

December 2, 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 Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. sisterdonna@millhousenchurch.com

Mass Intentions:

December 2 – First Sunday of Advent- Tony Scheidler

December 7 – Immaculate Conception, Holy Day Anticipation, 6 pm - For our Parish

December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent – Ben Lamping Family, Living & Deceased

December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent – Herman Schoettmer & Family, Living & Deceased

December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Albert Schoettmer

Advent- Today we begin a new liturgical calendar year. We start off the new year with a preparation period, a waiting period, a time to take stock of our lives, ask for forgiveness, reflect on new approaches, dive a little deeper into prayer and get a little closer to the heart of our faith. In just a little over three weeks from now, the Christ Child will be born! We are busy with so many celebrations around this holy event! Let us not forget to prepare our hearts!! Our first parish celebration comes on Wednesday evening of this week.

Cohort Advent Penance Service – and “First Penance” for our second graders, will be combined as it was last year, taking place on Wednesday evening, December 5th from 7:00-8:00 pm in the Church, here at Immaculate Conception. We have four priests committed to us that evening, Fathers: John Geis, Bill Turner, Frank Eckstein and Joe Nelson. All four will be hearing private confessions, behind closed doors. As in years past, we will host the priests for supper prior to the service, and all Religious Ed. students will attend this service in place of their usual class. We are hoping many parents will also attend to support their children in this spiritual exercise and sacrament. The Cohort offers two Penance Services each year, one during Advent hosted by Immaculate Conception, and one during Lent hosted by St. Maurice. This is a very special evening for our second graders who will be making their First Confession. Please join us for this evening of preparation for the Coming of Christ! Second graders are: Laykin Baltus, Brynkliie Ortman, Andrew Stier, and Luke Stier.

Then on Friday evening of this week, we celebrate the Feast of the **Immaculate Conception** with an anticipation Mass, at 6:00 pm. Not only is this the Feast of our Patron Saint, it is also a Holy Day of Obligation. We celebrate Mary being born without original sin. What an honor for the Mother of the Christ Child! Come celebrate with us as we pray to Mary to be our model and guide.

Liturgical Ministries

December 7 (Fri. 6:00 pm)

Sacristan: Jo Fledderman

Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Niki Johannigman,
Steve & Diane AmRhein

Lectors: Jeanne Fry, Anna Johannigman

Gift Bearers:

Eucharistic Ministers: Ann Stier, Norbert Hoeing
Kenny Stier, Steve AmRhein

Servers: Michael Stier, Trent & Allison Nobbe

Musicians: Donna & Sarah Schwering

Counters: Volunteers

December 9 (Sunday)

Marilyn Horan

Sophia Witkamper, Grady Scudder,
Tom & Lois Johannigman

Ben Stier, Maria Meyer

Scott & Nicole Schoettmer Family
Brian Huff, Emery Mapes, Mark Stier,
Cindy Hermesch

Hunter Collins, Tony Schwering,
Jessica Diekhoff

Youth Choir with Abby

Steve AmRhein, Margie Georgi, Sara Hermesch

Remittance 11/25/2018

	Envelopes
ENERGY: \$200.00	Loose: \$ 108.00
\$3,028 needed weekly to meet budget.	Envelopes: \$ 1733.00
Campaign for Human Development: \$10.00	Total: \$ 2090.17

Special Collection today for Maintenance Fund

United Catholic Appeal: Thank you for a great start! We will be receiving weekly reports from the Archdiocese. Following the first initial kickoff, we are at 51 % of our goal. While only 46 of our 166 registered families have pledged or donated so far, we are off to a terrific start! Let's keep the momentum going!

Another very important collection is coming up next Sunday, always falling midway through Advent. It is the **Retirement Fund for Religious** collection, this year titled, "Share the Care." This annual appeal benefits 31,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests, who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church. Most often these religious have worked their entire lives for meager salaries, or minimal stipends, and now in their advancing years, the cost of healthcare is greater than their savings. These men and women were church leaders who opened hospitals, staffed our schools, and supported our parishes for the long run. Please be generous back to them in thanksgiving for their generous service.

Remember in Prayer: Bailey Streiker, Dale Helms, Chris Mennel, Chris Owens, Stephen Koors, Jim Cobb, Theresa Cobb, Joan Nobbe, Craig Simon.

Dates to Remember

- December 2 - Breakfast with Santa, Sponsored by Knights, 8:00 -11:00
- December 2 - New Liturgical Year begins, 1st Sunday of Advent, Blessing of Advent Wreath
- December 5 - Cohort Advent Penance Service, First Penance, 7:00 pm Immaculate Conception
- December 7 - Holy Day Mass 6:00 pm, Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- December 9 - Fruit Basket Project, Following Mass, School second floor
- December 9 - Giving Tree sorting and packing following Mass, School ground floor
- December 16 - Decorate Church, **2:00 pm**, EVERYONE is welcome.
- December 23 - Christmas Choir practice with Abby, following Mass

Carrie Stier has graciously committed to coordinating choir practices for the Children's **Christmas Choir** this year. Please join Carrie to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child! Rehearsal times are: Dec. 12, at 6:15 pm in school, and Sunday Dec. 23, right after Mass in Church. (For the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve. Mass).

2018 Christmas Outreach – The Giving Tree is glowing with excitement! Our 2018 Christmas Outreach with South Decatur Elementary School is underway. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness in past years in supporting our community through giving to struggling families at South Decatur Elementary. You may pick your ornament(s) from the "Giving Tree" today, in the back of church. All gifts are to be returned and placed under the tree UNWRAPPED and with the Giving Tree ornament ATTACHED. This will help us to know for which child the gift was intended. Money placed in an envelope and marked "Giving Tree" would also be graciously accepted and used to shop for any "missing" item! All gifts will need to be turned in by Sunday December 9th for sorting and delivery. If you are interested in helping sort, shop, or deliver, please contact Anita Fry, Laura Meyer, Melea Gault, or Dana Fledderman.

Fruit Basket Outreach: Also, on December 9th, the Senior Class is sponsoring the **Fruit Basket** project., a great opportunity to reach out and support one another. Drivers are still needed to assist in delivery. All students are asked to participate. If unable to attend, please contact Mollie in advance. Classes are asked to donate the following: Kindergarten – cookies; 1st & 2nd grades – bananas; 3rd & 4th grades – oranges; 5th & 7th grades – apples; 9th grade – grapes; 10th grade – Hershey Kisses and Hugs. The elementary classes have created cards to include warm greetings. Everyone will gather immediately following Mass, in the 2nd floor classrooms.

CYO Basketball – The Cohort Team is getting started and invites all high school youth interested in having a great time to join in the fun. Head Coach this year is Benjamin Harlemert of Napoleon, assisted by Kyle Johannigman, of Millhousen. All practices are in the Millhousen gym on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30. The game schedule will be forthcoming. Please call Ben at 812-756-2124 to sign up, or for more information. If there are adults interested in helping out, or driving team members to games, please complete the “Safe and Sacred” training and background check online. Student participants will need parental permission signatures and code of conduct forms signed and returned. No fees. Cohort parishes will cover the expense.

Christmas Memorials: A box and sign-up sheets are available this morning in the entry way, for those who would like to honor their deceased loved ones by contributing to the Christmas Flower fund. Drop your donation into the box and write your family members’ name on the sheet. During the Celebrations on Christmas Eve, the names will be carried in with the offertory gifts, and we will remember each one in prayer. Their memory will live on in the beautiful Christmas flowers adorning our worship space!

Note, a change from the usual decorating ritual: due to a scheduling conflict, **Church Decorating** will not happen immediately following Mass, but will take place at 2:00 pm on Sunday December 16th. We are grateful to Gregg Mattox for coordinating this event. We are in need of a couple of strong men able to bring boxes and the stable down from above. Fear not if you are not “a decorator” for Gregg knows exactly how to bring it all together. Please offer an hour of your time and strength to adorn our church for this special season!

Safety Committee: We would all like to think that school violence will never happen here, but history has shown that it does happen, usually in small communities, to people who would never have guessed or expected it. No one (and no place) is immune. We want to be proactive. We are in the process of creating a “**Safety Committee**” for our parish, with the guidance of the Archdiocese, to look at ways we can continue to create a safe environment for all. If you think you would like to serve in this capacity, please call the office to extend your service.

Lights of Christmas! Open Door Tour. Sunday, December 30, 2018 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm the Batesville Deanery welcomes you and your loved ones to tour the 19 beautifully decorated churches of our Deanery. Bask in the sacred spaces of our adored Savior dressed in their finest during this Christmas season. Take a family photo or offer a family prayer. These locations will have doors open for four hours. See list on bulletin board.

32nd **Annual Live Nativity** – Friday, Dec. 7 & Saturday, Dec. 8 from 5-9 pm at St. Anthony Church, 4773 Church Rd., Morris, IN., Celebrate the birth of Christ, as we present: Live manger scene, live animals, local church and school choirs performing both indoor/outdoor throughout the evenings, sweet treats, hot beverages. All are welcome to this free event!

Faith Formation Commission: On Tuesday, February 26th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Immaculate Conception (Millhousen), Ken Ogorek, Archdiocesan Catechetical Director, will offer a workshop on Faith Formation Commissions. The workshop is suitable as a refresher for long-time commission members, an orientation for new members, or an info session for prospective members. Please email kogorek@archindy.org to register and/or ask any questions you might have about this opportunity. While Immaculate Conception is sponsoring, hosting this event, it is being presented by the Office of Catechesis, and being offered multiple times throughout the Archdiocese. This February event will be offered to all members of the Batesville Deanery. Please register in advance so that accommodations can be made.