

Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 3-4, 2022

Week Behind

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, 158 families have pledged (\$51,456.00.) Please help us reach our goal! 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. To all who have responded and all those who will, thank you for your contribution.

The Giving Tree—We continue our efforts to relieve the needs of local people by collecting and distributing through our Giving Tree ministry. I thank all the people who have donated to this ministry in the past. See this week’s bulletin for how you can help this year.

Advent --- Faith Formation—Advent is a special season for the Church, the time when the world prepares to celebrate anew the coming of Christ. Often, we lose sight of the point of this season because we get caught up in our preparations for Christmas. We arrive at Christmas no more transformed than we were at the start of Advent. I want to congratulate the 25 parishioners who attended the 5 sessions of the weekly *Dawn of the Messiah* Advent study. The last sessions were held on Wednesday, November 30, in the upstairs rooms of the Parish Office from 9:30 to 11:00 am or 7:00 to 8:30 pm. I am grateful to Father Riccardo (am and pm), Laura Sieler (am), Joe and Pat Barajas (pm,) and the parish staff for facilitating this program

The Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe—The novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe began Saturday, December 3, and continues through December 11 at 6:30 pm in Spanish every day in the Big Church. We began praying the novena rosary in English after the 8:30 am daily Masses on December 3. If you are not able to be with us, please pray the rosary with your family at home. Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Americas, pray for us.

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. The times for Advent services at nearby parishes of our diocese are listed on the next page. Please take advantage of these opportunities to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas. If, for any reason, you cannot attend one of the penance services, please know that Father Cesar and I are available to hear confessions on other days during Advent by appointment. Furthermore, we will begin hearing confessions on Saturdays at 3:30 pm to allow time for more penitents.

Following are the parishes that have scheduled Advent Penance Services

Advent Penance Services 2022

Monday, December 5, 7:00 pm-----Christ the King-----1111 Stevens Drive, Richland

Friday, December 9, 6:30 pm-----Sacred Heart-----1905 Highland Drive, Prosser

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

Blood Drive--- On Tuesday, December 6, the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a blood drive from noon to 5:00 pm in Dillon Hall. I thank the Knights for organizing the blood drive every other month. Such a great cause! Thousands of people end up in hospitals every year, many of them needing blood transfusions. People who donate blood save lives. You can make your appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org

Feast of the Immaculate Conception—On Thursday, December 8, in the Big Church, our community will gather to celebrate Masses in honor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States. Masses in English will be celebrated at 6:30 and 8:30 am and 12:05 and 5:30 pm and, in Spanish, at 7:00 pm. We give special thanks for Mary's protection of our parish and school community, and we ask for her continued guidance as we seek to follow her Son as faithful disciples.

Christmas Party in Dillon Hall—On December 10 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, our Filipino community is hosting a Christmas Party in Dillon Hall. This will be a semi-formal event with delicious Filipino food served buffet style. The cost is \$50 for adults, \$25 for children 5-12; children under 5 years old are free. There will be great entertainment, music, dancing, and a special appearance by Santa Claus. You may purchase tickets before the event from Charito 702-357-2016 or Elizabeth 509-591-1339. All proceeds will be donated to **Saint Joseph School**. Everyone is invited.

Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington—On Sunday, December 11, a representative of Catholic Charities will speak at the Masses about the various ways we can help Catholic Charities' mission of bringing hope to life to 50,000 people throughout the Diocese of Yakima.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Our parish community will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 11. The celebration will start at 8:30 pm in Dillon Hall. There will be traditional Mexican dancers, music, and food. Everyone is welcome. I thank those who are working so hard to ensure the success of this celebration. We continue to ask Our Lady for blessings on the Church throughout the Americas and on Saint Joseph Parish in particular.

Prayer to Mary: *Holy Mary, help those in need, give strength to the weak, and comfort to the sorrowful. Pray for God's people, assist the clergy, intercede for religious. Mary, all who seek your help experience your unfailing protection. Amen*