

March 8, 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@millhousenchurch.com

Mass Intentions:

March 8 – Second Sunday in Lent – Cathy Witkamper
March 15 – Third Sunday in Lent – Ralph Bruns
March 22 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – Arnold Bokelman
March 29 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – Marie & Ed Stier
April 5 – Palm Sunday – Jim Meyer

Dates to Remember

March 8 – Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting, right after Mass in parish meeting room.
March 9 – Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, parish meeting room, 6:00 pm
March 22 – Finance Committee following Mass, (Begin budget process for new fiscal year.)
March – 29 – Parish Council following Mass
March 29 – Cohort Lenten Penance Service at Napoleon, 1:30 pm
April 5 – Parent Meeting for Confirmation, 2nd floor West Classroom, following Mass
April 7 – Tuesday in Holy Week, Chrism Mass, 2:00 pm at Cathedral, all are welcome.
April 25 – Confirmation (Saturday) 11:00 am St. Mary Church
May 3 – First Communion (Sunday)

Liturgical Ministries

March 8	March 15
Sacristan: Ann Stier	Dana Fledderman
Ushers/Greeters: Mike & Kathy Kohrman, Don & Jeanne Fry	Bill & Niki Johannigman, Steve & Diane AmRhein
Lectors: Jerry Fry, Maria Meyer	Niki Johannigman, Mary Jo Wenning
Eucharistic Ministers: Norbert & Timothy Hoeing, Mark & Kenny Stier	Kathy Kohrman, Cindy Hermes, Jeanne Fry, Ann Stier
Servers: Hunter Collins, Ben & Mary Stier	Tony, Mary & Sam Schwering
Musicians: Men's Choir	Men's Choir
Gift Bearers: Vic & Laura Meyer family	Tim & Stephanie Hoeing
Counters: Kate Bedel, Cindy Hermes, Jeanne Fry	June Johannigman, Gretchen Stone, Dorothy Fry

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: March 1, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget: \$2,800.00

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$1,673.00

Church in Central & Eastern Europe \$232.00

Total Collections: \$1,905.00

Special Collections: today for "Home Missions."

Steeple Notes: pledges and donations continue to trickle in. We have only \$5,300. in uncollected pledges. Trusting that too will be realized soon, we went ahead and signed the contract last week with the construction company. This week a small crew came by to take another set of measurements. Construction team supervisors

and managers are in place, and as of today, materials have been ordered. They are looking ahead to weather predictions, and already feeling the effects of your prayers. (Please continue to pray for good weather during this project!) The current plan is to begin work earlier than had previously been anticipated. Perhaps as early as mid-April! We'll see. That part is in God's hands. We will keep you posted as new information comes in. Work will always be suspended when safety becomes an issue, especially during high winds. Someone posed a practical question: "Will we need to move out of our Church for a time, and perhaps have Mass in the gym?" The answer to that question is this: There are no plans to have Mass anywhere other than in our Church. The construction is restricted to a very small part of the building, and we have been assured that we will be able to move around it every weekend. Construction plans are to SECURE the construction area, Monday morning through Friday evening each week, and to return it to us, and our use, on the weekends. There may be times when, due to weather, the construction is extended into Saturday, but that is not intended to be the norm. Nor is there any plan to ever have construction going on at any time during a Sunday. We all want to honor "the Lord's Day." Another practical question: "Will the wheelchair ramp be available to us?" The same answer: The ramp may be blocked off during the weekdays, but will always be open and available for our use on Sundays. The same is true for handicapped parking spaces. The crew will be very considerate of our needs. Another important question: "Will noise be a problem?" The "noise" associated with this project will primarily be motor noise, and the expected hammering sounds. Construction is never quiet, but there is no plan to "disturb the peace" before dawn or after dusk, Monday through Friday. The weekends should be quiet as usual.

United Catholic Appeal: A few pledges are still out, and a second round of contacts are underway. If you have not yet sent in your pledge or donation, expect a call in the near future. We should be very proud of our achievement. While we have not yet met our goal, we sit at 88%, which is closer than we were last year this time, and this follows a very generous response to our own needs. Thank you to one and all!

Remember in Prayer: Pat Schwering, Barb Hoeing, John Kuzman, Roman Johannigman Sr., Marilyn Horan, Martha Fry, Elizabeth Downey, Nell Ann Pfeifer, Velma Ortman, Judy Zapfe, Sherry Weberding, Pauline Schoettmer, and a special intention.

Church Cleaning: March: Margie Georgi (chairperson), Sharon Helms, Linda Mozingo, Bailey Mozingo, Mary Jo Wenning, Carol Helms, Kristen Stone.

Stations of the Cross: every Friday at 7:00 pm in Church (Except Good Friday, service at 6:00 pm.)

Rosary – Led by Mark Stier, a group will gather on Saturday mornings during Lent to pray the rosary. 7:00 am, in the Parish Meeting Room, Office Building.

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.

Millhousen, Knights of St. John - All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry, 5:00 to 7:30 pm, To-Go orders available. Please see the bulletin board for details. Dates: March 13, & 27, April 10.

St. Louis Super Sunday Bingo - Sunday, March 8, 2020, 17 E St Louis Pl, Batesville, IN, **\$15,000 Total Pay Out** Cash Raffle, Door Prizes & Pull Tabs, Ticket Package: Play ALL DAY for \$50. Includes paper games, door prizes, raffle ticket and a meal! Doors open at 11am, Early Bird games begin at 1pm. Visit www.STLBingo.org to register online or Call 812-93-BINGO. **All proceeds benefit St. Louis School.** Remember that we are called to support Catholic Education!

Special Lenten Concert – with Mike Davis, Christian singer, religious educator, presents: **"The Perfect Storm."** Friday, March 13, 2020, at 7:00 pm, Holy Guardian Angels Oratory, Cedar Grove. An incredible evening of prayer, meditation, and music as you walk the Way of the Cross, focusing on the Life, death and

Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Allow the prayer and music to touch your soul this Lent. A free will Offering is appreciated. Please see flyer on bulletin board.

Many parishes across the continent use the “rice bowls” as the standard form of almsgiving. The corporate organization spreads their wings across the country, and collects, and then distributes to the very poor. It is indeed a very worthy cause. We decided a few years ago, that we would rather donate to a **local** organization. We chose the “Bread of Life” in Greensburg who feeds the poor of our own town and county. We have been using the “**Sacrifice Jars**” to collect money saved from our personal sacrifices all during Lent. That has gone very well! Our attention this Lenten season is focused on young mothers who have accepted new life within them, but may need our help and support in making that choice. Our **Almsgiving** this year will be collected in **Baby bottles**, for the Moms supported by our local Clarity Organization. Please pick up your baby bottle or bottles, and offer your sacrifice this Lenten season for those deciding against abortion! They need our help!

Let’s talk a little about **Lenten Sacrifice**, and what is expected of **all** Christians. Even though we go through it every year, questions arise, and clarifications are in order. We remember the three-fold discipline of **fasting, prayer and almsgiving**. Each of us is expected to do **all** three, and we are supported by knowing that we are all doing some version of those same actions. Many opportunities are available for us to increase our **prayer time** and come together with others to pray during the Lenten season. Just take a stroll through the above notes and make some choices. While we are **required** to attend Mass **every** Sunday, additional prayer times, personal or communal, are available and helpful to draw us closer to God and deeper into his love. Communal prayer also becomes an opportunity to support one another.

Almsgiving is required of us as well, giving to the poor, however, we have so many choices and options before us. We can’t possibly give to every good cause, but we can make a sacrifice, maybe even a daily sacrifice, and the small things mount up to a wonderful gift as we near Easter. Please see the explanation above concerning our parish communal almsgiving this year: the Baby Bottles with “change” for Clarity, and support for those choosing NOT to abort. The frequency and amount that we sacrifice and give is known only by God, but it draws us to our Christian responsibility. Please don’t forget to pick up a Baby Bottle.

And **Fasting** and abstaining is spelled out for us as well. Fasting, the practice of eating only one full meal during the day, with two smaller meals permitted, but no solid food between meals, is really only required of us on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Three days. We can all manage that! It is to be observed by all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. So many of us are beyond the age of concern. **Abstinence** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics, 14 years of age and older, on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. This is the practice that we seem to focus on most. We join with the whole Christian community, in coming closer to God by prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving. Remember that we are in this together!

An urgent message from the Archdiocese this week concerning precautionary measures that **always** apply: this is in light of both the flu season and the Coronavirus.

- Urging priests, deacons, altar servers, sacristans, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to practice good hygiene, washing hands before Mass, and/or using alcohol based anti-bacterial hand sanitizer before handling the vessels, and the bread and wine., and again after distribution of Holy Communion, or contact with others. This is for everyone’s safety.
- Ensuring all vessels used at Mass, (once purified by the minister), are then thoroughly washed with soap and hot water after each use.
- Assuring all parishioners be made aware that if they are sick or are experiencing symptoms of illness (cough, sneezing, fever etc.), they are **not** obliged to attend Mass, and that even out of charity, they ought **not** to attend, this to help protect one another.

We have no hot water available in church but will begin taking the vessels out to be washed.