

## Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: November 26-27, 2022

## Week Behind

**Volunteers**--Many thanks to all the volunteers who came to church on Friday, November 25, to put covers on the new missalettes and the new music issues. The Lord has blessed Saint Joseph Parish with the support of many generous men and women.

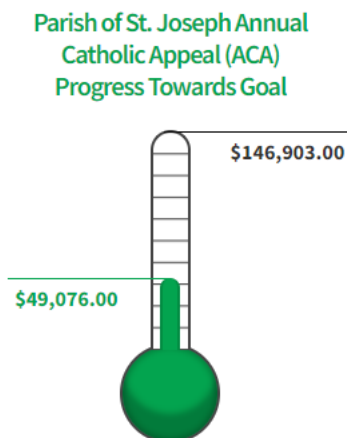
**Knights of Columbus**—Since Saturday, November 26, the Knights of Columbus have been selling Christmas trees in the church parking lot. They're willing to be out in the cold this Advent to remind us that Jesus, the Light of the World, is the reason for the season. We are grateful to the Knights for their many contributions to our parish and community. I thank them for their continued support of our priests and bishop.

## Week Ahead

**The Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe**--The novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe will begin Saturday, December 3, and will continue through December 11 at 6:30 pm in Spanish every day in the Big Church. We will also be praying the Novena rosary in English before the 8:30 am Mass beginning December 3. If you are not able to be with us in person, please pray the rosary with your family at home those days. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, pray for us.

**Giving Tree**--Through your generosity and support, we have been able to help twenty-nine families this year, many of them single parents or families struggling to make ends meet. We hope and pray that your generosity will continue to support the Giving Tree ministry this Christmas. What a wonderful way to share our Catholic faith! This year we will not use Giving Tree applications; however, we will be helping families in need. Please be generous to the Giving Tree.

**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 \$146,903. So far, 125 families have pledged (\$49,076.00.) Help us reach our goal! Please return your ACA pledges as soon as possible. Thank you for your contributions.



**Seminarian Daniel Sanchez**— During the summer Daniel shared his vocation story and how the Annual Catholic Appeal has helped him in his formation. Did you know that \$55,000 dollars is needed to educate each seminarian for a year? Thank you again for your generosity to the ACA. Here is Daniel's vocation story:

*Hello, St. Joseph community. I am writing to you all from the seminary here at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. St. Joseph is my home parish, and I am so grateful for your continued support throughout the years of my seminary formation. It is truly a blessing to be part of this generous parish family.*

*Some of you may not know my discernment process, so I'd like to tell you how God moved my heart to follow Him on this journey. I was born and raised in Kennewick on March 19, 1996 (Feast of St. Joseph!), in the old Kennewick General Hospital. My parents are Lucio and Luisa Garcia, current members of the parish, and my sisters are Griselda and Kaylee Sanchez. I have great respect and admiration for my parents who migrated from a small village in Oaxaca, Mexico, to the United States where they did their best to raise their family in the Catholic faith. From my father I learned to work hard and to express love through sacrifice and service; from my mother I learned to respect and uphold the dignity of every person. From Griselda I learned to be thankful because I witnessed the sacrifices she made as the oldest child. From my younger sister Kaylee, I learned how to take joy in sharing and caring for others.*

*I mention my family members because they formed the bedrock of my vocation. If it had not been for them, I do not think I would have heard God's call. Within this little Oaxacan family, I learned to have the desire to radically serve God, but I did not know how. I never once thought about the priesthood nor did my parents ever ask me about it. It was not until I went to college in 2014 that a priest (Fr. Paul Heric) asked me: "Do you want to be a priest?" Then, I did not, but the question lingered in my heart, and I thought, "What if?" I wanted to serve God and His people, but I never thought I could be a priest; I was 18 at the time, studying at Eastern Washington University. Nevertheless, little by little, Christ invited me to take one step at a time in discerning His will for my life.*

*While I was a college student, I plugged into the Catholic Newman Center (a college community of young Catholics) because I wanted to grow in my faith with other young people. Eventually, in January 2015, I participated in an Arcoiris retreat in Grandview. This is a Catholic youth movement in our Diocese that focuses on evangelizing the family through its youth. This jump-started my vocational discernment. After the celebration of the Mass, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I announced publicly for the first time, in front of a packed church with Bishop Tyson sitting in the front row, that I was considering studying for the priesthood. Many things happened from that moment on. My vocational discernment was no longer just a personal matter; it was a communal enterprise.*

*At the end of that year, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, I consecrated myself to Jesus through Mary. I wanted Mary to teach me how to better imitate Christ. That same month, I discerned that my next step after college would be seminary. In 2017, I graduated with my Bachelor's in Applied Developmental Psychology. I moved to Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. But, from 2015 to 2020, I wrestled with God: I had doubts, I had objections, I had moments when I was on fire for the Lord, and I had moments of deep sadness and depression. During that time, I spent two years in Mexico City at Seminario Hispano de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Then, in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, I went to serve the two Catholic communities in Granger and Mabton, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Immaculate Conception Parishes. I learned from Fr. Tomas Vidal how to love God and serve His people as a diocesan priest. It was during this pastoral year that I received the grace of conviction. At age of 24, I knew in my heart—without a shadow of a doubt—that I wanted to be a priest. After that, I came here to Mundelein to finish my seminary formation. I have two more years to go! Thank you for your love and support. Please continue to pray for my brother seminarians and me, that we may be faithful and joyful in following Christ and that we may serve Him and His Church with greater zeal and humility.*