

January 19, 2020

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@millhousechurch.com

Mass Intentions:

January 19 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Alex Veerkamp
January 26 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cathy Wittkamper
February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord - Blessing of candles – Urban Johannigman
February 9 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cathy Wittkamper
February 16 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Ralph Bruns
February 23 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Warren Oliver
February 26 – Ash Wednesday – Marie & Ed Stier

Dates to Remember

January 19 – Finance Committee following Mass
January 26 – Parish Council following Mass

Liturgical Ministries

January 19

Sacristan: Jo Fledderman
Ushers/Greeters: Mike & Kathy Kohrman,
Don & Jeanne Fry
Lectors: Kenny Stier, Mary Schwering
Eucharistic Ministers: Ann Stier, Norbert Hoeing
Mark Stier, Steve AmRhein
Servers: Hunter Collins, Ben Stier, Michael Stier
Musicians: Men's Choir
Counters: June Johannigman, Pauline Schoettmer,
Gretchen Stone
Gift Bearers: Vic & Laura Meyer family

January 26

LaDonna Hoeing
Dan Schutte, James Hamilton, Grady Scudder,
Sophia Witkamper
Jerry Fry, Claire Schoettmer
Brian Huff, Emery Mapes Aaron & Melea Gault
Tony, Mary, & Sam Schwering
Abby with Sarah & Donna Schwering
Cindy Johannigman, Emery Mapes, Aaron Gault
Tim & Stephanie Hoeing family

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: January 12, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00	Steeple Fund Goal:	\$95,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1875.00	Collected this week:	\$600.00
Energy/Fuel	\$1395.00	New Pledges (not collected) this week:	\$000.00
Holy Day	\$55.00	Total Collected:	\$189,046.86
Total Collections:	\$3325.00	Total Pledges Not Collected:	\$43,600.00
		Grand Total:	\$232,646.86

Let us pray in gratitude for the blessings of our donors!

Special Collection: Next Sunday to support the work of the Church in Latin America. Envelope in box.

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 86% or \$12,885. Great momentum! We've had 42% 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: 100 pledge cards have been returned thus far. We thank you one and all! We are most grateful for your generosity and support! A more detailed financial report will be coming from our Finance Committee by the end of the month. Last week members of the Steeple Committee met with the contractors to refine our plans and clarify details. This week Buildings and Grounds Committee met to review and update. Next steps will be finalizing a contract and insurance coverage. Look for additional information as the project progresses.

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

Religious Education – Due to personal and health concerns, Mollie Johannigman has resigned her position as Administrator of Religious Education, effective the end of December. Please pray for a safe and healthy delivery. We thank Mollie for her past 18 months with us, and wish her the best during multiple life stresses and challenges. Some time ago, Melea Gault agreed to help us out for an interim during the pregnancy leave, but at this time she is not prepared to take over this position long term. This may be an opportunity for a new career for a young adult in the parish. Please prayerfully consider your gifts and talents, and to what ministry God may be calling you. This is one of multiple ministry opportunities available in the parish, but one that is vital to our future. If you would like to discuss the educational and experiential requirements for this position please call the parish office. If no one comes forward within the next week, this position will be posted throughout the Deanery.

Please note other positions available at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg: position descriptions on board, with deadlines for applications. If interested please call Fr. Carl. (DRE and Business Manager positions)

On Monday evening at the Buildings and Grounds meeting it was brought to our attention that the two **trees** in front of the school building were growing quite close to the power lines and needed some attention. A call to REMC brought immediate attention! Unfortunately, the policy is no longer to “trim trees”, but to “remove trees” which are in close proximity to power lines. Now all that remains is the wood. If you are using wood to heat your home and would appreciate some of the wood that remains, please call the parish office to negotiate. Our long-term plan (probably in spring) is to replace trees on our campus that have recently been lost. We are open to suggestions as to placement, definitely not under or close to power lines.

Hard rain mixed with strong wind last weekend brought water once again into our gym. Thank you to Steve and Dave Stone for coming to the rescue when called, to mop and clean up. The west end windows are on the list of things to do (calking), along with removal of the chimneys on the school and church buildings.

Immaculate Conception **CYO Girls Volleyball** Team has begun practice under the guidance of Margie Georgi. To register, or for more information, please contact Margie at 812-591-2274.

St. Nicholas Catholic Church will be hosting a **Eucharistic Holy Hour** and Healing Prayer Service on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm, Concessions begin at 6:30. More info on board.

Decatur County Right to Life is Sponsoring a **Candle-lite Vigil** on Wednesday evening, January 22, at St. Mary's Church beginning at 6:30 pm. See flyer. All are welcome.

St. Mary's Alumni and Friends invite you to their annual **Chili Supper and Family Fun Night** on January 24th from 5-8 pm. Bring your friends and family. Flyer on board.

Sunday, February 9th 11:00 am begins the **Bingo for Haiti** at St. Anthony Church Schad Hall. **Chili supper** to follow. See board for details!

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.

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. Be part of the largest and most dynamic gathering of Catholic men in the tri-state area!

Please pray for **our priests**: in recent weeks we have buried one, and one has left the priesthood. In addition, two are gravely ill and will need to be replaced. There was a plea for someone to commit to regular Masses, at least one a weekend, for Spanish speaking people who are increasing within our Deanery. All are stretched to their limits.

Please be aware that the **FLU** is impacting our area. It was again strongly recommended that we suspend all touching, especially hand-shakes, during the exchange of peace. Please turn to your neighbor and exchange a few words of peace instead. Some have suggested eliminating the sharing of the cup during communion. Others believe that the alcohol content of the wine will kill most germs. Each of you is asked to make your own choices. Most importantly, please don't expose others if you are ill or believe you may be carrying germs or a virus. The death toll compared to a year ago is up nationally, and the most vulnerable are the elderly and the young. Let's help to protect each other. Our own local hospitals have had deaths from flu. And many children are home from school. If you are coughing or sneezing please contain the cough and wash hands frequently. And under such circumstances please remove yourself from social gatherings. Thanks to those who have helped us all by getting their annual flu shot!!

Thanks to all who helped to restore our sanctuary to its original beauty following the Christmas season. Special thanks to Gregg for heading up the committee, and to LaDonna for follow-up with the fine details. And thanks to Jeanne Fry and her team of Church cleaners!

Funeral: Though no arrangements are in place, we are expecting to bury Cheryl Johannigman, wife of Charles, sometime this week. Cheryl died rather suddenly on Thursday of this week. Cheryl and Charles are “former” parishioners from this parish. Please pray for their family at this time, and watch the paper for arrangements. Porter-Oliger-Pearson FH is handling arrangements.

By papal decree, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time – on January 26 this year – is to be observed as a special day devoted to “the celebration, study, and dissemination of the word of God.” A day dedicated to the **Bible** will help the Church “experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.” Added emphasis on the importance of the word of God is needed because “the overwhelming majority” of Catholics are not familiar with Sacred Scripture. For many, the only time they hear the word of God is when they attend Mass.”

Many families have a bible in their homes. How many ever use it? How many brush off the dust often enough to become familiar? If your family does not have a bible and would like to have one, please call the parish office to receive a copy. We have multiple versions on hand and would love to share them with those truly interested. Proclaim the Good News!! Alleluia!!! A good investment of time and money!