

**May 5, 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:**

- 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 19 – Parish Council Meeting after Mass
- May 19 – Auction “Start -Up” meeting, after Parish Council, begin 10:30 am. All Committee members.
- May 23 - Finance Committee, Thurs. 7pm
- 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.

**Liturgical Ministries**

May 5

- Sacristan:** Dana Fledderman
- Ushers/Greeters:** Steve & Diane AmRhein, Jerry & Dorothy Fry
- Lectors:** Kenny Stier, Mary Schwering
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Joe & Julie Diekhoff, Dan & Jo Fledderman
- Servers:** Caaden Gault, Campbell Johannigman, Jessica Diekhoff
- Musicians:** Men’s Choir
- Gift Bearers:** Vic & Laura Meyer family
- Counters:** Marilyn Horan, Kate Bedel, Cindy Hermesch
- Church Cleaners:** Paula Wullenweber (Chairperson), Emily Simon, Ann Stier, Abby Asher, Kendra Martin.

May 12

- LaDonna Hoeing
- Mike & Mollie Johannigman, Grady Scudder, Sophia Witkamper
- LaDonna Hoeing, Donna Johannigman
- Steve AmRhein, brian Huff, Mark Stier, Norbert Hoeing
- Hunter Collins, Michael Stier, Luke Diekhoff
- Youth with Abby
- Mike and Mollie Johannigman Family
- June Johannigman, Pauline Schoettmer, Gretchen Stone

**Remittance 4/28/2019**

		<b>Envelopes</b>	
* \$3,028 needed weekly to meet budget.		<b>Loose:</b>	\$ 182.00
Catholic Home Missions: \$280.00		<b>Envelopes:</b>	\$ 2281.00
		<b>Total:</b>	\$ 2463.00

**Knights:** On Sunday May 5th 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!

**Census:** We thought we were finished, but we have been asked to resume the counting. So, thank you ushers who have been asked to resume counting heads, from the choir loft, where visibility is best, sometime after the readings, when we know for sure that everyone is present. Hopefully only a few weeks more.

The Archdiocesan **Building and Development** Committee met on Thursday afternoon to review our Steeple proposal and to review our finances and ask questions. Mike Witka who has been guiding our budget process was present to speak to our financial stability. Eric Atkins answered questions relative to the steeple structure, hoped for materials, and bids on the table. The Vicar, the Chancellor, and the Chief Financial Officer are all on the committee and did most of the questioning. Over the next few days they will formulate a recommendation for next steps and present it to the Archbishop. We will hear from the Archbishop in writing, within a two-week period. One thing that was reiterated from this committee is that there is no plan to close this parish. They know that all of the small parishes are worried about this, in light of the declining number of priests. But we are not in the plans for this year, and there honestly is no plan for next year or the year after, let alone 5-10 years from now. They are taking one year at a time. While many parishes are decreasing in numbers, a few are growing, and a couple are actually building new buildings. So, time and numbers shift and change. No promises can be made. We are asked to have hope in the future, whatever that may be. God only knows what lies ahead. A lot will be determined by how we handle the current situation. Can we work together? Are we willing to be led by outside experts? Are we willing to sacrifice our own will, to allow new ideas and insights to emerge? Can we become an “Easter People?” Or will we stay walled up behind closed doors in fear and isolation? The disciples didn’t find it easy. We may not either. But new life awaits us!

**Hall Rental, dates, Mass requests, Schedules, meetings** - lots and lots of details come at me in a week, let alone a month or more. And I have never been good at remembering dates and names and times and details. On an average day I run through more than 100 text messages, 40 to 50 emails and some times dozens of phone calls. Sometimes after Mass on Sunday there are multiple people who want to stop and request a date or time or give me information, request a visit, a follow up, or get information. Even if you have said it to me, please put it in writing. The best forms of communication are those that can be printed and later reviewed. If it is a visit you want, please write “visit and name” on a piece of paper, or drop a note in the basket, or send an email that can be printed and saved. If you want to schedule a baptism, you need to first fill out a **request form** with requested date. And then don’t plan on it happening until calendars are checked, and instruction is scheduled, and paperwork is completed. The same thing for hall rentals: making a request for a date is great, but the date cannot be secured until the **contract is signed** and insurance confirmed. Please don’t send out invitations until contracts are signed and dates are secured in writing. The same would be true of funerals. I am amazed when I hear we are having a funeral on Tuesday, when it is Sunday and no one has called about using the church much less arranged for a priest. Our world is moving rapidly and often we lose site of the fact that we are not all on the same page, our world may not be the center of the universe. Every decision, and every plan, involves and affects many other entities. Often, we are stretched to our limits. Sometimes we need to share. Sometimes we need to be flexible. Sometimes we need to sacrifice. Always we need to be considerate of how we affect others.

**Raffle and Auction** – Please mark your calendars for our annual Auction and Fundraising Day, this year **August 10<sup>th</sup>**! Please lend your time and support to this vital fundraiser! Volunteer! The annual “start-up” meeting for all committee members is Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:30 am, following Parish Council.

**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.

This is being reprinted for all those who may have been away last weekend:

**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!**