

December 22, 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 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
January 5 – The Epiphany of the Lord – Urban Johannigman
January 12 – The Baptism of the Lord –the Living & Deceased of the Herman Schoettmer Family
January 19 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Alex Veerkamp
January 26 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cathy Wittkamper

Dates to Remember

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
January 12 – Take down Christmas decorations following Mass
January 13 – Buildings & Grounds Committee, 7:00 pm
January 19 – Finance Committee following Mass
January 26 – Parish Council following Mass

Liturgical Ministries

December 22 (4th Advent)

Sacristan: LaDonna Hoeing
Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Niki Johannigman,
Steve & Diane AmRhein
Lectors: Maria Meyer, Kenny Stier
Eucharistic Ministers: Brian Huff, Aaron
& Melea Gault, Kenny Stier
Servers: Jessica & Luke Diekhoff, Evan Wullenweber
Musicians: Sarah & Donna Schwering with Abby
Gift Bearers: Aaron & Melea Gault family
Counters: June Johannigman, Pauline Schoettmer,
Gretchen Stone

December 29 (Holy Family)

Jo Fledderman
Mark & Cindy Hermes, Tom & Lois
Johannigman
Ben Stier, Mary Schwering
Kathy Kohrman, Cindy Hermes, Emery Mapes,
Timothy Hoeing
Hunter Collins, Oliver Hamilton, Grady Scudder
Men’s Choir
Nick & Abby Asher Family
Cindy Johannigman, Emery Mapes, Aaron Gault

Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 pm

Sacristan: LaDonna Hoeing

Ushers: Dave Stone, Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lectors: Melea Gault, Jeanne Fry

Eucharistic Ministers: Cindy Johannigman, Ann Stier, Norbert Hoeing, Mark Stier

Servers: Ben Stier, Michael Stier, Caaden Gault

Musicians: Children’s Choir with Ryan Stone

Gift Bearers: Jed & Alison Ortman family

Counters: Volunteers, can be done after Mass, or next day, or Thursday

Kudos! Doesn't our church look beautiful? It took a Village! Thank you to the church cleaners for removing the lady bugs and all that we track in. Thanks to Gregg and a great team for coming together to do the heavy work, of putting up the trees and crib. Thank you to Roger DuMond, father of Nichole Schoettmer, for donating 50% of our Flowers! Thank you to all, for the memorial contributions to cover the rest of the flowers. Christmas Memorials will be printed up for Christmas Eve. Thank you to Linda Mazingo for fluffing, and bows for our wreaths. And thank you to LaDonna for helping to put the flowers in place and finishing touches. The end result is spectacular. Something we can all be proud of!

Tree Blessing: This morning we take the next step in our preparation process: Blessing our Christmas Tree. Attached at the end of the bulletin today is a simple tree blessing for each one to take home and use to bless your family trees. Please gather as a family, on Christmas Eve, or before, to bless your tree, and ask for God's blessing on your family. May light shine in your hearts!

Do you know the **origin of the Christmas Tree**, and the story of **St. Boniface**? Copies of the story are available in the entryway this morning. Take one and read it to your family. As we gather around our Christmas trees this year, may we give thanks for the gift of our faith, hold the story of our Savior's birth in our hearts, and listen for the song of the angels.

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):	\$2,595.00	Collected this week:	\$66,757.21
Maintenance Fund:	\$5.00	Pledges (not collected) this week:	\$4,900.00
Religious Retirement:	\$72.00		
Fuel:	\$150.00	Total Collected:	\$103,812.21
		Total Pledges Not Collected:	\$18,500.00
Christmas Memorials (Flowers):	\$80.00	Grand Total:	\$122,312.21
Total Sunday Collections:	\$2,902.00	We Have met our goal!!	Halleluia!

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 74% or \$11,085. Great start! We've had 36% 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: 57 pledge cards have been returned thus far. And we have reached our goal of \$95,000.00 !! We are indeed blessed! What a wonderful Christmas gift to our parish! We truly do need all pledge cards to be returned. Our expenses for this project will be far greater than the goal of \$95,000. that we put forth. If you recall, the bid from the contractor was \$175,000. Our plan was to subtract the difference from our savings account. **Every** amount in addition that we are able to collect will help us to maintain some savings to use for other maintenance projects, emergencies, or even other expenses that will undoubtedly arise from this project. We are most grateful for your generosity and support! A more detailed report will be coming from our Parish Council/Finance Committee, as promised, right after the first of the year. We owe a lot to the generosity of our parishioners! But in addition, we have received considerable assistance from friends and non-parishioners! Join in thanking God for his bounty!

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

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 today, December 22nd immediately 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. Please come celebrate with us!

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/or 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. If you have a family gathering or other plans that preclude your presence, please drop off a few cookies to share with our guests. This is not a competition, and there will be no voting for the best decorated church. But if this was a competition, I'm sure we would win. Our church is very beautifully decorated for the coming of Christ!

Giving Envelopes - On the table in the entryway, please find your new boxes of **Giving Envelopes** for the year 2020. If you are not able to find your name on a box, please let Sister know and a box will be provided for you. Our computer system is still not without flaws, but we hope to have captured all who routinely give. Use of the Sunday envelopes helps us track giving and meet compliance issues as a non-profit organization, yet protect your confidentiality. There is never a need to write your name or contribution amount on the envelope, as all is tracked by number. Thank you for making use of this system when able, and thank you for your generous giving!

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.

Please remember those parishioners who are home bound or in nursing homes and assisted living settings this year. A card, call or brief visit would brighten their holidays! They include:

Teresa Bruns – St. Andrews Assisted Living, 1400 Lammers Pike, Batesville, IN 47006

Barbara Hoeing – 4046 W. CR 700 S., Greensburg, IN 47240

Marilyn Horan – Morning Breeze Assisted Living, #21, 950 N. Lakeview Drive, Greensburg, IN 47240

Elaine Jacobs – Crown Point Senior Living, 1034 E. Crown Pointe Blvd. Greensburg, IN 47240

Laurie Johannigman - 4535 E. CR 700 S. Greensburg, IN 47240

Evelyn Keifer – 406 E. Paul Street, Westport, IN 47283

Alvin Pfeifer – 6765 E CR 1200 N., Butlerville, IN 47223

Robert Schoettmer – Crown Point Senior Living, 1034 E. Crown Pointe Blvd. Greensburg, IN. 47240

Cletus Wessler -Crown Pointe Senior Living, 1034 E. Crown Pointe Blvd. Greensburg, IN. 47240

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ,

That we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.