

## **Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: December 31, 2022 and January 1, 2023

## **Week Behind**

**Credit Card Donations**--There has been an issue with the electronic donations to our parish since Tuesday, December 20, 2022. We are trying to fix the problem. Please be patient.

**Father Riccardo Keolker**--On Wednesday, December 28, Father Riccardo was not feeling well. He was unable to do this week's Sunday Liturgy Reflection. Please keep Father Riccardo in your prayers.

**Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**—our parish began perpetual adoration in December, 1997. By the grace of God, we have continued doing Eucharistic Adoration in our parish for 25 years. We stopped one year due to COVID 19. However, we came back stronger and more committed. My thanks to Carole Le Compte and Delmi Aleman for promoting devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

**Catholic Charities**—The 2022 Christmas collection for Catholic Charities was taken in our parish on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thank you so much for your generous spirit. We collected 17,402.32 dollars. Your generosity will help Catholic Charities bring hope to life by embracing people, strengthening families, and empowering them to thrive. Thank you for your monetary gifts to support this ministry.

**“To the Nations” or “To the world?”** Does the world ever get you down? Given our sinful nature, the world is not perfect. But sometimes, our feelings about "the world" can make us slip into despair. We lament the state of "the culture" (I always wonder, "Whose culture?") or "society." There can be a tendency to feel hopeless. That sometimes leads to the desire to defend ourselves and our Church from the outside world. But that's not who Jesus calls us to be. The heart of our missionary call lies in the last few verses of Matthew 28: *When they saw Him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*

The Greek word for "nations" used here is "ethnos," meaning "tribes, peoples, nations." Jesus does not speak so much in terms of the world here as He does individuals and groups of individuals. And the Apostles take this command to heart. After Pentecost, they convert Jews, Samaritans, and

many diverse peoples in and outside of the Roman Empire. What can we learn from this? While we can't change "the culture," we can, under God's guidance, reach "the nations." Help one family. Encourage one individual to seek Baptism. Knock on the doors in one's neighborhood. This is how the world changes. We do little things, and God moves in big ways. Make this your New Year's resolution for 2023: focus on people, not "the world."

## Week Ahead

**Baby Bottle Campaign 2023 for Hope Medical of Washington**--Next weekend we will kick off our annual Baby Bottle Campaign benefiting Hope Medical. If you are not familiar with this charity, Hope Medical is a faith-based, non-profit medical clinic that is funded entirely through the generous gifts of donors. Since opening for business five years ago, the clinic has provided free pregnancy tests, ultrasound verifications, guided decision making, and pregnancy support to hundreds of women. Did you know that 80% of abortion-minded women who see their babies through ultrasounds will choose life? I thank Jerry Johnson for coordinating this campaign.

**Catechism in a Year Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz**—I am pleased to share an exciting New Year's resolution with all of you. As we make plans to better ourselves, the area often lost or forgotten is our faith life. The best way to start the year out right is to make the commitment to understand what it means to be Catholic and to allow the truths of our faith to shape our lives day by day. This year, beginning on January 1, we have the opportunity to join hundreds of thousands of Catholics listening to *The Catechism in a Year* podcast by Fr. Mike Schmitz. Some of you may be familiar with *The Bible in a Year* podcast released two years ago. *The Catechism in a Year* will be just like that but, rather than reading the entire Bible, we will read through the second most important book for Catholics: The Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Catechism isn't just a reference book—it's a work rooted in Scripture that discusses and explains the fundamental teachings of our faith.

*The Catechism in a Year* podcast reveals the good, true, and beautiful teachings of the Church Christ founded. There is no better way to begin a year. Each daily episode will be 15-20 minutes long, making it easy to listen to while going on a daily walk, drinking your morning coffee, or driving into work. Popular Catholic priest Fr. Mike Schmitz will guide us through the entire Catechism, offering encouragement and insight, so that we can clearly understand Church teaching and live it out daily. To join me in this journey through the Catechism, visit [AscensionPress.com/CIY](https://AscensionPress.com/CIY). The podcast is completely free and available on all major podcast apps and YouTube. I encourage you to give God a chance to grow within you this year. God bless you all!