

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: September 3, 2022

Week behind

A New Academic Year – On Monday, August 29, our school began the new academic year with a prayer and blessing. The school year begins with a total enrollment of 302 students in preschool and grades K through 8, as well as numerous students for the Montessori program. I am grateful to Perry Kelly, principal; Rachel Cobb, Children’s Center coordinator, Deacon Bill and all our teachers and school volunteers who worked hard to welcome all students and ease the transition for the new children.

Father Riccardo Keolker, Father Larry Reilly, Father John Vogl and Father Cesar Izquierdo- I am grateful to Fathers Riccardo and Larry for the many contributions they made to Saint Joseph Parish, including the Sunday readings reflections by Father Riccardo, Saturday morning mass by Father Reilly, Tuesday daily Masses and Confession on Saturdays by Father Vogl and preparation for marriage, daily Masses, and many other pastoral assistances by Father Cesar. I consider myself very lucky to have them as coworkers in the parish.

Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) 2022- last month I received good news regarding our Annual Catholic Appeal. The good news is that **we** have achieved our goal for the 2022 ACA! We should be proud of our efforts! we are now in “rebate status.” Let me show you some numbers:

Our ACA goal for 2022 \$ 136,575----Total ACA pledges made \$ 180,248---Potential rebate to Saint Joseph Parish \$ 43,667. As always, I thank you for your stewardship of treasure, which keeps our parish and our diocese in sound financial condition, especially in these times of inflation. You are aware, I am sure, that any costs that are increasing in your own household are also increasing at the parish level—at the “household of God.” May God bless you for your continued generosity.

Religious Education/Parish and School--After consultation with the Executive Committee of the Council of Priests, Bishop Tyson has approved changing the age for Confirmation in the Diocese of Yakima from 11th grade (or about 16 years of age) to 8th grade (or about 13 years of age). This is good news for our school and parish since remote preparation for the sacrament will now begin in sixth grade and immediate preparation in seventh and eighth grade. **Our older students already in formation programs will finish their preparation and our parish will implement new formation programs for younger students.**

Please note that preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation requires attendance at religious education classes on Saturday or Wednesday and or Catholic School prior to receiving the sacraments.

Doris Rosenow and Maria Rodrigues at the parish and Kimberly and Megan at the school head up our First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation preparation programs. They will lead us through this transition and coordinate overlapping programs. If you have any questions, please contact them at 509-586-3820 (parish) and 509-586-0481 (school.)

Synod on Synodality update from the Diocese of Yakima—Many of you have expressed interest in knowing what was shared in our diocesan Synodal listening Sessions earlier this spring. Now that the Diocesan and Region XII reports have been completed, the diocese of Yakima will begin sharing what you had to say about our “Journey Together”. Please check the diocesan website and Facebook page. Visit <https://yakimadiocese.org/2022/08/17/synod-update-lets-begin-with-prayer-empezamos-con-oracion/>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/171655892889402/posts/pfbidoV2bGrdpuEJPkbJxeXJNiYZd8CjDTfGNub3G9S9s pJJfyCgr6827mWpyeLNrRsfD7l/?sfnsn=mo&extid=a&mibextid=px41w1ñ>

to read a series of post that will share some of the key findings from our diocesan synodal process. These posts will be updated each week and will culminate in a in-depth discussion of those themes during the Church Mission Congress on Saturday, October 15 at Holy Family Parish in Yakima. This event is open to all the faithful who wish to attend, regardless of whether they are involved in Catechesis.

Week ahead

Labor Day weekend—the offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 6th.

Saint Joseph Catholic School – On Tuesday, September 6, the 8th grade students from our Catholic School will begin a 3-day retreat at Lutherhaven Camp on the shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene. The students will be able to experience God in nature and in one another. The goal of the retreat is for the young people to see the importance of acting upon the words of God and following His will for their lives. I will be able to be with them one full day. I will celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist and expose the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks to Catherine Valiant, our eighth-grade teacher, who will lead the retreat and to the parents who helped her.

Parish Yard Sale – On Monday, September 12, the Women of Saint Joseph will start setting up for the annual Fall Yard Sale that will take place on Friday, September 16, and Saturday, September 17. They need volunteers to help set up and work during the Yard Sale. This event is a great fundraiser that benefits our parish and promotes community with our neighbors. I hope you can participate. I thank all the volunteers and those people who have been donated items throughout the year.

Priest Retirement & Seminarian Education Collection- I want to thank for donating to the priest retirement and seminarian education. Currently projected financial funding for our retired priests (*and for the remainder of those who will retire*) is **underfunded** by **16%**. For our seminarians, “the financial picture” is even more challenging, as this endowment is **underfunded** by **49%**, leaving the future funding for formation of men for priesthood a grave concern here in the Diocese of Yakima. Thank you for your generosity