

March 15, 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 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
April 9 – Holy Thursday – Marie & Ed Stier
April 12 – Easter – Cathy Wittkamper
April 19 - Second Sunday of Easter – Ralph Bruns
April 26 – Third Sunday of Easter – Arnold “Ink” Bokelman
May 3 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Carolyn Schoettmer
May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – (Mother’s Day) – Cathy Wittkamper
May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter - Ralph Bruns
May 24 – The Ascension – Arnold “Ink” Bokelman

Dates to Remember

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 4 – Spring Work Day, Buildings & Grounds, 8:00 am
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 9 – Holy Thursday, Institution of the Eucharist (Last Supper) 6:00 pm
April 10 – Good Friday, Passion of Our Lord, 6:00 pm
April 25 – Confirmation (Saturday) 11:00 am St. Mary Church
May 3 – First Communion (Sunday)

Liturgical Ministries

March 15	March 22
Sacristan: Dana Fledderman	LaDonna Hoeing
Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Niki Johannigman, Steve & Diane AmRhein	Mark & Cindy Hermes, John & Cindy Johannigman
Lectors: Niki Johannigman, Mary Jo Wenning	Kenny Stier, Mary Schwering
Eucharistic Ministers: (suspended)	(suspended)
Servers: Tony, Mary & Sam Schwering	Colton & Campbell Johannigman, Oliver Hamilton
Musicians: Men’s Choir	Sarah & Donna Schwering with Abby
Gift Bearers: (suspended)	(suspended)
Counters: June Johannigman, Gretchen Stone, Dorothy Fry	Cindy Johannigman, Emery Mapes, Aaron Gault

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: March 8, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,133.00
Home Missions:	\$280.00
Church in Central& Eastern Europe	\$12.00
Total Collections:	\$2,425.00

Special Collections: next Sunday – “Catholic Relief Services”

Steeple Notes: pledges and donations continue to trickle in. We have only \$4,200. in uncollected pledges, but we are trusting that all pledges will be collected in March. The construction company is 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.

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 Mazingo, Bailey Mazingo, Mary Jo Wenning, Carol Helms, Kristen Stone.

The **spring work day** is scheduled for Saturday April 4th, and the plan is for **cleaning up the cemetery** and removing anything weather worn, or out of place. Please assist the committee by cleaning up the graves of your loved ones. Remember that all flowers or adornments need to be on the gravestone or on a shepherd’s crook.

The men are preparing our property for the mowing season. Please come and spend an hour picking up sticks or twigs or debris. And it is time to submit **bids for the mowing season**. Jake Mattox did a wonderful job last year, but is unable to give us another season due to a new undertaking. It is a great summer outdoor job. Stop by the office and pick up a bid sheet to review the contract. Insurance and equipment provided by the bidder.

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 27, April 10.

Spring Fried Chicken Dinner - Saturday, April 18, St. Nicholas Parish (6461 E. St. Nicholas Dr., Sunman) 4-8pm, buffet style-\$12, carry-out or drive-thru (\$10), famous turtle soup available!

The Knights of St. John **Ladies Auxiliary** invites any women of the parish who would enjoy an evening of fellowship, fun and cards to join us at the Knights Hall on Monday, April 13 at 7:00 PM for a purely social gathering. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided.

An urgent message came from the Archdiocese last week concerning precautionary measures in light of both the flu season and the Coronavirus: **Always** in place are: good hygiene practices, hand washing, with hand

sanitizer available for use before and after interaction with others; thorough washing of all liturgical vessels with soap and hot water after each use; and encouragement for all to stay home when sick or symptomatic.

In addition, if you remember, there were additional “recommendations” presented as options to consider. Now one week later, the options have changed into mandates. Hoosiers diagnosed with the Coronavirus have increased from 4 to 12 in just a few days and the count is expected to climb swiftly in the next few weeks. Gov. Holcomb started the action by announcing new steps to protect the public on Thursday evening, and the Archdiocese responded to that announcement, considering the recommendations of the CDC and the World Health Organization as well, all working together to protect our most vulnerable populations, our youth and our elders. The primary consideration is and will continue to be the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staffs of our schools; and the sick, debilitated and elderly, along with their caregivers, in homes, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. While the recommendations, directives, and mandates are felt by all of us, and while we may consider them to be totally unnecessary, inconvenient, or even disruptive to our routines and lifestyles, our leadership teams in both church and state are working diligently to protect the masses, and minimize the negative effects. Posted on the bulletin board are the steps outlined by Gov. Holcomb, and attached to this bulletin are the Archdiocesan Directives, no longer options, until further notice. Please take a few minutes to read these messages, and feel free to offer any additional ideas or comments as you begin to live these changes.

Archbishop Thompson has announced that effective immediately, and until further notice, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are hereby dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This is to strongly encourage us to stay home and decrease our interactions with others in the community during this time of disease progression. But, having said that, the Masses and stations and sacraments will continue to be scheduled and attendance is up to the individual, if one is well and able.

Our usual ways of participation are greatly impacted by the mandates: there will be no distribution of wine or precious blood, there will be no reception of Holy Communion on the tongue, there will be no exchange of peace, at least no hugging or hand shaking or touching, no holding of hands during the Our Father, no use of holy water fonts. We will suspend the offertory presentation of gifts. We are encouraged to spread out and create “social distancing,” quite the opposite of our normal stance. All classes (including Religious Ed) are suspended for the next few weeks, and meetings are only scheduled as absolutely necessary. All parish activities and events, fund raisers, and social activities are cancelled or rescheduled. Funerals may continue as needed, but funeral meals are suspended. You may already know that Nursing Homes and hospitals are screening and restricting visitors. Groceries, and banks, and pharmacies will remain open, but many other businesses may choose to reduce exposure by closing or reducing hours.

We are once again asked to remind you all that if you are feeling ill, it is best to stay home. And a second reminder is that the “no touching” is not just for during liturgy, but the activity is to be curtailed at all times with all people until the virus is deemed under control. So, Father and I will not be shaking hands with each of you as you leave the building. That action would be passing the germs from one to another.

A few words about the Eucharist. Remember that Christ is wholly present in both the bread and the wine. So, if we receive only one of the two species, we are still receiving the whole of Christ. Now, I am aware that there are some in our church who are gluten sensitive, and you may be receiving only the wine to avoid the gluten contained in the host. If you are one of those people, please give me a call and we will direct you to a gluten free experience. We do have gluten free hosts available.

We will do our best as ministers to not touch your mouth or tongue or hands or face or heads or clothing. But will we slip? I’m sure we will. So please help us to help us all.