

**June 21, 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)*

**Happy Father's Day!**

Today the liturgical calendar returns to Ordinary Time. Throughout this season we are reminded of our call to discipleship, and the cost of that call. Self-sacrifice and proclamation of the good news are the crux of the message. It is a time to renew our commitment to the Christian life. As followers of Jesus, we are called to spread the good news, and care for those in need.

**Mass Intentions:**

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

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

July 5 - 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Carolyn Schoettmer

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

For those who are here for the first time since our "time of confinement," Welcome Back! All are adjusting to new routines, new rules, new ways of being together. Just keep in mind that we are all in this together. We will help each other through this, and we will protect the most vulnerable among us, the **elders and the youth**. We are all working to keep each other safe, and connected and united. Our prayers today are 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 as has been suggested. 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. If you don't find your name on the list, please sign the paper and write in your phone number so you can be contacted if needed.

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. Last weekend was a huge success, and we owe a debt of thanks to the ushers, the sanitizers, the sign makers, and all who have come forward to help us prepare and keep our worship space safe.

A reminder: we are **not using or touching the kneelers** in church. We know this is a very difficult habit to break. We automatically kneel as we come into church, 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. Our hands are the instruments of transmission, and carry the most potential for passing the virus on to others. Each surface that we touch, must be sanitized after each time we worship. 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 may cue us when to sit or stand, but feel free to sit whenever in doubt. Sit as you enter the church. Sit during the readings, stand during the Gospel, sit during the homily, and please remain seated 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:** Nell Ann Pfeifer, Larry Smith, & Judy Zapfe

**Pauline Schoettmer** called to thank us for our notes, cards, calls etc. for her birthday and all during this secluded time. She is most grateful for your support! Morning Breeze has begun to receive visitors, outside, by appointment. Yes, it is very limited, but it is a beginning! Teresa Bruns has called a number of times as well. Both of these ladies miss all of you and can't wait for things to open up.

We are most grateful for your continued financial support. Thanks to those who mail or drop off checks. Because there is no Collection being taken up by the ushers, we ask that you place your envelopes in the basket as you enter or leave. **On-line Giving:** For those who may have misplaced the link, the on-line giving site is: [www.archindy.org/Giving](http://www.archindy.org/Giving). Choose Immaculate Conception, Millhousen, 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 14, 2020**

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	<b>\$2,800.00</b>
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$4,613.00
Cemetery Fund:	\$190.00
Maintenance Fund	\$210.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$20.00
Education of Future Priests	\$430.00
Communications Fund	\$50.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$20.00
Church in Africa	\$ 20.00
Holy Places	\$22.00

**Total Collections: \$5575.00**

**Reminder:** Special collection this morning for the Capital Campaign, the Steeple Fund, is no longer as critical as it was when the envelopes were printed. You can discard that envelope. If you have made a major contribution to the steeple fund, we are not asking for more. 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 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 this week that Confirmation for our youth will take place as originally planned, at St. Mary's Greensburg. Only the date has changed. The celebration will take place on Saturday morning August 8<sup>th</sup>. Seating will be limited due to social distancing, so we ask for your support and understanding. Each candidate will be allotted a given number of seats and only those personally invited will be able to attend. 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. Candidates please gather in the school basement on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. If St. Mary's calls for a practice session, we will let you know.

**Steeple Notes:** It was a good week, and there has been a lot of progress.

**Reminder: our Church property remains closed** for all but essential meetings or activities. 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! 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 not yet . . .

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