

February 2, 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:

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

February 3 – Feast of St Blaise, (Blessing of throats on Sunday)
February 14 – feast of St. Valentine ((Friday) patron saint of Love. What does Love call you to?)
February 22 – E6 Men’s Conference
February 23 – Coffee & Doughnuts (Mardi Gras), with 5th grade presentations in the Hall. Please come!
February 26 – Ash Wednesday, Mass at 6:00 pm (This is not a Holy of Obligation)
March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3, Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm
March 29 – Cohort Lenten Penance Service at Napoleon, 1:30 pm

Liturgical Ministries

February 2	February 9
Sacristan: Ann Stier	Dana Fledderman
Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Niki Johannigman, Steve & Diane AmRhein	Mark & Cindy Hermesch, Tom & Lois Johannigman
Lectors: Melea Gault, Jeanne Fry	Mary Jo Wenning, Niki Johannigman
Eucharistic Ministers: Norbert Hoeing, Mark Stier, Timothy Hoeing, Kenny Stier	Daniel & Jo Fledderman, Joe & Julie Diekhoff
Servers: Colton & Campbell Johannigman, Oliver Hamilton	Caaden Gault, Evan Wullenweber, Luke Diekhoff
Musicians: Men’s Choir	Sarah & Donna Schwering with Abby
Gift Bearers: Eric & Melanie Stone family	Aaron & Melea Gault family
Counters: Steve AmRhein, Margie Georgi, Sara	Kate Bedel, Cindy Hermesch, Jeanne Fry

Today, the first Sunday of the month, is **Vocation Sunday** for us. The Vocation cross will be returned by Tom and Lois Johannigman, and will be taken home by Andy and Beth Schwering. Prayer after communion.

Church Cleaning: February: Beth Schwering (chairperson), Sheila Diehoff, Donna Schwering, Cindy Stone, Diane & Steve AmRhein

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: January 26, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,084.00
Energy/Fuel:	\$ 110.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 5.00
Church of Latin America	\$ 298.00
Total Collections:	\$2,497.00

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 86% or \$12,885. But we seem to be at a plateau. 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.

Remember in Prayer: Pat Schwering, Barb Hoeing, John Kuzman, Marilyn Horan, Martha Fry, Elizabeth Downey, and a special intention. *The family of Bengi Ortman would like to thank everyone for prayers and support during his illness and surgery. The "Good News" was that the last scan showed no cancer cells.

Today we celebrate the "**World Day for Consecrated Life.**" Its purpose is "to help the entire church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of this radical, counter cultural lifestyle." (John Paul II, 1997) Many Religious renew their commitments on this day.

The **Feast of the Presentation** is highlighted as the main feast today. The presentation of Jesus, and the purification of the Blessed Mother took place in the temple on the same day and both are remembered. Under Mosaic law a Jewish woman who gave birth to a child was considered unclean, and was excluded from public for forty days after birth. Per Jewish custom, at the end of the forty days, the woman presented herself at the temple to be purified. If the baby was her firstborn male child, the infant was brought along to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. The law (in Exodus) specifies that the first male child belongs to God. The mother's purification ritual obliged her to bring sacrificial offerings, a lamb, or turtle doves or pigeons. The animals were sacrificed, the temple priest prayed over the woman and she could once again resume her normal role in society. Mary, the spotless Mother of God, certainly did not have to comply with this ritual, but she did so to honor God and observe all the rules, to submit to the humbling requirements of the law. On the day required she walked the five miles from Bethlehem to the temple in Jerusalem, stood in line, and waited her turn to see the priest. Along with Mary's willing submission, Jesus is presented into the hands of the priest, and to God. The child was blessed, and then "ransomed back" by the family who would pay into the Temple treasury. So, the Savior of the world is ransomed in the manner of every other Hebrew boy. But in the process of this ritual he is **recognized as the Christ Child.**

In many countries Candlemas is simultaneously celebrated with a candlelight procession. We won't go that far today, but we will bless our altar candles for the year.

Tomorrow, Feb. 3rd, is the feast of **St. Blaise**, bishop and martyr. As is our custom, we will **bless throats**. So why do we do that? Much of what we "know" about St Blaise is actually legend, rather than fact. But many devotional acts, practices, and rituals, have been handed down through the ages by the church. Such a devotion is the blessing of throats. The few facts are thus: St Blaise was a fourth-century bishop in Western Armenia and died as a martyr. He was a physician, and was regarded as a righteous man, and at an early age, was elected bishop by the citizens. He became one of the most popular of saints and today remains highly esteemed. During the fourth century, the Roman empire was divided and there were long simmering tensions between the divisions. Blaise became a victim of hostility against Christians. **Legend** has it that during his captivity, two miracles attributed to Blaise occurred. One for which he is most known is the story of the young boy suffering, dying from a fish bone lodged in his throat. Blaise prayed over the boy, and the child was healed. Thus, the ritual was born. We tend to remember legends far better than facts. So, this custom will probably go on for a very long time. Come forward after Mass and have your throat blessed.

Religious Education - 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. The 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).

The **Lenten Bible Study** will begin on Wednesday March 4. We will be studying "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion." Contact Cindy Johannigman, 812-614-0802, or Kate Bedel, 812-614-0987.

With the Lenten Season approaching, the **Sacrament of Penance** should be on our minds. Our custom is to offer a **Cohort** Penance Service during Lent, at St. Maurice in Napoleon. That gathering is scheduled for Sunday afternoon at 1:30 pm on March 29th. Please make use of this opportunity, or see the list of all Penance Services scheduled throughout the Deanery, posted on Bulletin Board.

St. Mary's Pre-school – Registration Information is posted on our bulletin board. The question has been raised as to why we are advertising for their program. As a Catholic community, we need to be providing, or supporting, Catholic Schools and Catholic education for our youth. It is a given fact that when Catholic Schools began to close in the 70's and on after, Religious Vocations began to diminish. Today we find ourselves at an all time low, (a shortage) of active priests, and religious. The numbers are related. Supporting our neighbors who are providing Catholic school opportunities, is **one way** we can take an active role is supporting vocations. Vocations aside, shouldn't our children have the same opportunity for Catholic Education that was provided for us when we were young? What does Catholic School, and Catholic Education mean to you? How has it impacted your life? Maybe we could dull our old competitive edge and sharpen a new supportive stance, by opening ourselves to the possibilities.

The Daughters of Isabella, of All Saints Circle #1384 are sponsoring a **Mardi Gras Celebration** on February 22, 2020 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm at Holy Family Cafeteria, Oldenburg. It is a family affair. Free will offering. All are welcome. More information on the board.

All Saints Parish **Lenten Fish Fries** ~ St Martin Campus ~ 4:30pm-7pm, 8044 Yorkridge Rd, Yorkville, IN. \$10 for adults/\$5 for children. Carry Outs Available. MENU: Hand Breaded Fried Cod or Baked Cod, Cheese Pizza, Macaroni & Cheese, French Fries, Green Beans, Slaw, Applesauce, Homemade Pies & Cakes, Soft Drinks, Coffee & Tea. Please contact the parish office at 812-576-4302 with any questions (Flyer on the Board).

All Saints Parish **Lenten Mission** - March 1,2,3 ~ St Paul Campus. All are welcome! Guest speaker is Fr John Hollowell. Soup supper will be served Sunday, March 1 at 5:30pm in the gym followed by Fr Hollowell's talk in the Church at 6:30pm. Monday, March 2 & Tuesday, March 3 will begin with Fr Hollowell's talk in the Church at 6:30pm followed by refreshments in the gym. Please contact the parish office at 812-576-4302 with any questions.

2020 Summer Camp Brochures – Information on the CYO Summer camp available to students ages 7-19, Camp Rancho Framasa in Nashville, Indiana. Please pick up a brochure in the entryway.

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!

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!

Of Matters Financial: We have completed the end of year “giving reports” and tax letters, and all that were not picked up in the entryway to church have now been mailed. Every parish household, regardless of giving history, is required to receive a giving statement and summary. If you are a registered parishioner and have not received your mailing, please notify us so that we can update our computer records.

On the flip side of this insert, is the six-month financial report for the parish. Since our “end-of-fiscal-year report” in July, we have completed the repaving project for the roadway behind church and leading to the cemetery. The landscaping finishes remain for a spring project. The Auction/Raffle proceeds were a bit more this year at \$15,800, and it was very helpful to have the “designated charity” be our own steeple fund. Our mowing expenses were also less this year, and that is reflected in a lower number in both Cemetery and Grounds expense lines. Utility expenses for this six-month period, thus far, are similar to last year. And our Faith Formation expenses are less, due to not needing as many new text books.

The big financial investment for this year, is the steeple repair, and sufficient funding is already secured. We are most grateful to be able to move forward when weather allows in spring. The cost of a crane is quite steep, so our intention is to do a quality job now to prevent repeated repairs in years to come.

Cemetery and grounds mowing and general maintenance remains our largest annual expense, followed closely by our fuel expense each year. Happily, our Cemetery endowment offsets some of that. Our income from Sunday Collections has remained stable and for this we are grateful!

December ended on a very positive note, with a little surplus, and the recommended three months of operating cash in our checking account, in addition to the Steeple funding. We are doing well. Our goal is to keep you updated every six months, and to continue the weekly “collection versus budget” report. We are most grateful for your generous contributions and continued support of Immaculate Conception Parish! God Bless!

Immaculate Conception Parish
Financial Report July 2019 - December 2019

Income			Expenses	
Cemetery Bequests and Donations		3,290	Administration	5,985
Archdiocesan Collections		3,427	Archdiocesan Collections	3,422
Sunday Collection and Holy days		78,186	Arch Assessments	11,154
Special Collection Parish (ie fuel, Maintenance fur		9,613	Property Insurance	13,429
Donations		300	Cemetery Expense	8,325
Faith Formation		700	Faith Formation	788
Fundraising Auction and Raffle		54,807	Auction (fundrasing exp)	38,993
Other Income		10,718	Personnel Expenses	41,939
Interest Earned checking and ADLF's		682	Utilities	6,269
			Grounds and Maintenance	6,767
			Spiritual Life	2,341
			other	746
Total Income		\$ 161,723	Total Expense	\$ 140,158
			Net Surplus	\$ 21,565

As of Dec 31st		
Checking account Balance	42,101	
Designated Fund for Steeple	176,247	
SAVINGS		
ADLF- Parish	79,241	
ADLF- Building and Maintenance	34,015	
ADLF- Cemetery	59,824	
ADLF- Technology	1,820	
Total In Savings	174,900	