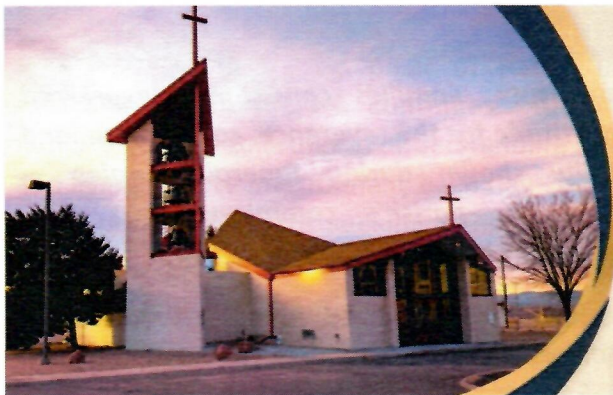
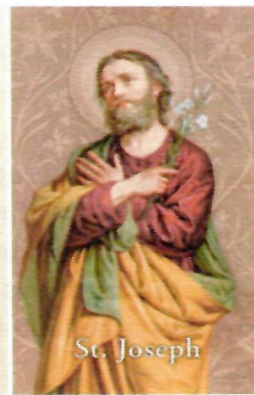




The First 100 Days

May 25, 2026 - September 1, 2026

By Fr. Joseph Matitu, SSS



St. Joseph

INTRODUCTION

Transparency and accountability remain central to my pastoral leadership, and **The First 100 Days** serves as a clear expression of that commitment. When I formally assumed the pastorship of St. Joseph Parish on May 25, 2026 — appointed by Bishop Stephen Berg and succeeding Fr. Steve Murray — I recognized that this moment marked a new chapter in our parish's life. My first Mass as pastor, celebrated that same day, was a grace-filled beginning that providentially coincided with Memorial Day.

These first hundred days are not merely a timeframe; they are a promise. A promise to lead with honesty, clarity, and faithful stewardship. Through regular reporting, I hope you see what has been accomplished, what is underway, and what still requires your prayers, your hands, and your support. I want you to understand how decisions are made, how projects advance, and how every resource entrusted to the parish is used for Christ's mission.

This four-page report offers a transparent window into our shared journey — affirming that nothing in this parish is hidden or distant from you. The First 100 Days is my commitment to walk with you in full transparency, full accountability, and full faith as we build the future of St. Joseph Parish together.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Vacation Bible School



From June 8–12, St. Joseph Parish hosted a vibrant and faith-filled Vacation Bible School at the Fr. Charles J. Murray Parish Hall. Guided by the theme **"Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God,"** our children discovered God's love through Scripture, nature, and hands-on learning. Each morning, students from Pre-K to 6th grade engaged in Bible adventures, rainforest-themed crafts, music, games, and science activities that helped them recognize God's presence in creation. The week was overflowing with joy, discovery, and grace.

Commissioning of Sixty-Five Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



On July 27-28, our community joyfully commissioned sixty-five Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion — a milestone that strengthened our parish's devotion to service and the Eucharist. Each minister stepped forward with humility and reverence, offering their hands and hearts to carry Christ to the sick, the homebound, and all who long for His presence.

Parish Festival – August 1 and 2



Our St. Joseph Family celebrated a grace-filled and joy-soaked Parish Festival on August 1 and 2 — a weekend that became a living testimony of God's goodness and the vibrant strength of our community. We expressed heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Stephen Berg, whose fatherly presence at the 4:30 p.m. Mass reminded us that we belong to a larger Church united in faith and mission.

Financial Snapshot (09/09/26)

Total Income: \$121,366.00

Total Expenses: \$59,880.00

Net: \$61,485.00

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptisms – We welcomed 14 newly baptized children into the life of the Church. A hopeful trend continues as more young families return to the sacraments and renew their commitment to raise their children in the faith. This growing vitality among young families is a beautiful sign of hope for our parish's future.



Eucharist – The Eucharist remains the heart of our parish life. Weekend Masses draw approximately 460 parishioners across four liturgies, reflecting steady and faithful participation. Daily Mass continues to be a quiet wellspring of grace, with an average of 24 devoted attendees anchoring our parish in prayer each morning.



Pastoral Note: *Our weekly collection is slightly below the target of \$8,530.00. The average for the past 100 days is \$8,006.20 — about 6.14% lower. This is not a criticism of anyone's giving; I remain deeply grateful for every sacrifice offered. It is simply an appeal to continued generosity as we strengthen our mission.*

Funerals – With the cemetery located across the street and our parish hall offering a dignified space for gatherings, St. Joseph Parish has become a place where many families choose to honor their loved ones. Over these hundred days, we accompanied 22 families in their time of grief.



Pastoral Note: *Families consistently expressed deep gratitude for the reverence, compassion, and hospitality shown during funeral liturgies — affirming our parish's commitment to walk tenderly with those who mourn.*

Confessions – The Sacrament of Reconciliation remains a vital source of healing. Each Saturday afternoon, an average of seven penitents come to encounter God's mercy.



Pastoral Note: *A number of parishioners request confession outside scheduled hours due to work or family responsibilities. Their desire for the sacrament is a beautiful sign of trust and spiritual hunger, though it presents real challenges in managing pastoral time.*

Weddings – We celebrated two weddings, and two additional couples have been approved and are now preparing for marriage. Their desire for proper formation reflects a growing appreciation for the beauty of Christian marriage.



Anointing of the Sick – A total of 29 anointings were administered: Homes: 11, Nursing Facilities: 4, Hospitals: 14



Pastoral Note: *Requests for anointing come not only from parishioners but also from nearby communities, and families connected to my previous assignments, especially when loved ones are hospitalized in Pueblo. This ministry remains a profound expression of Christ's healing presence.*

MINISTRIES

Liturgical Ministries – Our liturgical ministries continue to serve with reverence and pastoral care, fostering a spirit of unity and devotion that shapes every celebration of the Eucharist. Their quiet faithfulness strengthens the rhythm of our parish life.



Sixty-three Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were commissioned on June 27-28, strengthening our parish's liturgical life and ensuring dignified service at every Mass.

Their weekly visits to the sick and homebound continue without interruption. Families consistently express heartfelt gratitude for the parish's faithful presence, reminding us that the Eucharist extends far beyond the church walls.

The Knights of Columbus and the Council of Catholic Women sustain a beautiful ministry of compassion by alternating ushering responsibilities during funeral liturgies, offering grieving families a dignified and prayerful environment.

Faith Formation – Faith formation remains a vibrant pillar of parish life. It continues to inspire families to grow together in understanding the faith and living it more intentionally each day. More and more parishioners are seeking deeper formation, giving our programs renewed energy and purpose.

Vacation Bible School was a resounding success, reflecting a growing desire among families to root their children more deeply in the faith.

Bible Study is expected to resume next month. Deacon Ed and I are finalizing important details to ensure a format that is spiritually enriching, accessible, and sustainable.

Pastoral Note: *I am deeply grateful to all who have expressed a desire to study the Word of God more deeply; your hunger for Scripture strengthens the heart of our parish. Your enthusiasm reminds us that God's Word is alive, and it is shaping a community eager to grow in faith and understanding.*

Outreach Ministry – St. Vincent de Paul continues its essential ministry of charity. Every second Thursday at 1:00 p.m., they distribute food to families in need — living out the Gospel call to serve Christ in the poor and vulnerable.

Media Ministry – The parish bulletin layout was refined to accommodate additional pastoral content, including the weekly *From the Pastor's Desk* message. This enhancement allows me to explain more clearly various communications from the Diocese, helping our parish stay informed and united in mission. It also provides space to address questions that arise in the community, offering clarity and pastoral guidance where needed. At the same time, I have been able to honor the requests of several parishioners by publishing selected portions of my homily from the previous weekend.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Clergy – I believe that Deacon Ed and I are serving the parish pastorally well. We consistently support one another in leading reverent, orderly, and prayerful liturgical celebrations. What could have been an overwhelming challenge — taking on responsibilities previously shared by two priests — has been made manageable through Deacon Ed's tremendous assistance, reliability, and dedication. Together, we strive to ensure that every liturgy reflects the unity, care, and devotion our parish deserves.

Since St. Joseph Parish does not have its own rectory, I reside with my brother priests at St. Mary's, and the parish provides \$500.00 per month for housing.

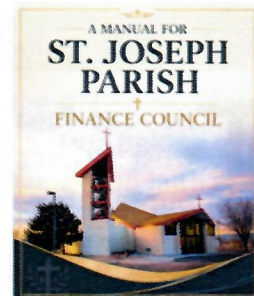
The Parish Staff – Our parish staff continues to serve with dedication and sincerity, doing their best each day despite natural limitations and pressures. While I receive occasional complaints, I also witness firsthand their genuine effort to support our community with faithfulness and humility.

FINANCIAL

The Finance Council – As part of my commitment to strengthening the parish's financial stewardship, I am strengthening the Parish Finance Council so that St. Joseph Parish can make wiser, clearer, and more responsible decisions — especially in safeguarding financial stability and ensuring transparent stewardship.

Pastoral Note: *The renewed council will oversee property maintenance and guide project evaluation and planning. To support their*

effectiveness, I have come up with a working Parish Finance Council Manual for both voting and non-voting members. By strengthening this council, we ensure that St. Joseph Parish remains financially resilient, mission-focused, and prepared to steward its resources with wisdom and accountability.



Fundraising Efforts – Fundraising efforts continue to strengthen the parish's mission, ensuring that every ministry, outreach, and act of service is supported with generosity and purpose. Each contribution helps sustain the parish's growing needs, allowing our community to flourish in faith, stewardship, and shared responsibility.



Hall Rentals continue to provide meaningful financial support, with 17 funeral receptions, 10 graduations, and 16 birthday/wedding or miscellaneous events contributing to parish stability. These gatherings serve our community pastorally while strengthening our financial capacity through consistent rental income.

The Bingo Raffle held every First Saturday continues to strengthen fellowship and provide steady financial support. During my first 100 days, two Bingo events were held — including one during the Parish Festival — adding both community engagement and additional income for parish ministries and operations.

Advancing Missionary Discipleship (AMD) – The Advancing Missionary Discipleship (AMD) is more than a diocesan obligation — it is the lifeline that strengthens the Diocese of Pueblo's financial foundation and fuels its mission of forming Missionary Disciples. As a parish, we share in this sacred work.

Pastoral Note: Our 2025-2026 AMD target of \$87,894.00 was not met. We collected \$56,000.00, leaving a shortfall of \$31,894.00, which had to be covered from parish operating funds. Because this level of subsidy is not sustainable, the Finance Council will develop new strategies to strengthen participation, deepen stewardship, and ensure we meet our AMD commitment in the current fiscal year. This renewed commitment will help our parish remain faithful to its mission while meeting our diocesan responsibilities with greater consistency. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

FACILITIES

Improvements – We have undertaken small steps that quietly strengthen our parish life.



The **Office of the Parish Administrator** received fresh paint and new carpeting, creating a more welcoming and professional workspace. These improvements help ensure that daily

administrative work is carried out in an environment that reflects the dignity and mission of the parish.

The **Sacristy** and the area behind the sanctuary have been reordered, enhancing functionality and liturgical readiness. These improvements ensure that our liturgical celebrations are supported by a space that is orderly, efficient, and worthy of the sacred rites entrusted to us.

Pastoral Note: A break-in occurred early in my tenure at the parish garage, where a small tractor was taken. This incident, combined with recent vandalism and arson affecting two parishes in the Pueblo area, underscores the urgent need for stronger security measures. Strengthening parish security will be a key priority of the Finance Council.

CONCLUSION

The road ahead will demand clarity, sacrifice, stewardship, and trust in God's providence as we strengthen our finances, secure our facilities, deepen our ministries, and expand our outreach. We will continue forming disciples, welcoming families, and accompanying the suffering — not as individuals, but as one parish family rooted in the Eucharist and sent by the Gospel. With your prayers and your hearts, we will keep building a parish of

transparency, accountability, and radiant faith, confident that Christ walks ahead of us and guides every step.

