



## ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

15 South 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Yakima, WA 98902-3169

(509) 575-3713 • (509) 453-7497 (Fax)

[parish@stpaulyakima.org](mailto:parish@stpaulyakima.org)

My Dear Parishioners,

Well, it has been a while between our monthly parish letters and much has transpired over the last couple of months.

As I mentioned in the September letter, we are working on the restoration of our Cathedral Center (formerly St. Paul Cathedral School).



New lavatories are being constructed along with the replacement of almost all the plumbing in the building. It has been and is a real struggle for those involved in our Religious Education program for grade-school, middle and high school students, also RCIA, our Knights of Columbus, Resurrection Group for funeral luncheons and all the hoped for but impossible to carry out festivities for a total and healthy Parish. The building is determined to have a value of 50-60 million dollars, a valuable parish asset and the cost to restore and improve it a little over 5 million dollars. WE REALLY NEED THE USE OF OUR BUILDING TO ADEQUATELY FULFILL THE MISSION OF OUR CATHEDRAL PARISH. Again I remind you that, shortly after the beginning of the year we shall embark on a total parish effort to raise the necessary funds and are confident with the assistance of everyone in the parish that we can reach our goal.

What else is ahead of us?

1) Right now we are in the process of our Annual Catholic Appeal, an opportunity to enter into the mission of the “greater Church,” the Diocese of Yakima and our Bishop. With the goal of our 2024 Appeal \$104,000 and the generous spirit of our people, I am confident that we can achieve our goal (16% of Sunday/Holy Day collections) and have some left over. If you haven’t as yet pledged to have a share in this mission of the Diocese of Yakima, it’s not too late to be included. Give us a call (Envelopes in the Cathedral vestibule).

2) With all the atrocities of war devastating so many innocent people, may we increase our prayer, storming heaven for a true and lasting peace based on justice and mercy for combatants and victims alike.

3) Our annual Mass for Deceased Clergy: bishops, priests, and deacons who have served our people of Central Washington since 1951, the foundation of our Diocese, will be offered NEXT TUESDAY AT 5:30 P.M. in our cathedral BY OUR Bishop and priests of the diocese, assisted by our permanent deacons. Please join us as we remember, raise up, pray for and celebrate the lives of these deceased servants of God who have served us over the past 72 years.

4) Thanksgiving is almost upon us – next week. There are celebrations I bring to your attention.

a) The INTERFAITH CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING co-sponsored by the Yakima Association of Faith Communities and our Cathedral – on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thanksgiving Eve) – an opportunity to praise and thank God together with brothers and sisters of various religious denominations and groups. CATHEDRAL CHAPEL – 7:00 P.M. Please join us as together we give thanks!!

b) THANKSGIVING DAY MASS next Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM in English and 11:00 AM in Spanish in our Cathedral. As a Eucharistic People (a “Thanksgiving People”) we as Catholic Christians can’t forget the true source of all the blessings we enjoy and so often take for granted.

5) Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be held in our Chapel following the 1:00 PM Spanish Mass until Benediction at 6:00 PM. Stop in at our Chapel (sometime during the afternoon to “give thanks”).

6) Our wonderful minister of Music, Michael Kim, will present a concert of classical and religious music in our Cathedral organs (50 ranks) on Friday evening, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. We are grateful to him for sharing his vast talent with us for this past little over a year. Come and allow yourself to be transported to heavenly melodies and the grandeur of the beautiful pipe organs. Bring your friends, too!

7) And of course, that leads us into a new Advent Season, a joyful anticipation of the Lord’s coming anew to us. Most helpful in our spirit of anticipation are our local “Celebrations of Reconciliation”; our communal Penance Series, which will be offered this year on:

Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at St. Joseph Church and at 7:00 PM here in our Cathedral.

**AND** Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at Holy Redeemer Church and at 7:00 PM at Holy Family Church.

THESE PROVIDE A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO BE RECONCILED WITH OURSELVES, ONE ANOTHER and especially with our all merciful and forgiving God.

8) And don’t forget the celebration of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, A HOLY DAY on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> – the Patroness of our United States of America: Masses – Thursday (anticipated) at 5:30 PM and on Friday at 7:00 AM, 12:07PM (Chapel) and 7:00 PM (bilingual).

9) Our great Knights of Columbus will be selling religious-based Christmas Cards for your convenience after all Masses the First weekend of Advent, December 2/3 – a small way to keep Christ in Christmas. They will also be hosting a drive for non-perishable food and Christmas Gifts for the needy in our community the first three Advent weekends.

10) The last thing I wish to mention regarding upcoming events is our annual celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on TUESDAY December 12<sup>th</sup>, Patroness of the Americas, all of us Spanish and English speakers, old and young, rich and poor need her intercession, especially during these times of turmoil and suffering for so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. (Details of the celebrations will be forthcoming in future bulletins and notices.)

11) Keep up with parish and diocesan news and events by watching “What’s up, Monsignor?” available on our website.

Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts to guide you as your pastor. Father Jesus Mariscal also joins me in our continued thanks to you.

Please keep us in your prayers: your bishop, priests, parish and diocesan staff as we do for you.

Devotedly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John A. Ecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker-VG  
Pastor

*P.S. Because of our upcoming attention as American Catholics on our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist, special booklets will be sent to you next month in place of Advent booklets.*