

December 15, 2019

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, MILLHOUSEN, IN

Immaculate Conception Parish Community strives to live the Gospel by worshipping God, deepening our understanding of 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 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 15 – “Bambinelli Sunday” Bring your Baby Jesus (figurines from our family Nativity sets) for blessing. See note below.
- December 15 – Decorate Church; Giving Tree preparation in school hall, (Coffee & Doughnuts for volunteers.)
- December 17 – Tuesday, Giving Tree gifts delivered to families.
- December 22 – Youth Choir practice, following Mass, in Church
- December 24 – Parish Christmas Eve. Mass at 4:00 pm; come early for hymns by youth choir.
- December 29 – Lights of Christmas Open Door Tour – Deanery Churches, 1:00 – 5:00 pm
- December 31 – New Year’s Eve; 6:00 pm Holy Day Mass, Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Liturgical Ministries

December 15 (3rd Advent)

- Sacristan:** Dana Fledderman
- Ushers/Greeters:** Mitch & Lori Nobbe,
Joe & Donna Johannigman
- Lectors:** Niki Johannigman, Jerry Fry
- Eucharistic Ministers:** Ann Stier, Norbert Hoeing,
Mark Stier, Steve AmRhein
- Servers:** Colton & Campbell Johannigman, Allison Nobbe
- Musicians:** Sarah & Donna Schwering with Abby
- Gift Bearers:** Eric & Melanie Stone family
- Counters:** Kate Bedel, Cindy Hermes, Jeannie Fry

December 22 (4th Advent)

- LaDonna Hoeing
- Bill & Niki Johannigman, Steve & Diane AmRhein
- Maria Meyer, Kenny Stier
- Brian Huff, Aaron & Melea Gault, Kenny Stier
- Jessica & Luke Diekhoff, Evan Wullenweber
- Sarah & Donna Schwering with Abby
- Aaron & Melea Gault family
- June Johannigman, Pauline Schoettmer, Gretchen Stone

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: December 8, 2019

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00	Steeple Fund Goal:	\$95,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,118.00	Collected this week:	\$25,200.00
Maintenance Fund:	\$390.00	Pledges (not collected) this week:	\$11,100.00
Religious Retirement:	\$728.00		
Fuel:	\$200.00	Total Collected:	\$37,055.00
Campaign for Human Development:	\$50.00	Total Pledges Not Collected:	\$13,600.00
Christmas Memorials (Flowers):	\$40.00	Grand Total:	\$50,655.00
Total Sunday Collections:	\$3526.00	Difference:	\$44,345.00

United Catholic Appeal: Our Goal for this Annual Appeal to support the Ministries of the Archdiocese is set at \$15, 057, based on the number of active households, 144, and on our total income of the past three years. We have done well thus far with our pledges reaching 73% or \$11,035. Great start! We've had 35% participation thus far, so if you have not yet sent in your Intention Card, please do so to help us meet our goal.

Steeple Repair Fund: All parishioners for whom we have information, (currently active or not), should have received letters of explanation concerning this fund and our current needs. The mailing included 195 households. If you, or someone you know, has not received this mailing, please contact the parish office with updated information. 31 pledge cards have been returned thus far. We need all 195 households to respond, even if your pledge is small. **Every** amount helps move us toward our goal! Additional pledge cards are available in the entryway to church. One does not need to be a parishioner to pledge or donate. Please assist us in spreading the word and/or seeking the assistance we need to complete this important repair. We are most grateful for your generosity and support!

Remember in Prayer: Pat Schwering, Benji Ortman, Barb Hoeing, John Kuzman, Mary Fry and baby, a special intention.

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

As all of us are in the waiting mode, waiting for the coming of Christ, one in our midst waits no longer. Christ came to her already, and she was prepared! Vera Wenning responded quickly to Christ's coming, on Thursday morning. All was in readiness! Visitation, beginning with the rosary at 3:30 will be on Monday evening, at Porter, Olinger, Pearson Funeral Home, and the funeral Mass will follow on Tuesday morning, at 11:00 am. here at Immaculate Conception. Visitation in church will begin at 10:00 am. Please keep the family in prayer this week as they pick up the pieces from this surprise visit.

2019 Christmas Outreach, Giving Tree – The team will meet today, immediately following Mass, to sort, bag, and prepare all gifts for delivery. It is not too late to contribute cash for last minute shopping. Your generosity is most gratifying! The families are so blest!

Fruit Basket Project – A big thank you to Mollie, the Confirmation candidates, and all youth and parents who contributed fruit, time and assistance to get this outreach project completed. Our elders and shut-ins are so appreciative of your gifts as well as your visits! 28 fruit baskets were created and delivered bringing Christmas joy to all! The remaining fruit was taken to "Bread of Life" where even more people were served. Thank you!

A great tradition to start during the Advent season, is preparing your home Nativity Set, with the exception of Baby Jesus. A nativity set that is (temporarily) missing the Baby Jesus is a good reminder that it's not quite Christmas yet! It is great to be getting these reminders out. St. (Pope) John Paul II started the tradition of "**Bambinelli Sunday**" (the 3rd Sunday of Advent), where he encouraged children to bring their Baby Jesus from their family's home nativity set to St. Peter's square for a special papal blessing. The children then place the Baby Jesus figurine under the Christmas tree until Christmas morning, when he officially joins the nativity set. Pope Francis continues this tradition today. It is a beautiful Advent tradition, which is expanding to the church outside of Rome, a tradition that sanctifies the home with the Baby Jesus and makes his arrival in the manger scene an even more joyous event. We begin our own "Bambinelli Sunday" today. Please bring your Baby Jesus to church for a special blessing following communion. We will call the children forward (children of all ages, 3-103) to have the infants blessed, and then placed under the Christmas Tree at home, as a reminder of the great gift to come. Those unable to come forward may just lift the infants from the pews during the blessing time.

Christmas Eve Mass, 4:00 pm. Please come join with 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!** Final rehearsal will be next Sunday, December 22nd following Mass, with Abby Wagner. On Christmas Eve, we ask the choir to arrive by 3:30, with Carols to begin at 3:45 pm. It is not too late to join in this celebration!

Christmas Memorials: A box and sign-up sheets are available this morning in the entryway, for those 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 your loved ones will be written in the bulletin on Christmas Eve., and their memory will live on in the beautiful Christmas flowers adorning our worship space.

Church Decorating: right after Mass today, Gregg Mattox coordinating. We have a great crew committed. Thank you for volunteering! Parish Council is sponsoring Coffee & Doughnuts for all the workers, in the Parish Office Building following the activity. Thank you to our youth for joining the effort!

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. Please volunteer to host an hour! Welcome guests to our lovely church. Since it is our 185th anniversary of founding, it would be nice to offer a cookie and drink. Any volunteers? We need cookie bakers as well as hospitality volunteers. If the weather is favorable we can expect a slow but steady group of folks who want to share our beauty, to pray a bit and then move on. Please sign up in entryway.

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.

Coming soon, also on the table in the entryway, will be your new boxes of **Giving Envelopes** for the year 2020.

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.

St. Mary's School will be hosting an **"Open House"** for prospective Preschool and Kindergarten students and parents, on Monday, January 27, 2020. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Holy Family Church is sponsoring a **turtle soup sale** to benefit their Religious Ed. Program, January 3rd and 4th. Soup available at The Village Store in Oldenburg. Flyer on Board.

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.