

# LENT

## **Week Behind/ Week Ahead**

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish  
From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido  
Date: February 25-26, 2023

## **Week Behind**

**PREPARES**---February 11-12 we had an in-pew appeal for PREPARES. I thank you for your generosity to this program. As you know, we have an onsite establishment of PREPARES located in the annex off Vineyard Street. From there we provide meaningful, local, and sustainable support to mothers, fathers, and families from pregnancy through early childhood. The generosity and kindness of so many donors to PREPARES make possible its outreach to families who receive food, clothing, diapers, and words of love and encouragement. The Lord has blessed Saint Joseph Parish with the presence of this ministry on our campus.

**Bishop Joseph Tyson**—Thanks to Bishop Joseph Tyson and **the 35 priests and 10 deacons** who attended the funeral Mass for Camerina Guzman Vda Mariscal at Saint Joseph Parish on Tuesday, February 22. Camerina was a long-time parishioner and mother of Father Jesus Mariscal, parochial vicar of Saint Paul Cathedral in Yakima. I also thank the Guadalupanas who cooked and served a delicious meal to more than 400 people in Dillon Hall during the reception after the graveside service.

**Saint Joseph School's Art and Wine Fundraiser** —On Saturday, February 25, we had our annual Art and Wine fundraiser in Dillon Hall. This dinner and auction raised money for important school activities, improvement projects, and scholarships. There was also a silent auction raising money from on-line and in-person bidders. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked countless hours before, during, and after this fundraiser. Special thanks to our principal Perry Kelly and the parents who organized the event. It was a great success! If you did not have the opportunity to participate in this fundraiser, you can still donate via the school website. When you give to Saint Joseph School, you are helping create a bright future for our Church, our country, and our world.

**CRS Rice Bowl**— Lent is here! Join our faith community and more than 13,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. If you have not picked up your family's Rice Bowl, please do so this weekend and take an extra for your friend, neighbor or sibling. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the impact of global hunger and climate change on vulnerable

communities around the world. We pray, fast, and give alms to help our sisters and brothers in need. Visit [csrcricebowl.org](http://csrcricebowl.org) to learn more.

**Parish Staff**—On Wednesday, February 22, many people came to our church to commemorate the beginning of Lent. While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of obligation, it is a beautiful day to attend Mass and receive ashes. I want to thank the parish staff for their patience and dedication to the parish community, especially during Lent. This is the busiest time of the year because we have children, youth and adults all preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation.

**Knights of Columbus**—On Friday, February 24, the Knights had their first Lenten fish fry. This was not just a fish sandwich dinner. These Knights have adopted a decades-old Friday tradition and taken it to the extreme. Diners can expect to eat more than fish and chips because the Knights also make baked potatoes, French fries, corn, rolls and clam chowder. The fish fry dinners bring in money for charity each year, but their main goal is bringing families in the community together for Lenten meals. Future fish fry dinners will be held on March 10 and 24 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in Dillon Hall. *In addition, I thank the Knights who spent hours in the cold putting down 350 little crosses in the field across from the school, each one representing many children lost to abortion. This is a good way to remind us of the dignity of the human person from conception until natural death.*

## Week Ahead

**Father Cesar Izquierdo**--On Monday, February 27, Father Cesar will be 35 years old. If you see him at one of the Masses this weekend, please say "Happy Birthday" to him. We work well together and it is a blessing to have him serving in our parish.

**Deacons of Saint Joseph Parish**--On Tuesday, February 28, Deacons Herman Farias, Edilberto Sanchez, Gustavo Valdivia and Juan Garcia will celebrate their fourth year of ordination. I am very thankful for the presence of all the deacons in our parish and I appreciate their service.

**Every Ash Wednesday**, in preparation for Lent, I've done what I'm sure many of you also do – run through the list of things I can "give up" for the next 40 days until Easter. Some common items include soda, chocolate, desserts, or chips... all of which I have, at some point, given up for Lent— some more successfully than others! That is the idea behind this tradition: we give up and deprive ourselves of something as a reminder of the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

It wasn't until several years ago when I began to approach the Lenten season in a new way: instead of just giving something up, what can I add? I loved this idea of not only focusing on what habit or food item I could remove, but also of taking stock of my spiritual life to see what practice I could bring into my day to nourish and grow in my faith. The first year I started praying the rosary every day of Lent and saying the Jesus prayer "Lord, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." In addition, I added fasting from social media. Adding these two practices has helped me growing tremendously in my spiritual life.

What can you add during this upcoming Lenten season? Is it praying every morning as you begin your day or every evening as the day draws to a close? Devoting time to reading the Bible? Studying a Lenten devotional? A daily act of kindness? Whatever it may be, I hope you find it makes your journey through Lent a period of spiritual discovery and growth!