

*January 21, 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 21, 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Alex Veerkamp

January 28, 2018 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: Melissa Moffett

**PLC Notes:**

This morning we celebrate the “**Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation**” for eight of our youth: they are **Kalie Fry, Annie Gant, Cameron Hardebeck, Anna Johannigman, Joseph Maples, Trent Nobbe, Vic Schutte and Kenny Stier**. The purpose of the rite is to introduce to you, the faith community, the candidates who are preparing for Confirmation in the spring, so that you can be aware, and support these young people with your prayers, and by sharing your faith. One of the responsibilities of each one of us is to evangelize, to share our faith. This is a prime opportunity! Each one of these young people is taking a big step, and they all need and deserve our support. When they were infants, their parents chose their faith for them, and along with their godparents, professed vows or promises to guide these folks in the formation of their faith, to bring them up in our faith, to be the initial and most important teachers of our faith. The role of the parents is primary. But **all of us** have a role as well, and each one of us has something to give, to teach or to model, thus sharing in that ultimate responsibility of passing on our faith. As part of the rite today, we will renew our baptismal promises, or say aloud just what it is that we believe about our faith. As their parents did for them when they were young, today each one of these candidates will speak these promises with their own voice, supported by our voices, their community of faith.

Some think of confirmation as a rite of passage, a declaration of becoming adult in our faith, and it is that. But more importantly, it is the beginning of one’s faith journey! These youths are saying yes to all that we believe. They are currently involved in a preparation time, to learn more deeply about what it is to walk in the light of faith, to come to know God on a personal level, to explore the questions, to try on the behaviors of a disciple of Christ. Confirmation, along with Baptism and Eucharist, form the sacraments of initiation. So these folks are being initiated into our faith. Initiation is a beginning. Some think of Confirmation as a time to end Religious Ed. But Religious Education is a life-long process. We never end learning about our faith, discovering new revelations, and growing in our relationship with God. It becomes a personal responsibility, rather than a mandated one. Each of us need to continually open ourselves to new learning through prayer, meditation, reading, lectures, discussions, and study. To end Religious Ed. after Confirmation would be like ending the marital relationship after the wedding. The wedding is a beginning point, of a new life together, and working to build and maintain a life giving marital relationship continues for the life of a couple. After Confirmation, one’s new relationship with God will need to be nurtured and fed, and renewed and sustained for a lifetime. The journey will have just begun. And there will be struggles along the way, which is why we need the support of a community of faith, a group of other disciples who journey with us, sharing the responsibility and offering support.

The Catholic Catechism says that in the sacrament confirmation, the baptized person is “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” and is “strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.” This is the reason the candidates are each required, during this preparation time, to complete service hours, time spent trying out different types of service, or ministries within the church. In our youth we watch, and learn, and imitate. In our adulthood we take on the responsibility of membership, to serve the Body of Christ. Membership for each one of us is embraced by our stewardship, our gifts of time, talent and treasure. Once again, we have the opportunity to model for these candidates, each one of these gifts. They are observing in us, how we live out our faith, how we give of ourselves, to this church, this faith that we hold dear. And they are practicing, spending time in volunteer positions, as liturgical ministers, in the soup kitchen, visiting shut-ins, serving other’s needs.

The candidates are praying for the gifts of the spirit, the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. We too, continue to seek these gifts, and strive to allow these gifts to grow and develop within us. Please support these candidates on this very important journey, this first step towards a closer union with God.

**Remember in Prayer:** Sister Christine Ernestes, Gerald Hermesch, 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 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Sacristan:** Ann Stier

**Musicians:** Mixed Choir

**Greeters/Ushers:** Don & Jeanne Fry, Joe & Donna Johannigman

**Lectors:** Jacob Mattox, Anna Johannigman

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Daniel Fledderman, Jo Fledderman, Joe Diekhoff, Julie Diekhoff

**Servers:** Kenny Stier, Michael Stier

**Counters:** June Johannigman, Pauline Schoettmer, Gretchen Stone

#### **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

Dana Fledderman

Joe and Anna Johannigman

Bill & Nike Johannigman, Steve and Diane AmRhein

Ben Stier, Jerry Fry

Kathy Kohrman, Cindy Hermesch, Jeanne Fry, Cindy Johannigman

Anna Johannigman, Mary Schwering

Cindy Johannigman, Emery Mapes, Aaron Gault

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

**Collection Remittance:** Because there was no Mass last weekend, we have no collection to report. But please note the bulleting insert outlining the six month summary.

**Special Collection:** Collection for Propagation of the Faith, January 28, 2018, an opportunity to assist in taking our faith into unchurched lands.

**United Catholic Appeal:** The report from this appeal shows us that only 70 households contributed to this most important appeal. We owe a huge thank you to those families! They have lifted us to 68 % of our goal. It is not too late to contribute. Please call or mail in your pledge today.

**Contribution Envelopes:** a few Contribution (Collection) Envelopes for 2018 remain in the entryway 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. The envelopes are the best way to track giving for tax purposes.

**Contribution Statements** (a summary of your giving during 2017) have been processed and are available today for use as you work on filing your tax returns. Like the envelopes, they will be in alphabetical order in the back of church. Please stop to pick up your envelope.

### Dates To Remember



January 21	After Mass	Un-decorate the Church
January 21	After Mass	Parish Council Meeting
January 24	6:45 P.M.	Religious Ed Pre-k to Grade 5
January 28	After Mass	Religious Ed Grades 6-11

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

**St. Mary’s School – Prospective Preschool/Kindergarten Open House** – Monday, January 29, 2018  
See Bulletin Board for further information.

**Oldenburg Academy** and the RAA will be hosting the Christian band “The Lasting hope” on Friday, February 2, at 7pm in the OA auditorium. Admission is free. Prior to the concert, the Knights of St. John, Oldenburg, will host a ham dinner in the Holy Family cafeteria from 5-7pm. Free will offering. Carry outs available.

**St. Louis Parish, Batesville:** invites us to **Celebrate Love** and marriage! Saturday, February 10, 2018, 5:00 – 11:00 pm. The celebration begins with Mass at 5:00pm at St. Louis Church, and will continue at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Batesville. Festivities include: Dinner, Dessert & Dance, Champagne Toast, Blessing of Married Couples, and a presentation on Love and Marriage. Reservations due by February 4<sup>th</sup>. \$15/person; cash bar available. St. Louis Parish: 812-934-3204.

**Community Blood Drive:** Napoleon, St. Maurice Church Hall on Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 6:30. Donors must be in good health, at least 17 years old, over 110 pounds, and must have picture ID. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Call Arlene Gehl, 812-852-4394, or visit the donation website: [www.hoxworth.org/groups/napoleon](http://www.hoxworth.org/groups/napoleon).

**Bible Study:** “With Jesus to the Cross: Year B.” A seven session guide that has insightful discussion questions on the Mass readings that draw participants into a personal relationship with the Lord. Encourages readers to continue their scripture reading and prayer throughout the week. Books are \$10.00 each. If interested in joining this discussion group or even in just ordering the book for personal reflection, please call Cindy Johannigman 812-614-0892, or Kate Bedel 812-614-0987 by Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. Group will begin February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Annual E6 Catholic Men’s Conference** set for February 24<sup>th</sup> at East Central High School in St. Leon. 8:00 to 3:00. For more information or to register online, visit: [e6catholicmensconference.com](http://e6catholicmensconference.com)  
If interested in pooling rides please contact Mark Stier 812-614-1176. Flyer on board.