

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 10-11, 2022

Week Behind

Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington— This weekend we welcomed Leanne LaBissoniere, Sydnee Saucedo, Laura Dow, Olivia Valle and Jaqueline Hidalgo from Catholic Charities. They reminded us of our opportunity to share the mission of Catholic Charities of Central Washington through our donations to the Christmas Collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thank you for listening to their messages.

Annual Catholic Appeal—There is still time to have a share in the ministry of the “Larger Church” and our bishop through the ACA. Extra pledge envelopes are in the vestibule. Thank you to all who have responded and those who will.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception—On Thursday, December 8, our community gathered to celebrate Masses in honor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States. I thank the parish choir and the liturgy ministers who served as lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, acolytes and altar servers. May the Lord bless you for giving your time and talents to Saint Joseph Parish. Saint Mary, pray for us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe—Thanks to the people of all the different parish ministries who participated in the nine-day celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, beginning December 3 and ending December 11. Special thanks to the Guadalupanas and all others who participated on the evening of December 11. It was a great success. Every year this celebration helps many families come closer to Christ and prepare their hearts for His birth.

Christmas Party at Dillon Hall— On December 10 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, we had a wonderful Christmas party in Dillon Hall hosted by the Filipino community. The food was great; the entertainment, music, and dancing were exceptional. Special thanks to Charito and Elizabeth for organizing the event. We had more than 175 people attending the event. All the proceeds will support [Saint Joseph School](#).

Week Ahead

Reconciliation— We will be having our traditional Communal Celebrations of Reconciliation this Advent season. Ours will be on Wednesday, December 14, at 6:00 pm. *Following are nearby parishes and their Advent Penance Services:*

Advent Penance Services 2022

Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 pm---Saint Joseph-----520 S. Garfield Street, Kennewick

Thursday, December 15, 6:30 pm-----Holy Spirit-----7409 W. Clearwater Ave, Kennewick

Monday, December 19, 6:30 pm-----St. Frances Cabrini-----1000 Horne Drive, Benton City

Mike Palmieri – On Friday, December 16, Mike Palmieri, a parishioner of Saint Joseph Parish, will be ordained a permanent deacon by Bishop Joseph Tyson. The Mass will be in the Big Church at 5:30 pm followed by a small reception in Dillon Hall. Everyone is invited. *The title, “deacon,” comes from the Greek word for service, “diakonia.” Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, deacons are configured to Jesus “the Servant” who “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45). The ordained Diaconate Ministry is the first rank of Holy Orders in the Catholic Church, whether Roman Catholic or Eastern Catholic. Permanent deacons serve God in the Church in the threefold ministry of Word, Liturgy and Charity. Permanent deacons are ordained to a life-long ministry of service.* This is a very special moment in the life of Mike and his family. Please keep them in your prayers.

Burmese Christmas celebration – On Saturday, December 17, the Burmese community will be having their annual Christmas celebration in the PAC. They will be singing Christmas carols, especial tribal songs, and serving delicious Burmese Food. The celebration starts at 4:30 pm. Everyone is invited. If you have any questions, please call Melanie Arokiam at her home phone number: 509-987-5636.

Las Posadas— On Friday, December 23 beginning at 5:30 pm, we will celebrate a posada in Dillon Hall. Las posadas is a traditional Hispanic celebration reenacting Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging prior to the birth of Jesus. After traditional prayers, participants will enjoy a special beverage and Pan Dulce and tamales. Children will break piñatas and receive candy. Everyone is invited.

Father Riccardo Keolker—On Sunday, December 18, our dearly beloved Father Riccardo will be celebrating his 59th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Father Riccardo is a great mentor for many priests in our diocese. He dedicates himself to many ministries in Saint Joseph Parish. He helps with RCIA, he celebrates weekday and Sunday Masses, and he continues to teach about the upcoming Sunday Scriptures every Wednesday morning, in person and via Facebook. Father Riccardo’s commitment to his vocation is a constant reminder that we are called to fully dedicate ourselves to our particular vocations in life. On behalf of the parishioners at Saint Joseph, I thank you so much, Father Riccardo, for everything you do for our parish. *Ad multos annos!*

Not Into Advent Yet? The parish rush before Christmas may leave you drained and not exactly in the "Advent mood." One way to combat this, even as we count down to December 25, is to declare today - *today* - the start of Advent and embrace it as wholeheartedly as you can. Here are a few ideas to help you out:

1. Read 1-3 verses from the first few chapters of Luke and Matthew each day and engage in *lectio divina*.
2. Meditate on the Magnificat and Benedictus, the two great Scriptural hymns of the Advent season.
3. Say "no" to something that saps your energy in order to say "yes" to something that is life-giving.
4. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas.
5. Go for a walk and look at holiday lights in your area.
6. Write one note of gratitude and mail it to a friend or family member with whom you have lost touch.

These are a few simple ways to rest and abide in the season. Remember, it is not about how much we do in December. It is about how deeply we embrace this season of expectation and fulfillment.