

June 14, 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

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

“We are the body of Christ!”

Welcome back everybody!

Mass Intentions:

June 14 - Feast of Corpus Christi – Cathy Wittkamper

June 21 - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time – (Father’s Day) Ralph Bruns

June 28 - 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Barbara Sandhage

July 5 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Carolyn Schoettmer

July 12 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Living and Deceased Members of the John Joseph Koors family

Some were worried this day would never come! But it is here! Some are just getting comfortable within the safety and confinement of their homes. All are adjusting to new routines, new rules, new ways of being together. But today we come together to host our first Public Parish Liturgy since our time of confinement began more than thirteen weeks ago. It is exciting for some, a little scary for others, and mildly confusing for most. Much like the message of Ash Wednesday: We are all at different places. But we are all in this together! Fear not! We are all working to keep each other safe, and connected and united, even united with those who remain at home waiting for a safer time.

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. If everyone who should stay home does stay home, it will be easier to accommodate the six-foot distancing and allow for at least 65 people to enter our church. 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**, checking off your name and phone number from an alphabetized list.

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. Meeting dates are posted under “Dates to Remember.”

A new point, not discussed in past weeks or bulletins, is to please **not touch or use the kneelers** in church. This point was overlooked in our bulletins and in our letter to each of you. And this will be a very difficult behavior, habit to change. We automatically kneel as we come into church, to pray as we come together, during the consecration, and after communion. But beginning today, we will only stand, genuflect and sit. The purpose

for omitting the kneeling posture is one of sanitation. Not all churches will be omitting this gesture. But those with cloth kneelers are strongly encouraged to do so. Most of us reach down with our hands, the instruments of transmission, and lift the kneelers into place, down or up. Each surface that we touch, or anyone else touches, must be sanitized after each time we worship. Quite frankly, those wonderful ladies who volunteered to sanitize each week, already have their hands full. Every seat and pew must be sanitized each week, along with door knobs, push plates, light switches, table tops, banisters, you name it, everything we touch. They have a lot to cover! But in addition to the work load, the cloth coverings are hard to sanitize. Moisture gets into the cloth and sits there, eventually creating a risk for mold and mildew. We will do our best to keep everyone safe, but this is one area where we need your help. Please refrain from touching or using the kneelers at all times.

Father will cue us when to sit or stand, but feel free to sit whenever it is not possible to stand at length. Sit as you enter the church. Sit during the readings, stand during the Gospel, sit during the homily, stand during the creed, sit during the altar set up, stand during the consecration (or sit as needed), stand during the Our Father, sit during communion until your pew is called forth by the usher. Fear not of making a mistake. We will all make mistakes and all are forgiven. But please try to remember for the sake of others. Thank you for this effort!

Call the office anytime to add or remove names, to this prayer list, or to give any information you may want posted to the parish. Also, please call to have your name added to the list of those wishing to receive communion in your own home. Our Eucharistic Ministers will gladly serve that need.

Remember in Prayer: Pat Schwering, John Kuzman, Nell Ann Pfeifer, Larry Smith, & 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, Millhausen, from the drop-down menu. You have the option for one time giving, or may set up a weekly, monthly or quarterly option for automatic deductions.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: June 7, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1905.00
Cemetery Fund:	\$80.00
Maintenance Fund	\$20.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$50.00
Education of Future Priests	\$40.00
Communications Fund	\$10.00

Total Collections: \$2105.00

Reminder: In your envelope box you will find a special collection envelope for next Sunday, June 21, for the Capital Campaign, Steeple Repair. At the time when we ordered envelopes for the year, more than a year ago, the Steeple Collection loomed over us, bigger than we could imagine. We had no idea it would all come together so quickly! So, today it appears we don't need more "Steeple Money." If you have made a major contribution to this very worthy fund, we are indeed grateful, and we are not expecting more. If you have not yet completed your pledge, we are giving you a reminder that it is now due. Any contributions not used directly for the steeple, will be directed to Church repair of various kinds, including tuck pointing, painting of the dome over the altars, etc. Many lesser projects are waiting for their opportunity to move forward. Your generous contributions will pave the way. If you have given to the steeple fund, and now want to contribute to our parish, we need funding for our operational expenses, gas, electric, water, internet, phone, mowing, cleaning, and

supplies. Over the past few months of uncertainty and turmoil, our general Sunday collections have suffered greatly. Now would be a very good time to help turn that around. Thank you for all the ways that you give!

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.

Dates to Remember: It is a new day, and all ministries are changing. All participants need to be updated. Please come to one or more of the following meetings to get acquainted with the new roles.

June 16 – Tuesday, 7:00 pm, School Hall, **Lectors Meeting** – for anyone 21-65, new or experienced, who would like to “Proclaim the Word” on Sundays. This very important ministry requires slow, and clear enunciation, expressive delivery, so that all may hear the Word of God without books to follow along. Again, only those completing this orientation will be scheduled.

June 24 – Wednesday, 7:00 pm, School Hall, **Eucharistic Ministers Meeting** – this meeting is for all commissioned Eucharistic Ministers, and all those who have asked to be commissioned, to be able to take the Eucharist to family members living near or in the same household who are continuing to “safe distance” as requested. Those commissioned by the Archbishop are serving a three-year term. Those asking to be commissioned, during this time, are approved by each pastor, to serve the needs of those homebound assigned. All are requested to attend for updates and assignments.

July 14 – Tuesday, 7:00 pm, School Hall, Chairperson of each **Church Cleaning** committee meet to discuss on-going needs, volunteers needed, and changes to routine. 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.

August 30 – First Communion at the Sunday morning Mass. These children are prepared and waiting!
Witness their excitement, their reverence, their spirit of prayer.

Confirmation: We received notification today that the Office of the Archbishop has begun to facilitate rescheduling of Confirmations throughout the Archdiocese. The Archbishop would like to Confirm all of our young people himself, and not delegate this responsibility to the pastors. To begin the catch-up process, he has decided to schedule all Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, beginning soon, until all are caught up. Each parish, large and small, will be contacted in the next week to finalize plans and assign dates and times. We are reminded that the service is to be brief, simple, and in line with current parish protocols for sanitation and social distancing. We will keep you posted. Candidates will be asked to meet with Sister Donna to validate readiness for this sacrament, to receive updates, and to recreate the energy that was present when we parted in March. The spirit is finally coming!

Steeple Notes: More pictures have come in and more validation of how badly needed the project really was. This week we learned of loose bricks, cracked or missing mortar, and more need of repair. Once again, progress has been delayed by wind and weather. Please continue to pray for the safety of all of our workers. And please remember the request issued before the work began, to stay far away from the construction site. The velocity, the potential for damage, or risk of injury or death from falling debris is very great! We are finding, not only nails, but pieces of old shingle, which are quite heavy, at far distances from the steeple itself. The wind has been strong down below, and only magnified up that high. If you have a chance today you might stop and take a look at the bulletin board to see the current pictures. You also might take a look at the sample of old shingles Ken has collected. There is no doubt the project was badly needed. In the meantime, please respect the workers, and the precautions they have requested for all of us.

Relative to this distancing, but for other reasons, is a reminder that **our Church property remains closed** for all but essential meetings or activities. We actually “jumped the gun” on some of our meetings in May, though all were essential. Permission was only granted one week ago for non-liturgical gatherings, which include only those which cannot be postponed, or accomplished virtually, and only those which have been given priority. All gatherings, inside or outside of our buildings, all on church property, are subject to following all possible health and safety protocols, which include face coverings, sanitation procedures, essential and frequent hand washing, in addition to continued social distancing. Social gatherings will eventually follow, but please wait and respect the guidelines. Not yet . . . We know it will be hard to come to Mass and **not socialize**, but that is exactly what is being asked of us at this time. We are not to gather in huddles outside of church before or after Mass, nor at any time. We are not to promote any activity that calls us together. Times are so changed!

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. **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.

One of our goals in all of this is to protect our aging members including our retired priests. For that purpose, there will be no scheduled private confessions until further notice. We are asking that no one (except the lectors) will enter the sanctuary. Please remain an appropriate social distance from Fr. Bill. Though he too would like to, he will not be able to socialize at this time. We ask your assistance in this important process.

During this past week, all active parishioners should have received a letter summarizing the liturgical changes and new guidelines. The letter was sent to each household. Please call the office to let us know if you did **NOT** receive that letter. Not only is the content important, but we need to have correct mailing addresses for each one of you. If you were for any reason omitted from our mailing list, please let us know that information. If you did not receive it, or if you are a visitor to our parish, please pick up a copy in the entry way this morning. **Letter to Parishioners.**

We are entering a new phase of dealing with the global pandemic. The Governor of Indiana has lifted some restrictions gradually. We, in the church, are following the leadership and guidance of our Archbishop and other church leaders, as well as aligning with our state and local governments. We know that there are differing viewpoints as well as various levels of anxiety. What is most important is to do what feels right for you while respecting the choices of others, always keeping in mind the **health and safety of all**.

We strongly urge all to adhere to the basic guidance offered by our health care professionals – wear a mask or face covering, maintain six feet of social distance, and wash your hands frequently. Even if we choose not to follow the direction of those who lead us, we ask for the concern and respect for all those most vulnerable, the aged, the young, and all those with chronic or debilitating disease who will be impacted by our decisions. Much of this is common sense. Some of it is simply respect, regardless if we agree or disagree. Thank you for respecting each other.

In addition to the global pandemic, we are dealing with the ongoing pandemic of racism. Our prayer is that each of these pandemics will call forth transformation in our lives. Our hope is that, as we move into the future, we may do so, choosing to live our lives differently.