

**April 28, 2019**

**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](mailto:sisterdonna@millhousenchurch.com)*

**Mass Intentions:**

April 28 – Second Sunday of Easter – Marie Hermesch  
May 5 – Third Sunday of Easter – Darlene Huff  
May 12 – fourth Sunday of Easter – Delores Redelman  
May 19 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Joe & Lenora Diekhoff  
May 26 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – Ed & Virginia Bedel

**Dates to Remember**

May 5 – Knights of St. John – Coffee and Doughnuts after Mass  
May 8 – Wed. Catechist Meeting 7pm  
May 12 – Mother’s Day, May Crowning  
May 14 – Buildings & Grounds Meeting 7pm  
May 16 – Finance Committee, Thurs. 7pm  
May 19 – Parish Council Meeting after Mass  
May 26 – Graduation Mass – Coffee & Doughnuts after Mass.

**Remember in Prayer:** Bailey Streiker, Dale Helms, Chris Mennel, Chris Owens, Jim Cobb, Theresa Cobb, Craig Simon, Stephanie Hoeing, Nell Ann Pheifer, Teresa Bruns, Bernice & Alfred Diekhoff.

**First Communion:** Congratulations to: **Laykin Baltus, Brynklie Ortman, Andrew Stier, and Luke Stier.** We pray with you in thanksgiving for the gift that we all receive, Jesus coming into our hearts. With you we pray: “Thank you, Jesus, and I love you too.”

**Liturgical Ministries**

April 28 – **First Communion**

**Sacristan:** Ann Stier  
**Ushers/Greeters:** Dave & Cindy Stone,  
John & Cindy Johannigman  
**Lectors:** Maria Meyer, Emily Baltus  
**Petitions:** Kristen Stier  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Ann Stier, LaDonna &  
Norbert Hoeing, Aaron Gault  
**Servers:** Kenny, Ben & Michael Stier  
**Musicians:** Sarah & Donna Schwering with Abby  
**Gift Bearers:** Andrew Stier, Luke Stier, Brynklie  
Ortman, Laykin Baltus  
**Counters:** Steve AmRhein, Margie Georgi, Sara  
Hermesch

**May 5**

Dana Fledderman  
Steve & Diane AmRhein, Jerry & Dorothy Fry  
Kenny Stier, Mary Schwering  
Joe & Julie Diekhoff, Dan & Jo Fledderman  
Caaden Gault, Campbell Johannigman,  
Jessica Diekhoff  
Men’s Choir  
Vic & Laura Meyer family  
Marilyn Horan, Kate Bedel, Cindy Hermesch

**Church Cleaners:** Paula Wullenweber (Chairperson), Emily Simon, Ann Stier, Abby Asher, Kendra Martin.

**Knights:** On Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> the Knights of St. John will march in procession here at Immaculate Conception, and they will offer hospitality in the form of Coffee and Doughnuts immediately following Mass. Please come!

## Remittance 4/21/2019

	Envelopes	
* <b>\$3,028 needed weekly to meet budget.</b>	<b>Loose:</b>	\$ 491.00
Catholic Relief \$20.00, Church in Africa \$10.00, Holy Places \$370.00 (Good Friday)	<b>Envelopes:</b>	\$ 2858.00
	<b>Total:</b>	\$ 3349.00

**Sacrifice Jars:** The small sacrifices made all during the 40 days of Lent have accumulated to make a very nice gift from us to “The Bread of Life.” Our total from the “Sacrifice Jars” amounted to \$755.70! Well done!

**Census:** We had a wonderful attendance for the Easter Celebration! It was so nice to have a full church! Would that we had that many here every Sunday! As many of you know we have been asked to take a head count each and every Sunday for the past few months. The numbers are being used to allocate funding and resources within the Archdiocese, and to calculate our part of the monthly assessment charged to us. Our most scarce resource is personnel, namely priests, but also PLC’s. Over the next few weeks decisions will be made, based in part on the numbers, to allocate priests services throughout the diocese. I met with the personnel director last week and learned that over the course of this one year we have lost twelve priests, and one PLC, (not mentioning the number who will retire this year and the number out for medical reasons) and some of those from very large parishes. So please keep all of this in your prayer during the next few weeks. All of the parishes have been counting attendance over this same time period, so no matter where one is registered, you were counted wherever you attended. Our numbers vary: Our lowest Sunday attendance was 114 (not weather related), and our highest of course was Easter at 287. Our average weekly attendance is 161 (elevated, due to the good crowd on Easter). We did not include Holy Week attendance in our average calculation as that would have pulled us way down, attendance was very low on Thursday. Wherever you go, your presence is very important. Father John at Greensburg, extends a very warm welcome for any of his weekend services. Now that they are returning to normal scheduling, weekend Masses at St Mary are 4:30 pm on Saturday evening and 8:00 and 10 am on Sunday morning. Our Cohort Mass times are printed on the front of the bulletin.

**Raffle and Auction** – Please mark your calendars for our annual Auction and Fundraising Day, this year **August 10<sup>th</sup>**! We received our official license to operate this week from the Indiana Gaming Commission, and very soon will be beginning preparation and meetings. Please lend your time and support to this vital fundraiser! Volunteer! Many hands make light work!

**Kindergarten Registration** has begun for new families at St. Mary’s School. Details on board.

**Vacation Bible School** – St Mary’s, **June 24-28**. 9:00 – 11:30 each day. Mark your calendars and register!

**Knights of Columbus** – Annual Mother’s Day Brunch, Sunday May 12, 2019, 8:30-10:30 breakfast menu; 10:30 – 1:30 lunch menu added. All for **Free Will Offering** at the Knights Hall, Delaware Road. Celebrate and honor all Mothers. Come out and enjoy! Skip the reservations and hassle of waiting for that large table to open up and bring the whole family out and enjoy some quality time with Mom!!! There will be a raffle for unique gifts and a free gift for mothers (while supplies last).

The Batesville Knights of Columbus will be having a **1<sup>st</sup> degree initiation** on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 7pm. If you are interested in joining please be at the hall by 6:30 pm for registration. Questions: contact Scot Harmeyer at 812-933-9046.

**Steeple Project** – Most of you have heard bits and pieces of the Steeple story. But for those who have not, this is the nutshell. In September, Norbert Hoeing noticed a small amount of water damage in the steeple when he went up to reset the clock. He reported this to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. They did a quick assessment and decided in the scope of things that it was needing some attention, but was not in imminent danger. They reported to both Finance Committee and Parish Council at the November meetings, and began to work on getting better assessment findings. Drones were deployed and information gathered. The pictures taken revealed more damage than expected to the outside structure, shingles. The shingles had been repainted only nine years ago. Costs for labor and for rental of a crane have gone up since then. They began to explore options. At the January meeting a decision was made to use the best material possible so that it would hold up for 30 plus years. Because of the height and the slope, the steeple shingles receive a lot of routine wear and tear from wind and the elements, so “30 year” shingles may only last 10 years. They began to consider metal, aluminum or copper. The thought was to invest in better material because the expense of renting a crane and labor costs prohibited repainting every ten years. They began to research companies and materials and gather quotes or bids. By the March meeting time the first quotes were beginning to come in, and we had one for the usual asphalt shingle (\$94,500.00) and one for copper (\$285,000.00). Samples were made available and methods discussed and compared. At a joint meeting of all three committees it was decided that the cost of the copper was prohibitive, even if we continue down the road of opting for better quality products. We went about the task of securing additional bids for alternative materials, including aluminum, and various other grades of shingle. Both Finance Committee and Parish Council agreed that we need to move forward with the repair project, especially since the report from Mr. Hoeing revealed the water damage was increasing. It also became obvious that we would not be able to pull this expense out of our operating budget. A capital campaign would be needed to amass the amount needed to finance this project. This began a series of meetings (with many more to come) with the Archdiocese, to plan for this undertaking. Many things are going on simultaneously now. A Project Committee is being appointed. This committee ideally will represent all three of our standing committees, and the parish at large. It is not to negate the role of any current committee members, but will take responsibility for frequent discussions, meetings, communications, and helping to move this process forward. Ken Stone will be the Project Manager. If anyone is interested in working with Ken on this subcommittee, please let me know early in the week, before appointments are made. Ultimately, each step of a building or renovation project works under the approval and guidance of the property owners, the Archdiocese. They have very detailed processes and procedures in place, and we will be guided by their leadership. This week we need to submit a written proposal to the Building and Renovation Committee for their review. We meet with that committee next week to request approval for a “Feasibility Study,” not to determine if the work needs to be done, but to determine if a Capital Campaign is needed, (so a review of all finances), and if done, is it likely to produce the needed funds? We can only move forward with each step after receiving written word from them. So, we will be engaging in a lot of dialogue. All of this raises a lot of questions for all of us here in the parish. Most importantly, will we be able to finance this project? During the last three years we have grown in our fiscal stability. We have closed each year in the black. We have not gone over budget. We have no loans nor debt. We have managed to put a little away into a savings account. We have covered multiple unplanned projects, roofing, tiling and come out with generous monetary donations, in addition to tremendous amounts of donated time and labor. But this is a big undertaking. Can we do it? We know there is willingness! No one wants our steeple to rot away. But can we afford it? How much are we willing to pledge? Will the pledges be realized? The amount collected or promised for this campaign must be **over and above** the usual operating budget. We have trimmed the budget as much as is possible over the past few years. The amount promised also must be **without diverting** anything from our usual donations and pledges to the United Catholic Appeal, which is our annual (November) support to the Archdiocesan services. Do we have more to give? **Please pray** about all of this, consider your personal/family responsibilities and commitments, and your interest in and responsibility to the ongoing maintenance and support of this parish. Your input is needed and **VALUED!** As more questions and concerns come in, we will keep you posted here. Stay tuned.