

520 South Garfield St. Kennewick, WA 99336  
 Parish Office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am to Noon, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

**Parish Office Phone** 509-586-3820  
 Fax 509-586-3558

Email: [parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
 Bulletin: [receptionist@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:receptionist@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
 Website: [www.stjoseph-kennewick.org](http://www.stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**St. Joseph School Office** 509-586-0481  
**Principal:** Catherine Valiant, [principal@sjske.org](mailto:principal@sjske.org)  
**Children's Center** 509-586-1428  
 Director: Rachel Cobb, [director@sjske.org](mailto:director@sjske.org)  
 School website: [www.sjske.org](http://www.sjske.org)

### WEEKEND MASSES

- **Saturday Vigil:**
  - 5:30 pm (English)
  - 7:00 pm (Spanish)
- **Sunday:**
  - 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:30 pm (English)
  - 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm (Spanish)

### WEEKLY MASSES

- **Monday - Friday:**
  - 6:30 am and 8:30 am, Small Church (English)
- **Thursday:**
  - 7:00 pm, Small Church (Spanish)
- **Last Thursday of the Month:**
  - Holy Hour at 6:00 pm followed by Bilingual Mass at 7:00 pm, Small Church.
- **Saturday:**
  - 8:30 am, Small Church (English)
- **First Friday Mass:**
  - 7:00 pm, Small Church (English)

### CONFESSIONS

**Saturdays** | 3:30 -5:30 pm | Big Church  
**Thursdays** | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Small Church  
**First Friday** | 6:30 -7:00 pm | Small Church

### BAPTISMS

“As a rule an adult is to be baptized in his or her parish and an infant in the parish of the parents unless a just cause suggests otherwise.” (Canon Law 587 and 2) If you are a parishioner who attends St. Joseph and would like to baptize your child in another parish, you will need a letter from the pastor of St. Joseph giving you permission to do so. If you are not a St. Joseph parishioner and want to baptize your child in this parish, you need to get permission from your pastor to baptize your child here. The parents and sponsors must attend a class before the Baptism of the child.

### PRAYER CHAIN

To put someone on the Prayer Chain:  
 Email [parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:parish.office@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
 or call the Parish Office at 509-586-3820

### Parish Staff

**Pastor**  
 Fr. Jose Herrera

**Parochial Vicar**  
 Fr. Ricardo A. Villarreal  
 Fr. Christian Melendez

**In Residence**  
 Fr. Riccardo Keolker

**Deacons**  
 William Mich  
 Juan Garcia  
 Herman Farias  
 Gustavo Valdivia  
 Mike Palmieri

**Pastoral Assistant for Administration**  
 Ric Gamez

**Receptionist**  
 Nancy T.  
[reception1@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:reception1@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**Office Assistants**  
 Tina D.  
 Rosy M.

**Religious Education Coordinators**  
 Maria R.  
[rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org)  
 Nancy M.  
[rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.wed@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

**Bookkeepers**  
 Jessica “Jessie” T.  
 Sonia P.

**Music Directors**  
 Bonnie L.  
 Luis A.



While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. LUKE 24:51

### INQUIRING ADULTS-OCIA

*Order of Christian Initiation Of Adults*  
 OCIA is for all adults older than 18 years of age in need of the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation. We welcome your interest in exploring the Catholic faith and invite your participation in our year-round OCIA process. Call the Parish Office for more information.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing is the proper Sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness, before surgeries, or anyone over the age of 59. Through the Sacrament of Anointing, the Church supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ’s messianic work of healing. If you need the Sacrament of Anointing, please call the Parish Office.

### MARRIAGE

Please contact the priest of the parish where you want to celebrate your wedding ceremony to discuss your situation and set the date in the parish calendar. Do this at least six months prior to the day you are planning to marry.

### FUNERALS

Death is something that awaits all of us and our loved ones. Yet we often avoid thinking about it. Please let the Parish Office know how we can help with the farewell to your beloved family member.

### MISSION & CORE VALUES

Our mission and sacred purpose as the parish of St. Joseph is to fully live our Catholic faith, which is rooted in Jesus Christ and the teachings of His Church, to nurture and build our parish so that every parishioner can know, love, and serve God in this world and encourage others to do the same.

#### *Our core values include:*

**Hope**—rooting our ministries and actions in prayer; joyfully carrying them out with competence, care and confidence in God’s promise of salvation.

**Liturgy**—maintaining the highest of ministry standards to bring glory to God through the rites, ceremonies, prayers, and sacraments of the Church.

**Community**—caring about and addressing the needs of others.

**Evangelism**—telling others the good news about Jesus.

**Giving**—practicing stewardship as a way of life by sharing of our time, talents, and treasure to support the mission and ministries.

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" JOHN 20:19 Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. When you see yourself as a beloved son or daughter of God, you tend to see others the same way, too – just as God, Our Father, sees us.

### Collection for April 5, 2026

Sunday Offering	\$25,967.75
Building Fund	\$452.50
School Donation	\$2,249.50
Religious Education	\$1,016.05
St. Vincent	\$300.00
Holy Thursday	\$2,187.00
Good Friday	\$3,246.70
Easter	\$5,267.00
Rice Bowls	\$40.00
Misc.	\$54.00
On-line Giving	\$5,069.73

For online giving scan the QR code or visit:

<https://pushpay.com/g/stjosephkennewick>



We sincerely appreciate your continued financial support of our parish, as you are able. If you prefer to send your offering by mail, please address it to Saint Joseph Parish, 520 South Garfield Street, Kennewick, WA 99336. If you currently use offering envelopes, and you wish to transition to on-line-giving or bank bill pay, please contact the Parish Office, so we can ask the envelope publishers to quit sending them to you. Thank you for your generosity.

## Prayers

**For our Armed Forces:** Christian Fraga, Ramon Vargas, Ian Dimmick, Christy Hylden, Andrew Jacobsen, Alexander Araujo, Tyson Kaas, Christian Shink, Juan Borrego, Estrella Gomez, Erick Miller, Eric Sheldon, Justin Dennis Byerly, Wyatt Beaton., Daniel Arokiam, Cristina Garcia, Noah Szendre.

**For our sick:** Johanna Stephens, Bill Murray, Drew Schreiber, Gil Gloria, Elaine Himes, Lois and Rick Rutherford, Jan Billings, Rory Valdes, Silvia Rodriguez, Kathleen Barone, Monica Moore, Lourdes Nelson, Jessica Ftoeter, Billy Sickles, Nestor Barba, Elizabeth Torres, Kim Davis, Kathy Ramirez, Bill Roe, Donna Whitehead, John Curran, Bob and Mary Ross, Alberto Carranza, Danika Whitsett, Jerry Mikkelsen, Kelly Freeman, Gus Perez, Jim Nicacio, Arlene Callahan, Dominic Nicacio, Luca Nicacio, Phyllis Pelletier, Nancy Park, Marlene Madrigal, Sherri McKie, Hugo Garcia, Vanessa Nicacio, Carol Smith, Patty Brown, Zara Husan, Raquel Cardoza, Samuel Quintanilla, Pat McKie Szacik, Carmen Nava, Mike Draper, Peter Braum, Yolanda Quintero, Hazel Meister, Sandra Sekierczyński, Kolton Hansford, Joanne, Armandino Gamino, Ana Espinoza, Sara and Johnny Howard, Father Kurt Hadley, Sara Melgarejo, John Lyczkowski, Lexie Day, Maria Barrientes, Randy Walker, Carina Ambriz, Tucker Shaw, Dick Petersen, James Meyer, Miguel Garcia, Mary Ann Showalter.

**For our recently deceased:** Fr. John Vogl. Kindly ring us when your ailing loved one finds healing, so we may open space for others on our list of prayers for the sick.

Join Us and Bring Your Friends and Family!  
Breakfast Fundraiser

Date: April 12, 2026

Time: After the 9 am and 11 am Masses

Location: Dillon Hall

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

### Openings:

The Adoration Chapel is open to visitors. Please consider accepting the invitation to sign up for regular weekly hours.

Please call to obtain personal codes for entry.

**Carol at 509-582-5011** or, for Spanish, call Sandra at 509-802-8716.

"I adore You, Lord and Creator, hidden in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I adore You for all the works of Your hands, that reveal to me so much wisdom, goodness and mercy, O Lord." St. Faustina

## Welcome to our Parish Community!

If you're new to St. Joseph, we extend a warm welcome to you—whether you've traveled from another part of the country, from around the globe or simply from a different parish. Your presence enriches our liturgical celebrations in a wonderful way. If you wish to join our Catholic community, please complete a registration form available on our website.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### FOR THE WEEK

#### Monday, April 13th

6:30 am  
Betty Witte (B-day)  
8:30 am  
Jane Kennedy (Healing)

#### Tuesday, April 14th

6:30 am  
† Edward Wild, Jr  
8:30 am  
† Sean Kennedy

#### Wednesday, April 15th

6:30 am  
Patricia Rae Anderson (Healing)  
8:30 am

† Kari Lynn Berg

#### Thursday, April 16th

6:30 am  
† Sean Kennedy  
8:30 am  
† Ralph Moore  
7:00 pm

† Florita Vallejo

#### Friday, April 17th

6:30 am  
† Michael Costello  
8:30 am  
† Aila & Peter Thompson

#### Saturday, April 18th

8:30 am  
† Sal & Laurie Pennella  
5:30 pm  
Dave Jr. & Katherine Williams (Healing)

† Michael Costello

† Sean Kennedy

7:00 pm

† Agustin Perez Saucedo

† Hermila Diaz

† Francisco Chávez Chacón

#### Sunday, April 19th

9:00 am

Leon Mosio (B-day)

† Robert Booth

† Ryan Lawrence Longoria

11:00 am

Mark and Ruth Plummer (Anniversary)

† Manuel Mendoza Garcia

† Sean Kennedy

1:00 pm

† Maria y Jacobo Rodriguez

Crystal Cisneros Trujillo (B-day)

Amy Trujillo Valdovines (B-day)

5:30 pm

† Rubert Kelly

7:00 pm

Renata Martinez (XV B-day)

Familia Garcia Cardenas

† Jesus Garcia Castro

† Candelaria Gomez Rubio



Scan QR code to request online!

## Congratulations and Gratitude!

Heartfelt congratulations to the members of our parish family who received sacraments during the Solemn Easter Vigil. We are grateful for your dedication in preparing to embrace these gifts of the Church, and we eagerly anticipate continued fellowship at the Eucharistic table with you.

Additionally, we would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to all the dedicated church volunteers who worked tirelessly from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, preparing for the various celebrations throughout this sacred season. Your hard work and commitment to enhancing the art and environment for each unique liturgical occasion are genuinely valued. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our parish community.

## SPRING YARD SALE

### Women of St. Joseph

April 17-18

901 Fourth Avenue, Kennewick, WA

We are in need of volunteers, If you would like to help, call Leticia 509-870-7016.

At this time, we are at full capacity and will not be accepting any donations.



## ST. JOSEPH LEGACY

GOLF TOURNAMENT  
Benefiting St. Joseph Catholic School



Save the date Saturday, May 16!

Join St Joseph Catholic School for our legacy golf tournament! We're teeing up for fun and fundraising. Become a sponsor, build a team, or both! Details and registrations at [www.siske.org/golf-tournament](http://www.siske.org/golf-tournament)



WOMEN OF ST. JOSEPH

Spring  
Yard Sale  
P.A.C

April 17 & 18

Friday 8am-5pm  
Saturday 8am-3pm



St. Joseph Parish  
901 West 4th Avenue  
Kennewick, WA 99336



Spring Yard Sale - April 17 & 18.  
 setup on Sunday, April 12 at 10:00 am  
 During the sale, we need cashiers, floor  
 managers, and help with cleaning! Strong men  
 and women are encouraged and needed to help  
 with the heavy lifting.

Questions?

call Leticia @ 509-870-7016




We sincerely thank you for your generous blessings; we truly appreciate each and every one of your donations. At this time, we are at full capacity and will not be accepting any donations. We appreciate your understanding. Please refrain from leaving donations outside the shed. Thank you once again, and many blessings to you, WOSJ.

## Volunteer Sign-up

Volunteer Name :

Phone #:

Circle the task and the time you would like to help.  
 Return this completed form to the school or parish office.

Set-up Sunday	unpacking week	Cashier #1	Cashier #2	Floor Management	Tear Down
Sunday 04/12/26 10:00 am	04/12/26 - 04/16/26 am or pm	04/17/26 04/18/26 am or pm	04/17/26 04/18/26 am or pm	04/17/26 04/18/26 am or pm	04/18/26 3:00 pm—until finished

A member of the Women's of St Joseph will be calling to schedule and confirm your assignment

OCTOBER 19 - 31, 2026

## In the Footsteps of Divine Mercy

Pilgrimage to Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary

Warsaw – Czestochowa – Krakow – Wieliczka – Wadowice

Prague – Vienna Budapest

**Rev. Christian Meléndez**  
Spiritual Director



### INFORMATIONAL MEETING



**Monday, April 13**



**07:00 PM**

**Conference Room at St. Joseph Parish Office**

AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM

### The price includes:

- Airfare from Seattle
- Meals according to the itinerary
- Travel assistance
- Travel Express representative
- 4-star hotel accommodations
- Local guides
- Tips

reserve your spot with  
a deposit of:

**USD 600**

Costo total del viaje:

~~USD 5,690~~

**5,200**

PRICE VALID  
UNTIL APRIL 15



Scan to register



**Juan Ignacio Zurita**  
**+1 (786) 656-0594**

TravelExpress

19 AL 31 DE OCTUBRE DE 2026

# Tras los Pasos de la Divina Misericordia

Peregrinación a Polonia, Chequia, Austria y Hungría.

Varsovia – Czestochowa – Cracovia – Wieliczka –  
Wadowice Praga – Viena Budapest

**Rev. Cristian Meléndez**  
Director espiritual



## REUNIÓN INFORMATIVA



Lunes, 13 de abril |



7:00 PM

Sala de conferencia de la oficina parroquial de San José

DISPONIBLE A TRAVÉS DE ZOOM

## El costo incluye:

- Pasajes aéreos desde Seattle
- Comidas de acuerdo al itinerario
- Asistencia durante el viaje
- Representante de Travel Express
- Alojamiento en hoteles de 4 estrellas
- Guías locales
- Propinas

Reserva tu lugar con  
un depósito de:

600 USD

Costo total del viaje:

~~USD 5,690~~

**5,200**

PRECIO VIGENTE  
HASTA EL 15 DE ABRIL.



Escanear para  
registrarse



**Juan Ignacio Zurita**  
+1 (786) 656-0594

TravelExpress



# CENTRAL WASHINGTON CATHOLIC

*El Católico de Washington Central*

Pāchu Washintin Chmuk Tātpas

APRIL 2022

## Darlene Darnell: 'Doing What She Loves,' Improving Countless Lives

By Christine Corbett Conklin

Growing up on a farm in South Dakota, Darlene Darnell was instilled with the value that “you always help those in need, you step in and help.” Little did she realize how, years later, that inspiration would lead her to positively influence the lives of thousands of individuals through Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington and Catholic Charities Housing Services!

Darnell retired March 2 from her post as Executive Officer and President of the two entities, honored with a retirement party on February 27. On March 25, she was again recognized at a Mass at St. Paul Cathedral, marking the installation of Manuel Villafan as the new leader of the agencies.

Along with framed images of Our Lady of Guadalupe presented to both leaders, Bishop Tyson surprised Ms. Darnell with the “Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice” medal from Pope Leo XIV, one of the highest papal honors given to lay people for their service in the Church. The award, “For the Church and the Pope,” was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1888.

Reflecting on her 41 years of service in Central Washington, Darnell observed that “it’s been a great experience to be able to do what I love and work with an organization that is so great.” She acknowledged the strong support that she has received as Executive Officer and President from Bishop Joseph Tyson, the Diocese of Yakima and the many talented staff and associates with whom she has worked.

Darnell attended college in both Oklahoma and South Dakota before receiving her Master’s degree in social work from the University of Iowa. She worked at Children’s Home Society in South Dakota and the Area Education Agency in Iowa prior to moving to Yakima in the 1980s and being hired by Father Tom Champoux as a family therapist for Catholic Family and Child Service. She went on to become Clinical Director for Counseling and Director for that entity, then Vice President for the expanded Catholic



Darlene Darnell

Charities Serving Central Washington where she served as President and CEO for the past 10 years.

Through the years in Yakima, Darnell says she has seen the agency grow from fewer than 50 people to about 500 employees. She says she is especially gratified by the development of broader and specialized services for children between birth and age five a

families, for the development of housing services for those in particular need and special efforts made to assist young children including foster children aging out of the system.

Services for young children have grown from the 1989 opening of Carroll Center to the 2017 addition of the C.H. Hope childcare center which offers specialized care for youngsters with various issues. Darnell, noted, for example, an “exponential” increase in the number of children diagnosed with autism in the

*Continued on page 3*

## Christians Share Role In Safeguarding Faith

By Josephine Peterson

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – All baptized Christians share in the Church’s mission and, guided by the Holy Spirit, are fit for renewing and building up the Church, Pope Leo XIV said at his weekly general audience March 18.

Every person who has been baptized is called to bear witness to Christ, and the whole Church, beyond its leaders, has a role in preserving the truth of the faith, the Pope added during the audience in St. Peter’s Square.

Continuing his series of reflections on the Second Vatican Council, the Pope focused on the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (“Lumen Gentium”), and the participation of the lay faithful in Jesus Christ’s “priestly, prophetic and royal offices,” that is, the offices of teaching, sanctifying and governing.

Everyone enters the Church as a layperson, he said. Through Baptism and



Pope Leo XIV greets visitors and pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican before his weekly general audience March 18, 2022. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Confirmation, the faithful are “more perfectly bound to the Church” and are endowed “with special strength” by the Holy Spirit, so that they are “more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ,” he said,

quoting the document.

“This consecration is at the root of the common mission that unites the ordained ministries and the lay faithful,” Pope Leo said. In fact, everyone is called to bear witness to the truth of the faith.

The Doctrinal Commission of the Council specified that the sense of faith “belongs to individual believers not in their own right, but as members of the People of God as a whole,” the Pope said.

*Continued on page 3*



Photo courtesy of Christine Corbett Conklin

**Alleluia! He Is Risen!**

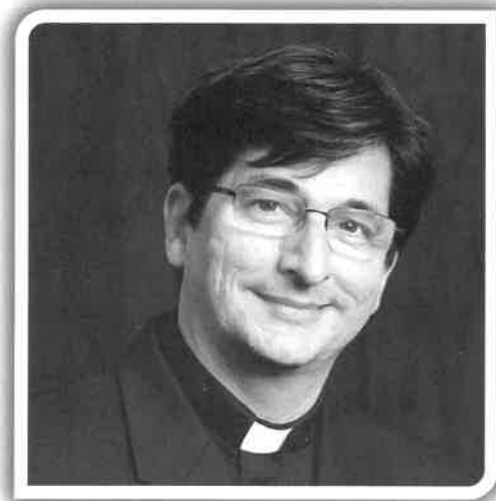
*This image from Holy Redeemer Church shows light streaming through a white and illuminating the cloth representing Christ’s burial shroud. It reflects the glory of Easter.*

ends:

is simple and reveals himself to  
le.” This succinct statement from  
XIV about the “sensus fidei”  
the Faithful) highlights the reality  
we are welcoming to the Easter  
nts. Nearly 500 people gathered at  
nily Parish in Yakima on the First  
f Lent for the annual Rite of Elec-

are people who sensed God in  
s and out of that “sensus fidei”  
to encounter Christ through the  
its of the Church. Saint Ambrose,  
Father noted, was recruited as  
efore he was even baptized! Before  
gustine joined the Church, he left  
1 to meet that same Saint Ambrose.  
idei” drove the great saints. It  
e newest among us who come to  
hes seeking Christ. It animates the  
he Church.

that so strongly not only at the  
l at our Easter Vigil, but also at the  
elebrations of Christian Initiation  
rate among the migrant workers.  
omenon of migration often means  
our people miss key sacramental  
s in their home parishes because  
k as H2A guest workers here, or  
ilies are on the move. Many who  
seasonal workers have a basic  
-school education and limited lit-  
lls. They might be seen as simple.  
desire for God can seem stronger  
own! Their motivation is often  
es and their children, or even their



**Bishop Joseph Tyson**

girlfriends and their desire to support a  
family some day. The impulse to share the  
faith and give the faith is so palpable even  
before the waters of baptism touch their  
foreheads.

We see that “sensus fidei” in the day-in  
and day-out service of our priests celebrat-  
ing 25 years of priesthood: Monsignor  
Robert Siler (featured this month), Father  
Francisco Higuera and Father Francisco  
Gutierrez. They, and all of our priests  
through the sacraments of initiation,  
receive the gift of God revealing himself  
to the simple, especially as they seek to  
deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

“Sensus fidei” might be the best pivot  
to Darlene Darnell who just retired from  
Catholic Charities after 41 years of service,  
ten of those years as our agency leader.

## Darlene Darnell: ‘Doing What She Loves,’ Improving Countless Lives *Continued from page 1*

een working in the field.  
olic Charities has been able to offer  
de of services, including individual,  
d group counseling to help chil-  
1 everything from verbal skills to  
g their behavior, assisting in the  
1 to kindergarten. The agency also  
tes with the PREPARES program,  
assistance for families with children  
h to age five.

more than 5,000 individuals, across  
n 40 properties within the Dio-  
-kima, have found needed housing  
he years, thanks to the Catholic  
Housing Services program begun  
e 1990s, Darnell added. One of the  
ditions is the Casa de La Mora, a  
ousing facility which can accom-  
3 individuals including low-in-  
-abled and young adults.

olic Charities has a particular  
a foster youth who are aging out

of the system, helping them develop skill  
sets to be on their own, facilitating efforts  
to finish their education and find a place to  
live, Darnell said. As just one example, the  
agency has opened Brewing Hope, an East  
Yakima coffee stand, that offers young adults  
internships and stipends, while they receive  
personalized coaching and learn job skills.

In addition to its many other counseling  
and support programs, Catholic Charities  
volunteers team with the Cowiche Creek  
Nursery for the Petals for Patients program.  
Volunteers bring flowers to hospital and  
hospice patients, plus others in counseling  
with the agency.

In retirement, Darnell herself hopes to  
volunteer with the agency, spending time  
with programs such as Petals for Patients.

Acknowledging the many accomplish-  
ments of Catholic Charities through the  
years, Darnell humbly states, “I haven’t done  
this alone. There have been great teams of

“Motivated by the love of Christ, we bring  
hope to life, especially to those most in  
need.” That is not simply a mission state-  
ment. It is the reality that many come to  
Church through the doors of Catholic  
Charities across Central Washington. At  
a recent gathering with her colleagues at  
Catholic Charities, I cited these words from  
the Book of Proverbs because they not only  
uplift her Christ-centered service, but they  
touch on the deep way God moves among  
all of us, seeking to reveal with great sim-  
plicity this divine love:

“Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and  
the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be  
praised.

Give her the fruit of her hands and let  
her works praise her in the gates.”

(Proverbs 31: 26-27, 29-31)

I hope this issue of the *Central Wash-  
ington Catholic* stirs you to consider more  
deeply Pope Leo’s direct comment on the  
“sensus fidei” that “God is simple and re-  
veals himself to the simple.”

With every best wish and blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson  
Bishop of Yakima

leaders and staff. It’s a joint effort with staff,  
community and parishes. The support of  
Bishop Tyson and the Diocese has been  
incredible.”

### Central Washington Catholic

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PUBLISHER

Most Rev. Joseph J. Tyson

MODERATOR

Monsignor Robert M. Siler

EDITOR

Christine Corbett Conklin

TRANSLATIONS

Indiana Blandón

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*Email: robert.siler@yakimadiocese.org*

ave been abused or victimized by a member of the Catholic clergy, please believe in the  
y for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

ima Diocese has a sexual abuse hotline for those who wish to report some incident concerning  
as regards a bishop, priest, deacon or diocesan employee or volunteer. (888) 276-4490.

# Test Your Knowledge of Our Rich Catholic Traditions

The Catholic Church has a rich tradition of history, liturgy and teachings. How many of the following questions can you answer? Correct responses follow at the end.

- How long is the Catholic Easter season?
  - “Holy Week,” the week before Easter, until Easter Sunday.
  - The “Triduum,” three days before Easter, and Easter Sunday.
  - From Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, 50 days.
  - From Easter Sunday until May 1.
- What does the required “Easter duty” include?
  - Going to church on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.
  - Receiving Communion in Lent - Pentecost, and ideally Reconciliation.
  - Saying the Rosary each day of Holy Week.
  - Fasting and abstaining from meat each day of Holy Week.
- What is the Pascal Candle?
  - A white candle glowing in Easter season and at baptisms and funerals.
  - A white candle blessed at Christmas and lit through Easter.
  - A white candle lit for weddings.
  - A white candle lit only on Easter Sunday.

- What color are the priest’s vestments and altar linens at Easter?
  - Gold, celebrating the majesty of Christ.
  - Red, indicating a triumph over suffering.
  - Green, symbolic of new life through Christ.
  - White, indicating celebration and joy.
- Which word is not used during Lent at Mass?
  - Hosanna.
  - Alleluia.
  - Resurrection.
  - Redemption.
- When will the Ascension of Christ be celebrated in 2026?
  - May 17 (transferred to Sunday from May 14)
  - August 15, a Holy Day of Obligation.
  - April 30, the last day of the month of Easter.
  - June 20, the day of the seasonal change.
- What is the Catholic season called after Easter season?
  - Solstice.



- Ordinary time.
  - Extraordinary time.
  - Advent.
- What do Church script focus on, in the weeks fol Easter season?
    - The public ministry Christ.
    - Jesus’ early years of
    - The creation of the v
    - The suffering and de Jesus.

Answers: (1) c. From Easter Sun-  
 pentecost Sunday, 50 days; (2)  
 ring Communion in Lent -  
 st, and ideally Reconciliation;  
 white candle glowing in Easter  
 and at baptisms and funerals;  
 rite, indicating celebration  
 (5) b. Alleluia; (6) a. May 17  
 red to Sunday from May 14);  
 dinary time; (8) a. The public  
 / of Christ.

Questions and answers based  
 information from websites includi  
 of United States Conference of Cai  
 Bishops, Wikipedia, Diocese of Tr  
 We Are Catholic.

Continued from page 1

## Christians Share Role In Safeguarding

The function of the Holy Spirit is to lead Christians to t truth, and because the entire body of the faithful is anointe “the holy one,” he said, “the Church, therefore, as the comm of the faithful – which naturally includes the pastors – cann in matters of faith.”

“From this unity, which the Magisterium of the Church safeguards, it follows that every baptized person is an active of evangelization, called to bear consistent witness to Christ cordance with the prophetic gift which the Lord bestows up whole Church,” he said.

The Holy Spirit, who comes from the Risen Christ, he s distributes “special graces” among all the faithful, who are t able to contribute to the renewal and building of the Church.

“Dear friends, let us rekindle in ourselves the awareness: gratitude for having received the gift of being part of God’s and also the responsibility that this entails,” he said.

**Edward Jones**

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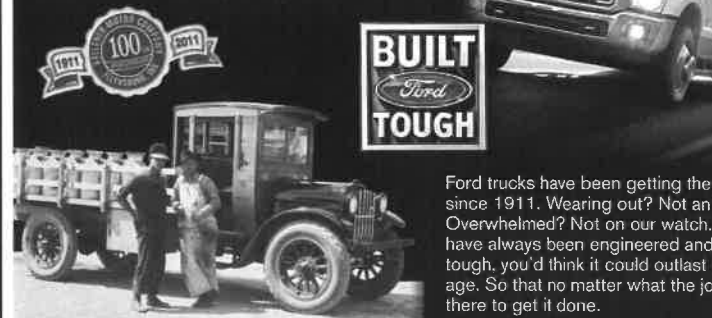
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## Msignor Robert Siler Celebrates 25 Years of Priesthood

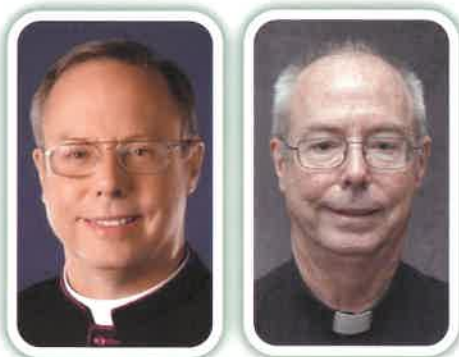
Msignor Robert Siler was “nine years old,” he was walking back to class in the school gym at St. Joseph School in Wenatchee one day, when a little voice inside me saying, “I want to be a priest,” he recalled. Along with the influence of his three older brothers who would attend seminary, it served as inspiration for his personal journey to the priesthood.

On May 25, Msignor Siler, who now serves as Chancellor, Episcopal Vicar and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Yakima, will celebrate 25 years as a priest. He was ordained in 2001 at St. Paul Cathedral by Bishop Carlos Sevilla, S.J.

While celebrating the Memorial Day at the Holy Family Cemetery in Yakima that day, Msignor Siler said, “As an Oblate of Mount Angel Abbey, my spirituality has been greatly formed by the example of St. Benedict, who taught his monks to pray before your eyes daily. On May 25, I will be buried again in the graves of the priests before me. I plan to be buried someday.”

His path to the priesthood took a roundabout route, with a “16-year break” in seminary. Following four years of high school formation and one year at St. Edward’s Seminary, Kenmore, Everett, Hall, Seattle, and Bishop White Seminary in Spokane, he left seminary studies. “I was growing up to do,” he said.

After having completed a year at Gonzaga University, he attended Wenatchee Valley College and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and History from Eastern Washington University. He also did some post-graduate work at EWU in history, as well as a year of philosophy studies at Central Washington University. “My Mom, Carol, used to ask if I was going to stay in school forever,” he joked. Msignor spent a number of years in business administration, beginning in Cheney, then



*Monsignor Robert Siler's dedication to the priesthood has endured through the years.*

working in Ellensburg as a stringer for the Yakima newspaper. He wrote for the Moses Lake and Wenatchee newspapers as a reporter in Ephrata, then was publisher of the Coulee City newspaper for a year. He also was caregiver for his father, Glenn, for four years. When his father died in 1995, he entered Mount Angel Seminary and completed his studies for the priesthood, receiving a Master of Arts degree in Theology and a Master of Divinity degree in 2001.

Following ordination, his first assignment was as Associate Pastor at Christ the King Parish in Richland – a year that turned out to be somewhat of a trial by fire.

“I arrived on my birthday, June 18,” he recalled. “Then, 9/11 hit just three months after I arrived.” With the Pastor, Father Tom Champoux, away from town, Msignor was in charge of quickly scheduling a special Mass for the parish school students. Soon after, in November, U.S. bishops met in Baltimore, with serious discussions about sexual abuse issues within the Church, advancing standards for safety, with subsequent new safety policies sweeping across U.S. dioceses. That same year, he officiated at 30 funeral services.

In 2002, Msignor was named Pastor at

St. Andrew Parish, Ellensburg. In following years, he also would serve as Parochial Administrator for Saint Joseph Parish, Wenatchee; St. Andrew Parish; Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Granger; Immaculate Conception Parish, Mabton; Resurrection Parish, Zillah; and St. Aloysius Parish, Toppenish. Since 2022 and 2023, respectively, he has been Moderator for St. Aloysius Parish and St. Mary Parish, White Swan.

In 2011, he was named as a Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope Benedict XVI, receiving the title of Msignor. The title is a mark of papal honor for distinguished work in diocesan administration.

Through the majority of his priesthood, Msignor Siler has devoted himself to “learning and deepening the culture of Safe Environment in our Church.” He also has been involved in “Retrouvaille,” a ministry which helps married couples heal and renew strained marriages.

This year alone, he will assist with nine Retrouvaille weekend retreats, from the Northwest to Wisconsin to California. And somehow, he still manages to fill in for priests at Masses throughout the Diocese of Yakima, which he regards as “a great blessing.”

In recent years he received a Certificate in Health Care Ethics from the National Catholic Bioethics Center and a Certificate in Bioethics from St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry, studies meant to help him be a resource for priests and parishioners. And for his family. He helped provide hospice care for his Dad, his brother, Dan, who died in 2016, and his Mom, who died in 2017. “Helping them to die well, knowing they were loved, was a privilege,” he said.

Please join in thanking and congratulating Msignor Robert Siler on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood!

## Safe Environment Lessons to Be Offered in Diocese

More than 110 catechists and clergy will meet at Blessed Sacrament Church in Everett on March 21 for an introduction to safe environment lessons that will be offered to students in our diocese beginning this year.

These lessons, used with permission of the Diocese of Los Angeles, will supplement the lessons already available to parishes and schools. Parish programs also have relied on training offered in public schools, but that source is being phased out, noted Bishop Genevieve Tyson, in favor of lessons more aligned with Catholic teaching. The theme for age-appropriate lessons of the 2026-2027 school year is “Safe and Healthy Living Rules.” Younger children will receive the help of short videos and class activities, how to understand and set personal boundaries, recognize and avoid inappropriate touching, and identify trusted adults who can help them. Older students will focus on topics such as date rape and inappropriate behaviors to recognize and avoid. The focus for the second year of a three-year program is “Boundaries and Bullying.”

In the third year, the lessons will emphasize “Internet Safety.”

On Saturday, Msignor Robert Siler, chancellor of the diocese as well as director of safe environment, opened the day with a bilingual presentation of a lesson for students in grades K-3. A 20-minute video titled “The Professor” tells the story of Thaddeus, a boy who is being bullied at school. He is afraid to tell his parents.

In a dream sequence, he meets a wise owl named “the Professor” who helps him recognize “Stranger Danger” and to learn three important actions children might need to take: “Say No; Get Away (if possible); Tell a trusted adult.” “Our existing Virtus lessons offer this material,” Msgr. Siler noted. “What I discovered that Los Angeles had done was to put everything together with a clear lesson plan, appealing activities, and a PowerPoint presen-



*Thaddeus learns from a wise owl named “The Professor” in the K-3 Safe Environment lesson.*

tation that can be easily downloaded from the internet.”

Safe Environment leaders from the archdiocese were more than happy to make the lessons available, he added.

On Saturday, Msgr. Siler and Diana Aparicio, vice chancellor and assistant safe environment director, also walked with catechists in separate language groups through Virtus’ “Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide.” It is a helpful resource for both teachers and parents to better understand the subject, and how to communicate well about it with children and youth.

They ended the day going over the grade 6-8 lesson, which tackles the sensitive topic of sexual abuse at home, then offers tips for young people to protect themselves, as well as reinforcing the importance of knowing trusted adults they can turn to for help.

Bishop Tyson thanked the catechists and clergy for their care and concern for the children and youth the church serves.



### A NOTE FROM SERRA CLUB OF THE TRI CITIES

"Whose sins you forgive, whose sins you retain are retained." (from John 20: 19-25) Do you want to share the Lord's saving mission as a priest, permanent deacon, brother or sister?



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"Lord, keep me always in Your love, as a child is kept within the womb of its mother. There it needs nothing for food or drink; no drafts of air can harm it; it is sheltered from every danger; with its mother it has everything." ~St. Mary of Jesus Crucified, OCD  
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more information, call or email Wendy Nuxoll at 509-551-0013 or [nuxoll4@charter.net](mailto:nuxoll4@charter.net)

#### MOTHER TERESA MEAL MINISTRY

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**First Sunday**  
May 3  
10:15 am

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9:15 am



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#### Pontifical Good Friday Collection | Friday April 3, 2026

Thank you for supporting the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, as encouraged by Pope Leo. Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land, directly making a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region. You become an instrument of peace in a troubled land. If you were unable to contribute in person, you can still make a donation online by scanning the QR code.



Did you come to Mass, but you missed out on grabbing a bulletin or did the bulletins run out? No problem! Simply scan the QR code to sign up for Flocknote and subscribe to receive bulletins. Voilà! You'll have a shiny electronic copy sent directly to your phone via text. Stay informed.



#### SAVE THE DATE

Parish Mission, October 5-10, 2026,  
St. Joseph's Parish, Kennewick, WA:  
"To Live as a Favorite Son/Daughter of God and  
No Longer as an Orphan"

Dynamic retreat master Father Philip Scott F.J. is coming to St. Joseph's Parish to give a parish mission from October 5 -10, 2026! Monday through Wednesday will be in English, and Thursday through Saturday will be in Spanish. There will also be a talk in English each morning after the 8:30am Mass on the theme, "God ALONE suffices."

Family of Jesus website: <https://familiadejesusperu.org/>  
For more information, please contact Wendy Nuxoll at 509-551-0013 or [nuxoll4@charter.net](mailto:nuxoll4@charter.net).



#### RECONCILIATION TIMES

Thursday: 6 pm-7 pm Small Church  
Saturday: 3:30 pm—5:30 Big Church

80's Murder Mystery Dinner Auction

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Place: Dillon Hall

Price:

Adults & Teens \$35.00 | Seniors (65+) \$25.00  
Children 5-12 yrs \$10.00 | children under 4 free

Proceeds will help send our youth to the Steubenville Youth Conference this summer.  
Sponsorship opportunities available.  
Call Bob Krebs at 509-528-5702.

### Traveling Vocations Crucifixes

Courtesy of Serra Club of the Tri Cities, St. Joseph Parish has two Traveling Vocations Crucifixes—one at the 9:00 am Mass and one at the 1:00 pm Mass. Sign up to take a Crucifix (box includes the Crucifix, Rosary, and prayer cards) home for one week and pray for vocations—all vocations, but especially vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Vowed Religious Life. We pray that more men and women will hear God's call and say "yes". Remember, without priests, we would not have access to the Holy Eucharist and other Sacraments.

4/12 Andy and Joanne Kopriva  
4/19 Catherine Valiant  
4/26 Beth and Jose Arroyo

With questions or to sign up, please contact Elizabeth Robas, 509-591-1339, or Irma Valdivia, 509-366-4422.



2026-2027

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For Spanish Classes: Maria Rodriguez 509-586-3820 Ext. 105  
[rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org](mailto:rel.ed.sat@stjoseph-kennewick.org)

#### Ministry Leader Meeting

All leaders or representatives if cannot be present

Date: April 17th, 2026

Location: Small Church

Time: 6pm English  
7pm Spanish

Who: ministry leaders only

Pilgrimage to Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary with Fr. Tian



When: October 19-31, 2026  
Cost: \$5,350 | \$600 deposit

Informational Meeting | April 13 | 6:30 PM  
Conference Room at St. Joseph Parish Office

For more information, please contact:  
Juan Ignacio Zurita 786-656-0594



#### 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal Is Now Underway!

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) benefits the entire Diocese of Yakima by funding programs that exceed the capacity of individual parishes. If you have already contributed, thank you for your generosity! If you have not yet had the opportunity to donate, we encourage you to do so; every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact. To date, we have received pledges totaling \$130,226 and payments amounting to \$82,784. Our goal is set at \$200,248.

Donations can be made using the envelopes mailed to you, those available in the pews, on-line at [www.yakimadiocese.org](http://www.yakimadiocese.org), or by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your support, and may God bless you for your generosity!



#### Sacrament Reception Dates 2026

**Confirmation OCIA (Adults)**

Sunday, April 12, 2026  
9:00 am, Big Church  
(English)

**Confirmation OCIA (Adults)**

Sunday, April 12, 2026  
1:00 pm, Big Church  
(Spanish)

**Yakima Jubilee Confirmations**

Saturday, May 23, 2026  
Noon, HAPO Center, Pasco —  
Bi-lingual

**First Communion**

Saturday, April 25, 2026  
• 10:00 am, Big Church  
(Spanish)

**First Communion**

Saturday, May 2, 2026  
• 10:00 am, Big Church (English)

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