

**April 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@millhousenchurch.com](mailto:sisterdonna@millhousenchurch.com)*

*The second week of Easter*

. . . so, it is our job, as disciples, to go tell the world, that he is risen! That we are redeemed! That all will be well! Alleluia! The world needs to hear our message! We can be the bearers of the best news of our time! Let the celebration begin! The promise has been fulfilled! God has a new Covenant with his people! A covenant based on LOVE. He is rebuilding the temple as he said! Let us be glad and rejoice! Offer your thankful praises! Amen! Alleluia!!

As always, please call the Parish Office **for access to a priest**, for the sacraments, for funerals, for anointings, for weddings, for baptisms or for anything related to the practice of our faith. It is not appropriate for an individual, or family, to call priests directly for sacraments. All sacraments are recorded on parish records, and any outside priest needs permission to celebrate Mass at a parish, if he is not assigned. This is a reminder, becoming more important, as clergy are spread thin. Concerning the COVID-19 virus, not every priest in the Archdiocese may anoint. Each Deanery has designated priests who have been given special training, and personal protective equipment. As requests come in for the sacraments at the time of impending death, only those designated may be contacted. Please help to protect our older, more vulnerable priests. And please remember that our retired priests are not “on-call” for our needs, but someone is.

We continue to update our prayer list weekly and ask you to keep each one in your mind and heart. Family members are encouraged to call the office anytime to add names or remove names, and to give any information you may want posted to the parish.

**Remember in Prayer:** Pat Schwering, John Kuzman, Marilyn Horan, Martha Fry, Nell Ann Pfeifer, Velma Ortman, Judy Zapfe, Sherry Weberding, Pauline Schoettmer, Fr. John Geis, and a special intention.

Fr. John continues to improve. A slow recovery, but he is very positive and enthusiastic! Grateful for your prayers. Marilyn Horan has tested positive and seems to have turned the corner. Pray for continued improvement. While she continues on oxygen, she seems to be weathering the storm.

Unfortunately, we have neglected to publish the April **church cleaning group**. We do so now in the hopes that the vacuuming and dusting may be completed. While the church has not been in use, the lady bugs and wasps have found their way in and need to be removed. The April

Committee includes: Kate Fry (chair), Cynthia Roberts, Mary Jane Roberts, Kristen Stier, Debra Vanderbur, Karen Hardebeck, and Patti Witkemper. You may choose to work individually, or as a group with social distancing.

**Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections:** April 12, 2020

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

Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$3,125.00
Maintenance Fund:	\$ 530.00
Fuel:	\$ 25.00
Catholic Relief Services:	\$ 80.00
Church in Africa:	\$ 45.00
Home Missions:	\$ 30.00
Criterion:	\$ 25.00
Holy Places (Good Friday):	\$ 5.00

**Total Collections: \$ 3865.00**

**Our total is much improved!** We haven't made up for the deficit yet, but we are well on our way. Thanks to all who have stepped up to the plate! Our average monthly expenditures are around \$10,500. and we try to keep a three-month balance in our checking account for times like this. We will ride the wave!! But we do need everyone to continue giving with your "pre-virus" generosity which enabled us to just break even each spring. There are three ways to make your contribution, weekly or monthly: You can mail a check to the church at 2081 E. County Road 820 S. Greensburg, IN 47240; you can donate on-line by logging into [www.archindy.org/Giving](http://www.archindy.org/Giving) and click on Parish Giving; or you can personally deliver your envelope to the parish office. Please note that when donating on-line through the Archdiocesan website, there are no on-line fees. Your entire donation will be made to this parish. Just choose "Immaculate Conception, Millhousen" from the drop-down. This on-line platform will allow you to select to "give once" or "give multiple times." A couple of parishioners have used this site during the past week, and the contributions have been noted here.

If you choose to personally deliver your donation to the parish office, please contact Sister Donna at 812-591-2362 to schedule a drop off time, so that it can be received. It is not recommended to leave contribution envelopes in the mailbox.

Thank you too, for those who have recently given to the United Catholic Appeal! In spite of all that is happening, we are up to 90% of our parish goal. That should make us all proud! We are serving the poor of the Archdiocese as well as assisting to support our priest's retirement, and seminaries.

**Thank you in advance for continuing your gift of Stewardship to our parish.**

**Rest in Peace** – We have received word recently of the deaths of two of our retired priests from the Archdiocese, Fr. John Beitans, and Fr. Bill Munshower. Both had been in declining health, but the deaths were unexpected. We pray for them, for their families, and for all the lives they have touched.

The **hand sanitizer** ordered in January has finally been delivered. When we finally return to use of our buildings, you will find hand sanitizer dispensers installed at each entryway, in each building. A small dime sized amount will be sufficient to kill all bacteria and viruses. Please get in the habit of using it each time you enter to protect each other. Yes, our lives are permanently changing!

**Funeral Meals** – when the time comes for us to resume serving funeral meals, or, for that matter, any meals or any food, served on our campus, all kitchen workers and volunteers will need to use gloves and good hand washing hygiene to protect themselves and to protect our customers, those we serve. This **requirement** will be enforced and will not go away. Gloves will be provided. More guidelines may be coming.

**Steeple Update:** Talked to the contractors on Friday and they had just received word from their Governor that it is safe to proceed with our steeple repair. Barring any new developments, they plan to set up the crane and begin preparatory work early this week. They will wear protective equipment, and will distance from each other, and they remind all of us to distance from them as well, in the name of safety for all. They specifically mentioned the ball diamond, and ask that those who might bike, walk or gather on the campus to recreate, please refrain from doing so for the next few weeks. Our cooperation will help to expedite their work, so they can focus on the job at hand without undue concern for bystanders or curious onlookers. Safety for all!!

Again, we encourage you to frequently visit our Archdiocesan web-site for updates and for **Sunday liturgy**. In addition, Fr John, at St Mary, Greensburg, is taping Sunday Liturgy in advance and offers it for your use. To access it, just go to the St. Mary's website.

Multiple calls have been received with concerns about **Mass intentions** and concern over "losing" those intentions which had been scheduled during this time. Rest assured that no intention will be lost. However, at this time, we can't reschedule until we know when we may resume Masses in our Church. Currently Mass intentions are pre-scheduled all the way through August of 2021, and some beyond that. So those currently "missed" will be required to wait a considerable amount of time before being merged into our new schedule. When we begin again, we will pick up as currently scheduled, and those in question will be called and rescheduled. Each family will be informed. In light of this backlog, if anyone would like to have their Mass intentions sent to a Missionary, we can arrange that as well. But we have no assurance the Missionary timing will be any better. If you still have concerns, please call the Parish Office.

Wednesday, April 22, is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **EARTH DAY!** What are you doing to mark this wonderful occasion? Picking up trash on the roadsides? Mulching, pulling weeds, or planting on your property? Starting a garden? Planting a tree? Watching the stars? The birds?

"May God's blessing, come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak, and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm."

