



Week Behind/ Week Ahead

To the Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish

From V. Rev. Felipe Pulido

Date: April 15-16, 2023

Week Behind

Prayers for Father Lawrence T. Reilly—Fr. Larry Reilly is home and resting after a visit to the hospital emergency room last weekend. He needed an adjustment of medication for a couple of infections and was also diagnosed with anemia. He began treatment on Thursday, April 13, for that, and he hopes to regain his strength soon. Fr. Reilly will not be able to honor his commitment to celebrate Masses in our parish for the rest of April and the month of May. Please keep him and all our elderly and ill priests in your prayers, as we continue to pray for all our ailing friends, family, loved ones, and parishioners.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection--On Good Friday we had a special collection to support Christians in the Holy Land. We collected more than \$2000. Your donations help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps preserve sacred shrines. Unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace, joining Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. *For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit <https://myfranciscan.org/good-friday/>.*

Maintenance on the Big Church—On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, a group of workers started excavating on the north side of the Big Church, especially on the sidewalk and parking lot. It was discovered that some of the water pipes that go under the Church to provide water to the building's sprinklers in case of fire were not working properly. The job should be completed this week and then everything should be working properly. Thanks to Deacons Bill Mich and Arturo Biebrich for spearheading this project.

Confirmation—On Saturday, April 15, Bishop Tyson celebrated two beautiful Masses at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm for our community and for the Confirmation candidates. This year over 150 young men and women received the Sacrament of Confirmation. I told Bishop Tyson that I was confident that the candidates were ready to complete the process of Christian Initiation by receiving Confirmation. Each candidate has prepared for this sacrament over a period of 20 months. During this time, they have participated in retreats and have individually expressed their desires to be full and active members of the Church. I am very grateful to Religious Education coordinators Doris Rosenow and Maria Rodriguez and to all the volunteers who have dedicated their time and talent to teach the youth about Christ and His Church.

Candidates for Full Communion—On Sunday 16, 2023, I celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion for 12 candidates who were baptized in other Christian faith communities and 13 who were baptized Catholic, but who had not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. I thank Danette Hester, Juan Garcia, Maria Rodriguez, and Deacon Herman Farias who worked diligently this school year to prepare these candidates for full initiation in the Catholic Church.

Protect Children and Safeguard the Sacrament of Confession--Please visit the diocesan website to view resources regarding a pending vote in the Washington State House of Representatives on an amended bill that would require priests to report child abuse revealed to them solely within the Sacrament of Confession. The website includes a link to a Facebook post that can be shared, giving parishioners an opportunity to direct comments to their legislators; a link to an excellent analysis by Seattle Archbishop Paul Etienne of the First Amendment issues at stake; and a reminder of how abuse within the diocese or society at large can be reported.

<https://yakimadiocese.org/2023/04/11/protect-children-and-safeguard-the-sacrament-of-confession/>

Should the House pass this bill, it would return to the state Senate for more discussion and a possible vote there. As we continue to pray for victims and survivors of abuse, let's also pray for sensible and just laws to be enacted.

Week Ahead

Parish Yard Sale—On Sunday, April 23, the Women of Saint Joseph will be setting up for the annual Yard Sale that will take place on Friday, April 28, and Saturday, April 29. They need volunteers to help set up and work during the Yard Sale. This is a great fundraiser to promote community in our parish. I hope you can participate. Thanks to all the people who have donated items throughout the year.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration—On Saturday, May 6, 2023, the parish will celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Tickets are on sale after each Mass. They are also available in the Parish Office. I am sure this celebration will be a great community builder.