

**November 3, 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:**

- November 3 – Thirty-First Sunday in ordinary Time – Fred & Lurley Scheller
- November 10 – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Tony Scheidler
- November 17 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Urban Johannigman
- November 24 – Christ the King – Martha Singer
- November 27 – Eve of Thanksgiving (6:00 pm) – Darlene Huff
- December 1 - First Sunday of Advent – The Living & Deceased members of the Ben Lamping Family
- December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent – The Living & Deceased Members of the St. Mary’s Ladies Auxiliary

**Dates to Remember**

- November 3 – Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation. (Remember to set clocks back one hour.)
- November 6 – Parents meeting for First Penance, 7:00 pm
- November 10 – United Catholic Appeal Weekend
- November 10 – Finance Committee Meeting following Mass
- November 17 – Parish Council Meeting following Mass
- December 8 – Fruit Basket assembly and delivery (youth group)

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Please see new Ministry list attached.**

November 3

- Sacristan:** LaDonna Hoeing
- Ushers/Greeters:** Mitch & Lori Nobbe, John & Cindy Johannigman
- Lectors:** Ben Stier, Emily Georgie
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Daniel & Jo Fledderman, Joe & Julie Diekhoff
- Servers:** Hunter Collins, Campbell Johannigman, Allison Nobbe
- Musicians:** Men’s Choir
- Gift Bearers:** Colton Johannigman, Tony Schwering, Brian Wittkamper
- Counters:** Cindy Johannigman, Emery Mapes, Aaron Gault

November 10

- Dana Fledderman
- Joe & Donna Johannigman Steve & Diane AmRhein
- Mary Jo Wenning, Niki Johannigman
- Kathy Kohrman, Cindy Hermes, Jeanne Fry, Cindy Johannigman
- Evan Wullenweber, Luke Diekhoff, Oliver Hamilton
- Sarah & Donna Schwering with Abby
- Tim & Stephanie Hoeing Family
  
- Steve AmRhein, Margie Georgi, Sara Hermes

**Church Cleaners:** November: Dana Fledderman (chair), Julie Diekhoff, Susan Hamilton, Jeanine Scheidler, Marcie Johannigman.

**Remittance 10/27/2019**

		<b>Envelopes</b>	
<b>* \$2800.00 needed weekly to meet budget.</b>		<b>Loose:</b>	\$ 180.00
FUEL: \$20.00	ALL SAINTS HOLY DAY: \$ 437.00	<b>Envelopes:</b>	\$ 2503.00
<b>World Mission Sunday: \$80.00</b>			
STEEPLE FUND: \$ 425.00			
		<b>Total:</b>	\$ 2683.00

**Remember in Prayer:** Pat Schwering, Benji Ortman, John Kuzman, Hubert Raver, and a special intention. Benji had what was considered to be a successful surgery. He remains in the hospital. Please remember in prayer Wanda Barnes, mother of parishioner Kimberly Johannigman, who passed away on October 26. Funeral was Saturday.

**Pictures:** the photographer has mailed your photos and all are available in the entry way this morning. Names are highlighted to assist you in locating your envelope.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**, the feast of the **Immaculate Conception**, and our parish feast day, is traditionally a Holy Day of obligation. However, this year December 8<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday in advent, which takes precedence. Thus, the feast day is transferred to Monday. For the first time, the church has declared the feast this year, to NOT be a Holy Day of obligation. There will be no Mass at Immaculate Conception on Monday.

**Thanksgiving Day** is never a holy day of obligation, but in the United States it has become a traditional day to truly give thanks to God for his many blessings to us. Not wanting to interrupt your family traditions and preparations, we have traditionally had a Mass of Thanksgiving on the evening **before**. Please join us again this year for this special celebration as we thank God, as a community, for his great gifts and blessings. 6:00 pm.

This morning we celebrate the “**Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation**” for five of our youths. They are: **Emily Georgi, Colton Johannigman, Tony Schwering, Ben Stier, and Brian Wittkamper**. 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 to have them baptized and, along with their godparents, professed vows or promises to guide them in the formation of their faith, to bring them up as Catholic, 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, 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 of these candidates will speak these promises with their own voice, supported by our voices, the voice of the faith community.

Some think of confirmation as a rite of passage, a declaration of becoming an 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 initiation as a time to end Religious Education. But in reality, Religious Education is a lifelong 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 education 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, 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 of 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 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 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 into adulthood in our faith, this first step towards a closer union with God.

**Background Checks and Safe & Sacred training:** All parishioners that volunteer in any capacity need this training. Please take it upon yourselves to accomplish yours as soon as possible. There are printed directions in the back of church or you can email Dana Fledderman at [dana@millhousechurch.com](mailto:dana@millhousechurch.com) for a digital copy. This includes but is not limited to teachers, council members, auction volunteers and Sunday ministries. If you have questions you may call/text Dana at (812) 212-2056. Thank you for your swift compliance in this issue. And a special thanks to those already in compliance!

**Giving Tree - HELP NEEDED** - We are beginning to plan the Giving Tree Outreach for SDES families this year and need your help! We are looking for another committee member or two to help with the planning process and/or do early prep work, and submit bulletin entries regarding the project to keep the parish updated with progress. Please contact Laura Meyer or Melea Gault if you are interested.

**Christmas** is less than two months away, and some have already begun the preparations. We have been doing some planning of our own. Because the second Mass on Christmas Eve has been so poorly attended, and because, as our numbers decline, we are now able to all fit nicely into our church without overflowing, we are decreasing our Christmas Masses to just one, at 4:00 pm. Please come join us and the entire community of Immaculate Conception, as the children offer their homemade ornaments to the new born king, and sing hymns, accompanied by our very own Ryan Stone. All children and youth of the parish are invited to join in the **Christmas choir!** Practices will be on Wednesday evenings before Religious Education, beginning on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm., led by Carrie Stier. All of our youth are encouraged to join in this special occasion!

Today, November 3, is **Vocation Awareness Sunday**. The new Vocation posters are hanging on the bulletin board to remind all of us to pray for the young candidates in our Archdiocese. We would also like to initiate a new activity to focus and remind us of vocations prayer: Beginning today, we will have a traveling crucifix. The crucifix will be a reminder to us to pray for vocations, and will travel from home to home, each month. On the first Sunday of each month, a family will come forth at the end of Mass to receive the crucifix and take it home for the month, displaying it in a prominent location so that all family members will see it and pray for vocations. Any family open to taking and praying, please contact LaDonna for scheduling.

Anyone interested in playing **CYO Basketball** please contact coach Ben Harlemert (812-756-2124).