

*January 7, 2018*

***IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, MILLHOUSEN, IN***

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH COMMUNITY STRIVES TO LIVE THE GOSPEL BY WORSHIPPING

GOD, LEARNING AND SHARING THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

*Bulletin information is due by Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. [sisterdianne@millhousechurch.com](mailto:sisterdianne@millhousechurch.com)*

**Mass Intentions:**

January 7, 2018 Feast of Epiphany: Marie Stier

January 14, 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Robert Horan

**PLC Notes:**

On Wednesday of this past week, God called Paul Schumacker, without apparent decline. Marilyn Horan and I had just visited him a few days earlier, and he so enjoyed the visit, making note, as he usually did, that his funeral arrangements were all in place. He was quite clear that he lived in Greensburg now, and so joined that church family, but his heart was forever at St. Denis. Visitation will be on Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 to 8:00, with Rosary at 4:00, at Bass and Gasper Funeral Home; and the funeral is scheduled for Thursday at 10:00 at St. Mary's, with burial at St. Denis. He had little family, most out of state, and so appreciated the visits and support of his "family" here. We remember him in prayer.

**Thank You!** The Knights of St. John, with the assistance of the Ladies Auxiliary, have gifted us with the proceeds of the "Breakfast with Santa" to be used to support the Buildings and Grounds Fund. The gift was in the form of a check for \$1000. Many Knight and Lady members donated their time in preparation for, and during the meal. We thank all of them for their generosity! See letter on bulletin board.

**Epiphany of the Lord:** The gospel today tells us of wise men, who followed a star that led them to the Christ Child in Bethlehem. Many common themes emerge: the gifts, wisdom, following a star, and even discipleship and missionary work. The Epiphany has added meaning for me because it is also the anniversary of the founding of my community – the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg. On January 6, 1851, our foundress, Mother Teresa Hacklemier, arrived in the wilderness of Oldenburg, her mission land, after a long and treacherous journey over land and sea. She had two companions when she started out from Austria, but both turned back before setting sail. She continued following her star, and her life was profoundly changed by that journey. That change led to thousands of lives being changed as she answered God's call. Like her, and the wise men in the gospel reading, each of us have our own star to follow. The Magi knew it. "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." We, actually, know little about these wise men. We are told that they came from the East and brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But we don't know where they came from or even how many they were. We don't know how far they traveled and what dangers they faced on the way. We can only imagine the courage it took to leave their homes and travel to an unknown destination with only a star to guide them. And we can imagine the radical change that this journey brought into their lives. We can also imagine the lives that were changed when they returned home and told others of their experience. In a sense they were the first missionaries! We don't know their background, or their specific education. Were they truly kings? Were they learned scholars? Whatever their story, we do know that they were truly wise men, because of their pursuit of truth, and their openness to the revelation of God.

The Magi offer us unique gifts, in addition to the ones already mentioned that may not be so meaningful today. The first gift is **curiosity**. To know that the star was a meaningful sign, the Magi needed to be inquisitive. They needed to explore the world around them, to desire to grow in understanding. Curiosity should extend to our faith as well. There is always a new area to explore. The second gift is **humility**. The Magi weren't Jewish. And yet when they encountered the star, and the deeper meaning in Jesus' birth, their desire was "to do him homage." We too are invited to be humble before truth when we find it. We all have some teachings of the Church that lead us to question. But there are certain "hard facts" of our faith that must be acknowledged and embraced with humility. Our encounters with people of differing stories, and viewpoints, and challenges should be approached with humble respect and dignity. The third gift these wise men offer us is **movement**. The journey is no easy trek. The Magi's pursuit of truth meant effort and sacrifice. If we are serious about seeking truth, and following our star, it will require something of us. "We cannot see Christ and remain as we are." Change is a given! Like the Magi, we, too, are invited to draw near to God, to walk by the light of God's truth, and to invite others to join us in gathering around the babe in Bethlehem. This Epiphany, we might want to consider how God might be inviting us to grow in **curious** seeking, **humble** encountering, and **movement** towards truth. Each one of us is meant to be a bearer of light, called to shine a light in the darkness, to bring hope and healing to a fractured world. Each of us can bring change to a situation no matter how impossible it seems. Let us be the "change" we want to see in the world, and let us shine the light of our stars on people in need.

**Remember in Prayer:** Bernard & Nell Ann Pfeifer, Sister Christine Ernstes, Gerald Hermes, Dale Helms, Diana Bova, Chris Mennel, Chris Owens, Thomas Powers and Velma Ortman. Bernard Huff has been placed on Hospice and is declining. Please remember him and family in prayer.

Please call the parish office with any request for home visits, Communion, or anointing.

### Liturgical Ministers

#### Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

**Sacristan:** Jo Fledderman

**Musicians:** Men's Choir

**Greeters/Ushers:** Tim Scheidler, Dan Schutte, James Hamilton, Ed Johannigman

**Lectors:** Niki Johannigman, Claire Wullenweber

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Ann Stier, Norbert Hoeing, Mark Stier, Steve AmRhein

**Servers:** Jessica Diekhoff, Hunter Collins

**Counters:** Steve AmRhein, Margie Georgi, Sara Hermes

#### Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

Ann Stier

Youth Choir

**Greeters:** Kenlee Martin, Evan Wullenweber

**Ushers:** Gabby Edwards, Joshua Edwards, Brian Wittkamper, Hunter Collins

Kenny Stier, Alli Nobbe

**Gifts:** Mary Schwering, Clair Schoettmer, Caaden Gault

Donna Johannigman, Brian Huff, Lisa Huff, Emery Mapes

Rhett Martin, Tony Schwering

Marilyn Horan, Kate Bedel, Cindy Hermes

**Church Cleaning Committee-** January: Jeanne Fry (Chairperson), June Johannigman, Rita Peters, Gretchen Stone, Dorothy Fry and Kara Brown.

## Collection Remittance



December 17	\$2222.00	Maintenance	\$4150.00
December 24	\$3293.00	Fuel	\$ 200.00
Christmas	\$4592.00	End of Year	\$3000.00
December 31	\$1853.00	Visitor	\$1000.00
January 1	\$ 115.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8350.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,075.00</b>	Religious Retirement Total	\$1950.00

**Contribution Envelopes:** Contribution (Collection) Envelopes remain in the entry of the church. Please pick them up as you come or go, to save the parish postage. They are in alphabetical order for your convenience. If anyone is a registered parishioner but does not find a box labelled for you please let Sister know.

**Contribution Statements** will be processed early January. All 2017 contributions, including any year-end donations, need to be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please do not use 2017 envelopes after December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Dates To Remember



January 7	After Mass	Catechists Meeting
January 14	During Mass	Confirmation Rite of Enrollment
January 14	After Mass	Religious Education Grades 6-11
January 14	After Mass	Un-decorate Church
January 17	6:45 pm	Religious Education Grades Pre-K-5
January 17	7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
January 21	After Mass	Parish Council Meeting

**Confirmation Date!** Scheduled at St. Mary's Greensburg, on Sunday April 22nd at 2:00 pm.

## Epiphany



**Arise and shine; your light has come!**