bessette – on January 4, 5, and 6, respectively.
3. We will conclude the Christmas season and celebrate Christ's Baptism on January 9.
4. We will remember one of the most popular of the early Christian martyrs, Saint Agnes on January 21.
5. We will gather to pray for the legal protection of unborn children on January 22.
6. Later this month another feast awaits us—the Conversion of Saint Paul on January 25.
7. We will also remember one of the greatest minds of our faith – Saint Thomas Aquinas – on January 28.
8. Our celebration of Catholic Schools Week will begin at Masses on January 29 and 30.

Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of the Unborn – Saturday, January 22, is a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops recommends a novena for life beginning January 19 and ending January 27. You can find the materials for the novena at the USCCB website. In addition, I take this opportunity to call our community to observe Saturday, January 22, as a day for the penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. We pray for full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and do penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

National Catholic Schools Week – At the Masses on Saturday, January 29, and Sunday, January 30, our school principal Perry Kelly and some members of the School Commission will be presenting information about our Saint Joseph Catholic School. Our school typically observes a week of activities for students, families, parishioners, and the community. Through these events, our school focuses on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Church, community, and nation. Thank you for all the support you give to the school. Saint Joseph Parish supports our school with \$15, 600.00 every month. Your generosity to the parish helps us continue to support the school with this monthly subsidy.