

May 31, 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

Pentecost – Come Holy Spirit!

Come Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful (and even those not so faithful), and kindle in them the fire of your love! Send forth your spirit, that we may all be recreated, and renew the face of the earth!

Bulletin: (this is repeated from last week for all those just getting reconnected) .While maintaining communication with all of you has been our goal from the very beginning of this historical pandemic, many have drifted away from remembering to go to our website regularly to access the latest information. Our routines have changed. Some don't have on-line access, and have depended on the paper copies. While many people have gone to the white box, only to find it empty. We have never missed printing an issue, but accessing it has not been easy for you. We are hoping the system has improved. All of the back issues of the bulletin are archived and can be found on the website. Some have expressed a desire to read the bulletin on Facebook. Now a link has been created on Facebook to go directly to the bulletin on our website. You might want to try out this new feature. For those who need the printed copy, the vast majority of you, we promise to print enough. If ever you find the box empty, please bring it to my attention immediately. We don't want you to be missing the updates and changes. And there will be lots of changes. Please start today, to read the bulletin each week until we are back in the swing of things. And if you have fallen behind and need to catch up, please start with May 10th and move forward.

Bulletins will **no longer** be handed out as you enter the church. They **will** be available for you to pick up as you leave the building, some at each door. But reducing the **touch** of others will mean each person initiates the pick-up. Please be patient while we all learn to remember, pick up, and then move on out the door and into your cars. Ushers will no longer be meeting and greeting at the doors as you come in. Please remember to keep a safe distance from each other as you enter, and allow each person time, to sign in, mask, and hand sanitize, before you come up close behind them. The next action to remember is to drop your envelope into the basket as you enter the church. The ushers will NOT be collecting them. If you forget coming in, then you have another opportunity as you leave.

Remind: This might be a good time to sign up for the **REMINDE** text message option as well. While texting is growing in popularity and habit, we have only about half of our parishioners using this alert system. Those that have signed up are staying informed of breaking news.

Call the office anytime to add or remove names, or to give any information you may want posted to the parish.

Remember in Prayer: Pat Schwering, John Kuzman, Nell Ann Pfeifer, Velma Ortman, & Judy Zapfe

We are most grateful for your continued financial support. Thanks to those who mail or drop off checks. We are grateful! **On-line Giving:** For those who may have misplaced the link, the on-line giving site is: www.archindy.org/Giving. Choose Immaculate Conception, Millhousen, from the drop-down menu.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: May 24, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$5,140.00
Cemetery Fund:	\$165.00
Fuel	\$100.00
Catholic Communications	\$29.00

Total Collections: \$5,434.00

Reminder: Special Collection next Sunday, June 7th for the education of future priests.

Concerning all meetings or gatherings: if you are 65 or beyond, or in compromised health, please observe the stay-at-home orders. Nothing on our agenda is more important than each one's health and safety. We encourage the use of **face coverings** for all gatherings to protect the other. And we will stay six feet apart.

Auction 2020: (This information is being repeated for those who may not have read it yet.)

2020 Community Consignment Auction UPDATE

The Auction Committee met on Sunday, May 17 to discuss the 2020 auction plans. After several considerations, very thoughtful dialogue, and keeping in mind the safety and well-being of parishioners and auction attendees, the committee has decided to cancel the auction for this year. We could not, in good conscience, ask area businesses who are experiencing economic hardships, for donations, ask parishioners to work the auction, and hold off on purchasing items needed for the event while waiting for the "ok" from the Archdiocese to resume fundraising events. Too much is at stake. Everyone's safety is upper most in our minds.

We are so grateful for the support, donations, consigners, bidders, auctioneers and volunteers that make our auction a success every year. The committee will be using this time to look at some new ideas and options to add some new fundraising opportunities to our event in 2021. Please reach out to a committee member if you have any ideas or questions.

**Thank you for your understanding!
The Auction Committee**

Dates to Remember:

May 31 – 9:00 am, office meeting room, **Parish Council**. Criteria to re-open.

July 14 – 7 pm, school basement. Chairperson of each cleaning committee meet to discuss on-going needs, volunteers needed, and changes. Please call LaDonna to let her know of your willingness to continue in this capacity or your need to decline. But in the meantime, please reserve the date. Even if you are unable to continue due to age or health reasons, we need your insight.

Steeple Notes: As of today, May 31, the steeple has been cleared of all the old shingles and sealed from water entry. Please pray for good weather as we have lost a lot of time due to the wind and rain. Each day the crane remains in place here the more expensive this project becomes. Very little was completed this week. Due to the weather. In fact, the only work day was Friday until 2pm. When we get together for the first time, you might take a look at the sample of old shingles Ken has collected. There is no doubt the project was badly needed.

Today marks the beginning of the re-opening of churches in our Archdiocese. As we explained in the past weeks, not all will open at once, but our own plans are contingent on volunteers and retraining. We are still aiming for June 14th, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Please remember that the dispensation from attending Sunday liturgy has been extended for all of us until August 15th. And, a gentle

reminder that everyone over 65 years of age is strongly encouraged to stay home until that time. That includes all those, of any age, who are ill or in doubt about their own good health. When in doubt, please stay home.

PROVINCE OF INDIANAPOLIS – statement from the Indiana Bishops:

The five Catholic dioceses of the Province of Indianapolis will **begin** resuming public liturgies (e.g. Mass and Sacraments) by 30 May 2020, the Vigil of Pentecost, with **restrictions** outlined by each diocese and provided to the parishes within their respective jurisdictions. **The dispensation from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays is extended throughout the State of Indiana until 15 August 2020.**

It is hoped that all will be able to meet the reopening criteria, before the end of the dispensation on August 15th. The initial plan (which is subject to change) is for St. Mary's to open for its first public Sunday Mass on the eve of Pentecost, May 30th. All of us are invited to join in that celebration, either in person, or by way of the recorded video. Please remember that this is an invitation, an opportunity, but **all of those over 65 are strongly encouraged to stay at home.** If everyone who **should** stay home **does** stay home, it will be easier to accommodate the six-foot distancing. Small churches may seem to fill to capacity quickly because once people spread out, the capacity becomes so much less. Some churches are resuming partially, that is, with only part of the usual Mass schedule. For instance, make note of the fact that, until further notice, there will be no 12:00 Mass at Osgood. Only the 6:00 pm. That means that part of the Osgood folks may be blending into Napoleon. It will be easier for us to find a space in the larger capacity of St. Mary for the time being. Some churches are having to change times of Masses due to allowing for the sanitizing routine between Masses. Doors will be open only 30 minutes before each Mass, and then closed and locked quickly following Mass to allow for the tasks at hand. Some churches are requiring attendees register online for a seat. Some are having folks call ahead. And some are turning folks away as they fill to the new capacity. I suspect we will be able to accommodate everyone who comes during this time, so we are not requiring online registration. But, because we need to be able to track an outbreak, we will ask each person who enters, to sign in, that is writing down your name and phone number. Each person is also asked to wear a mask at all times within the building, and each person, young and old is asked to sanitize hands as they enter the church (or any of our buildings.) Those are givens for all of us, regardless of how each one feels about it. Once we have entered the church with all those steps, the newly trained ushers assigned, will assist you to your seat, observing safe distancing for all. Please make their job as easy as possible and follow their directions. Please don't look for the old ministry lists. Only those who are willing to take on new responsibilities will serve us at this time. But we **NEED** volunteers. A meeting date will be posted next week.

Cleaning – on-going: (This too is a repeat. We still need a lot of help.) We have begun the cleaning and sanitizing process for our worship space. It is very important for us to create a very safe worship space for all, but especially for our most vulnerable members, the elderly, folks over 65, and those dealing with other major disease processes, whose immune systems are already compromised, as well as the very young folks whose immune systems have not yet developed. Because no volunteers were readily available, we have contracted with an outside cleaning service to do the initial deep clean, and the carpets will be shampooed as well. Following that, weekly sanitizing will be necessary to kill off any virus that **we** might unknowingly carry in. Because many of our church cleaners are already over 65, we are trying not to place a heavy burden on any team. While we will still need the monthly cleaning groups to do the routine vacuuming, they should find the **touched surfaces** already wiped and safe. If you are over 65 and feel a need to permanently resign from your team, please call your team leader and let her know so additional folks can begin to fill that void. And if you are a team leader and need assistance getting your group together, please make LaDonna aware. If you are **under** 65 and can come forward to vacuum occasionally, Ladonna would love to hear from you.

The July Church cleaning committee: Cindy Hermes (chair), Paula Fry, Melea Gault, Aaron Gault, Stephanie Hoeing, Timothy Hoeing.

We need to ensure that every single person who enters our church has, and wears a mask. According to the Gov.'s plan, masks become "optional" on June 14th. But they **will not be optional** in our churches for quite

some time. In the meantime, we need to wear them, not to protect ourselves, but to protect those vulnerable around us. Masks can be homemade, or purchased. We encourage everyone to get one and to wear it when you come. An unidentified donor has given us about 50 homemade masks that are in the entryway. If you need one please pick one up, use it, and then take it home and wash after each use. There will also be a box of disposable masks available if you happen to forget to bring your mask along. **Everyone** will wear masks. Even Father as he comes and goes. The only **exceptions** will be the priest and lector **after** they are in the sanctuary. In order for us to hear and understand the readings, masks will be removed for those with speaking parts. And while these participants are in the sanctuary, they too will need to stay six feet apart, and practice social distancing. As participants leave the sanctuary, masks will go back on.

We need volunteers to mark and measure and figure out seating according to the new guidelines. We need volunteers to learn the new ushering responsibilities, to assist everyone to find a seat and be safe. Please consider what your new role might look like and watch for a meeting in the next couple of weeks to get acquainted with the role changes and responsibilities of ushers. There will **not** be a Ministry schedule until education has been accomplished. Please come forward and help us get started (but only those under 65, and in good health.) Ushers will no longer be taking up the collection. For their safety, all envelopes will be dropped in a basket as each one enters the church. The stand that used to serve as a holy water font has become our new collection basket. Please place your envelopes into the basket when you arrive. No one will be coming pew to pew to collect.

And we saved the best news for last: just today we received the following message from the office of worship: “On or after Tuesday, May 26, the distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass may begin. The decision about beginning this is left to the judgment of the pastor, administrator or parish life coordinator. If allowed, the guidelines for the distribution of Holy Communion during Mass are to be observed (such as, the use of masks and the sanitation of hands before and after Holy Communion is distributed.) Holy Communion may be distributed inside a sacred space, outside, or **even at the home**, as long as it can be done safely and with the utmost precaution. Holy Communion may now even be offered to those who are **not** attending public Mass for their safety and/or for the common good. The distribution of Holy Communion is to be done in a reverent way, and people are encouraged to prayerfully prepare themselves beforehand. With the permission of the pastor, administrator or parish life coordinator, Holy Communion may even be distributed to individuals at or in their residence and preferably by members of their household who are already extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and who use a pyx to do so. The archbishop has given permission to pastors or Parish Life Coordinators to designate and train a Catholic in good standing to serve as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion in individual cases.

If you are currently a Eucharistic minister in our parish and are healthy, and less than 65, and willing to continue in this capacity, please call Sister Donna to offer your services and to attend a meeting for Eucharistic Ministers. Your role too will be changing, and taking the Eucharist to those at home will be the primary responsibility moving forward. We will provide training for all individuals who wish to continue in this ministry but with the changes. And if you are not currently a Eucharistic Minister but have a member of your household who is staying home to protect themselves or others, and you would like to minister to their needs, please call and offer your service. We have very few pyxes. If you have one and would like to share it with the parish, please bring it in to us. We won't order more until we know how many are needed. **If you are 65 or older, or staying home to protect yourself or others, and would like to receive Holy Communion in your home, please call to make your request known.**

So, lets talk about receiving communion for the rest of us. The most frequently asked question concerns the precious blood. No, we will NOT be receiving, or offered a sip, from the cup. We won't look for that to be resumed for a very long time. And along with that, it is highly recommended, so we will be compliant, to not distribute communion, at this time, on the tongue. The mouth offers a much greater risk of contamination. We will approach the communion stations in much the same way as we have in the past, but by maintaining social distancing, which means six feet apart. Lines will be marked on the carpet to assist us in the new spacing. This

really is very important. There will be two communion stations as in the past, but they will not be side by side. The two ministers will stand much further apart, but in the front, at the foot of the steps as usual. Because our center isle is not quite wide enough to accommodate two consistent lines, six feet apart, we will form **ONE** line, and then diverge in two directions as we reach the front, alternating right and left as we approach. The alternating flow is a new concept for us. But it will work if we just let it flow, right left, right, left, etc. always staying six feet apart. The ushers will again be helpful here until we get the hang of it. They will invite you out of your pew to join the line. When your pew moves, then everyone in your pew will move, pausing at the six-foot markers. As before, if you are unable to walk up in procession, the minister will come to your pew, but it will be in the end. Please continue reading this explanation: there will be no blessings for children or other guests who wish not to receive. This is curtailed due to no touching, and no reaching out to others. However, **ALL** are still encouraged to join in the procession, and cross arms over chest, signaling you don't wish to receive. When it is your turn to receive, this is the one time you will need to come closer than six feet apart, because the Eucharistic Ministers don't have six-foot extensions. Come within a comfortable distance and reach out with **cupped hands. Please don't reach out to take the host.** (If you have little ones recently prepared for first communion, ask them about "body snatchers.") The host will be lightly dropped into your cupped hands, with as little potential for touch as possible. Please move slowly and reverently so as to avoid any accidents.

As you leave the pew you are using, to form the communion line, please take everything you have carried into church with you. (This is the perfect time to encourage minimal material being carried into church). You will not be returning to your seats. So, everyone, and everything goes with you, one line in constant motion, and circling out to the nearest door after you receive. Yes, we **all** leave after communion! It used to be discouraged, and now it is not just encouraged, but it will be the expected ritual. Please remember to say your prayer of thanksgiving as you move on down the aisle. These are indeed strange and changing times! Father will move on to cleanse his vessels even as we proceed. All hosts blessed at a Mass will be consumed at the Mass, so no contamination carried over to the next setting.

Yes, all Eucharistic Ministers will hand sanitize just prior to distributing as usual, and again when they finish. In addition, if there is any accidental touching during the distribution, they will need to pause and hand sanitize again, as often as is necessary to keep everyone safe.

Any questions? It sounds more complicated than it is. Just follow the flow and keep a distance. You will see and catch on quickly. More to come next week. Call if you have concerns, or if you want to receive at home. We will work it all out.

So please pick up a bulletin. Again, our **tentative plans** are to reopen our Church on June 14th, but all depends on volunteers and preparedness. Please step forward to assist.