

December 1, 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

Mass Intentions:

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
December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent – Urban Johannigman
December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Paul Scheller
December 24 – Christmas Eve – Jerry Jacobs
December 29 - The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Anthony Scheidler
December 31 – (Anticipation) Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God – Albert Schoettmer

Dates to Remember

December 1 - Breakfast with Santa, Knights Hall, 8-11
December 4 – Annual Cohort Advent Penance Service, here at Immaculate Conception, 7 pm
December 8 – Fruit Basket assembly and delivery (youth group)
December 15 – Decorate Church; Giving Tree preparation in school hall, (Coffee & Doughnuts for volunteers.)

Liturgical Ministries

December 1 (1st Advent)

Sacristan: LaDonna Hoeing
Ushers/Greeters: Tim Scheidler, Dan Schutte, Grady Scudder, Sophia Witkamper
Lectors: Melea Gault, Jeanne Fry
Eucharistic Ministers: Daniel & Jo Fledderman, Julie & Joe Diekhoff,
Servers: Hunter Collins, Ben Stier, Michael Stier
Musicians: Men's Choir
Gift Bearers: Vic & Laura Meyer family
Counters: Cindy Johannigman, Emery Mapes, Aaron Gault

December 8 (2nd Advent)

Ann Stier
Mike & Kathy Kohrman, Don & Jeanne Fry
Mary Jo Wenning, Donna Johannigman
Kathy Korhman, Cindy Hermesch, Jeanne Fry, Cindy Johannigman
Tony, Mary & Sam Schwering
Kenny Stier (cantor)
Tim & Stephanie Hoeing family
Steve AmRhein, Margie Georgi, Sara Hermesch

Church Cleaners: December: Mollie Johannigman (chairperson), Sarah Hermesch, Lori Nobbe, Cindy Johannigman, Jessica Hamilton, Nicole Schoettmer.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: November 24, 2019

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2800.00	Steeple Fund Goal:	\$95,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1433.25	Collected this week:	
Maintenance Fund:	\$300.00	Pledged this week:	
Fuel (Energy) Fund:	\$10.00		
For Military Services:	\$20.00	Total Collected:	
Campaign for Human Development:	\$271.00	Total Pledged:	
Christmas Memorials (Flowers):	\$50.00		
Total Sunday Collections:	\$2084.00	Difference:	\$95,000.00

Special Collection today: Maintenance Fund. Thank you for your generosity!

Remember in Prayer: Pat Schwering, Benji Ortman, John Kuzman, and a special intention.

Annual Cohort Advent Penance Service: and First Penance for our second graders, will be combined, taking place on Wednesday evening, **December 4th at 7:00 pm** here at Immaculate Conception. We have four priests coming that evening, Fr. John Geis, Fr. Bill Turner, Fr. Frank Eckstein, and Fr. Bill Ehalt. All four will be hearing private confessions, behind closed doors, following a communal prayer service. 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 them, as they prepare for the coming of Christ! Second Graders are: **Lane Asher, Quin Johannigman, Brinley Scudder, and Elyse Stone.** We could use assistance: cook, server, greeters, lectors, musicians. Please call the office, or LaDonna to volunteer.

December 8th, the feast of the **Immaculate Conception**, and our parish feast day, is traditionally a Holy Day of obligation. However, this year December 8th 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. Because this year marks the **185th** anniversary of our parish founding in 1834, we will highlight our parish that Sunday Morning. Hoping for a great attendance!

2019 Christmas Outreach, Giving Tree - All ornaments for this year's Christmas Outreach are available on the tree in the back of church. We are helping eight SDES families this year with their Christmas needs by providing shoes, shirt, pants, underwear, and item from their wish list! This is sure to be a blessing to all the families again this year. Please return ALL gifts UNWRAPPED, and with the giving tree ornament ATTACHED. This will help us to know which child the gift was intended for. All gifts will need to be turned in by Sunday, December 15. If you would prefer not to shop, feel free to place money in an envelope marked Giving Tree in the Sunday collection. Our elves will do the shopping for you! If you have any questions please reach out to Dana Fledderman, Jeanie Fry, Melea Gault or Laura Meyer. Thank you in advance for all you do for these families!

Also underway is the **Fruit basket** project, this year sponsored by the confirmation candidates. Plans are in place for Sunday December 8th, following Mass. The first, and most important thing they need is a group of parental drivers to assist in delivering their goods. If you have completed your "Safe & Sacred" Training, and have a giving heart to assist our youth in serving the elders of our community, please call Mollie.

Christmas Eve Mass, 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 are planned for Wednesday evenings before Religious Education, in the school building, beginning at 6:15 pm., on Dec. 4th and 11th led by Carrie Stier; and again, on Sunday morning, December 22nd, in church, immediately following Mass, with Abby Wagner. All of our youth are encouraged to join in this special occasion!

"Breakfast with Santa," sponsored by the Knights of St. John of Millhousen, today, December 1, 2019, 8:00 – 11: 00 am, at the Knights Hall, Sausage, Eggs, Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy, Coffee Cake, drinks, all for a free will offering benefiting Immaculate Conception Steeple Fund. See Bulletin Board for more details.

Christmas Memorials: A box and sign-up sheets are available this morning in the entryway, for who would like to honor their deceased loved ones this Christmas by contributing to the Christmas Flower fund. A \$10 donation would provide a lovely large poinsettia for our Christmas manger and altars. Drop your donation in the box provided and write the name of a loved one on the sheet. The names of the loved one will be written in the

bulletin on Christmas Eve., and we will remember each one in prayer. Their memory will live on in the beautiful Christmas flowers adorning our worship space.

Church Decorating: Dec. 15, right after Mass, Gregg Mattox coordinating. We have a nice group. Thanks!

Lights of Christmas! Open Door Tour: Sunday, December 29, 2019 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. The 19 locations will have doors open for four hours. See list on Bulletin Board. Or, volunteer to host an hour! Welcome our guests to our lovely church. Since it is our 185th anniversary of founding, it would be nice to offer a cookie and glass of punch. Any volunteers? If the weather is favorable we can expect a slow but steady group of folks who want to view and pray and move on. No need to entertain or talk, just welcome. Sign up in entryway.

Our First Christmas gift has arrived! The new **2020 Catholic Calendars** are on the table in the entryway, courtesy of **Bass & Gasper Funeral Home!** Please help yourself! And if you have an opportunity, thank Mike Gasper for providing this wonderful resource.

Clarity of South-Central Indiana needs our help: People wondering what to do, often seek out Clarity for direction. Clarity (Pregnancy center) has helped thousands of people avoid making tragic decisions in the heat of difficult moments. When you donate to Clarity on **December 3**, (Giving Tuesday), your contribution will be **doubled!** Generous partners will match every dollar given, up to \$60,000. You can help people who don't know what to do, to find hope and healing. Submit your gift online at claritycares.org/donate or mail your gift to PO Box 2215, Columbus IN 47202 or bring it in to any location Greensburg or Columbus 8am to 5pm, December 3. Administrative offices are at 4550 West Jonathan Moore Pike, Columbus, IN 47201.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and the Catholic Community Foundation invite you to **“An Evening of Lights”** the Archdiocesan Christmas Tree Lighting and Prayer Service, Thursday, **December 5, 2019**, at the Catholic Center Assembly Hall Service begins at 6:30 pm, doors open at 6:00. Reception to follow. Prepare your hearts for Jesus coming as the Light of the World! See Board.

“Then Something Wondrous Happened” A joyful Advent evening of celebrating the gifts of God's friendship and Mary's Yes! Stories, Songs, Reflections. Fatima Retreat House Friday, December 6, 2019, 5:30-9:00 pm. A light supper and program. Register online or by calling 317-545-7681. More of Board.

“Leave the Light On” December 16, 2019. Fatima Retreat House, Reconciliation 9 am – 7:00 pm No appointment needed. Alternating confessions throughout the day. Advent, the season of waiting for the birth of our Savior, is the perfect time to experience the grace of God' forgiveness. Sacrament of Reconciliation available all day.

5th Annual **E6 Catholic Men's Conference** February 22, 2020; 8-4pm, Registration now open at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-e6-catholic-mens-conference-tickets-74532549863>. See Board for prices and more details. Location: East Central High School, Performing Arts Center, St. Leon.

Special **Advent Concert** with Mike Davis, Christian Singer and Religious Educator will be held at Holy Guardian Angels Oratory, 405 US Hwy 52, Cedar Grove, In. 47016. The concert begins at 7:00pm on Friday, December 13, 2019. An incredible evening of prayer and music to prepare us for the coming of Jesus Christ on Christmas. There is no charge (freewill donations are appreciated.) A social gathering will be held afterward in the school hall. Please bring an appetizer to share. Hope to see you there!

33rd Annual Live Nativity: St. Anthony Church in Morris will host on Friday & Saturday, December 13 & 14, 5-9 pm. There will be a live manger scene, live animals, local church and school choirs performing both indoor and outdoor throughout the evenings. Sweet treats and hot beverages will be served. Crafts and activities for kids. All are welcome to this free event. 4773 Church Rd. Morris IN.



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
317-236-1403

5 November 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis the weekend of December 7th and 8th. The Catholic bishops of the United States launched this collection in 1988 to help address the rising costs of caring for our senior religious.

As you likely know, the dedication and hard work of our senior religious laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and numerous social service organizations. Many of us can recall a special sister, brother or religious order priest whose ministry and witness had a profound impact on our lives. Most senior religious worked for little or no pay, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Today, hundreds of communities struggle to provide adequate care for their aging members.

It is estimated that by 2029 the number of religious over the age of 70 will outnumber those under the age of 70 by nearly three to one. Sister Christa Franzer, Congregational Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg reports that they “currently have 169 members with a median age of 78. Approximately 39 of the sisters remain in active ministries earning modest incomes, ...”

Like the Oldenburg Franciscans, the Benedictine Sisters of Beech Grove, the Conventual Franciscan Friars of Mount St. Francis, the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, the Benedictine Monks of St. Meinrad, and the Discalced Carmelites of Terre Haute all receive assistance from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

In gratitude for these religious as well as the members of other communities who serve or have served in the archdiocese, let us be generous in our support of the Retirement Fund for Religious. With assurance of my prayers and best wishes for you, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson
Archbishop of Indianapolis