July 5, 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

Happy 4th of July Weekend to Everyone! May God continue to bless our nation!

Mass Intentions:

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

July 19 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cathy Wittkamper

July 26 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Barbara Sandhage

August 2 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Carolyn Schoettmer

August 9 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cathy Wittkamper

August 14 - (Vigil) The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Albert Naderman Friday evening, 7:00 pm

August 16 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Barbara Sandhage

August 23 - 21st Sunday In Ordinary Time - Kathryn Schoettmer

August 30 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Albert Naderman (First Communion Sunday)

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. We need to be able to track an outbreak, so 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. Once we have entered the church with those three 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. As our crowd increases, this becomes all the more important.

A reminder: we are **not using or touching the kneelers** in church. We know this is a very difficult habit to break. But for the present time, 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. 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.

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, & Judy Zapfe. Larry Smith is grateful for your prayers and reports that his recovery is going well.

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 drop-box 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. 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 28, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget: \$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$2,027.00
Education of Future Priests \$30.00
Steeple Fund \$20.00
Peter's Pence \$190.00
Total Collections: \$2,267.00

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: Meetings continue in an effort to get everyone updated to the new responsibilities of ministry in this time of change. Thanks to all of you who have come forward to learn and to volunteer! Many opportunities have been provided for learning, but if you are interested in beginning or continuing in a church ministry, and have missed the opportunities presented, please call the parish office. Only those folks who have been updated will be placed on the new ministry list, due out soon.

Upcoming meetings include:

July 14 - **Church Cleaning** Chair persons - Tuesday evening, 7:00 pm in the school. 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.

July 19 - Finance Committee - immediately following Mass, Office Meeting Room

July 26 - Parish Council - immediately following Mass, in the school

July 29 - Confirmation Candidates, 7:00 pm, in the school

First Communion - August 30 at the Sunday morning Mass. These children are prepared and waiting!

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**th. Seating will be limited due to social distancing. Only the candidate, the sponsor, and the parents of each candidate may attend this year. Candidates are 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 29th at 7:00 pm.

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 Hermesch (chair), Paula Fry, Melea Gault, Aaron Gault, Stephanie Hoeing, Timothy Hoeing. Tuesday evening July 7, 6:00 pm.

On Monday afternoon, June 29th, at 2:00 pm, the **Charism Mass** took place at the Cathedral. For the first time this year it was not open to the public, but was live-streamed instead. This Mass is traditionally celebrated on the Tuesday of Holy Week. It is the most solemn and sacred time when all priests renew their commitment, and when the sacred oils are blessed and distributed to all parishes for the coming year. The ritual was beautiful and inspiring. The Holy Oils for 2020 are now in our Ambry.

Ballots: We are beginning a new parish leadership year and it is time to update, renew or elect new parish leaders. This year all three members of the Finance Committee will continue in their roles. No one's term expires. But for the Parish Council two members have completed a three-year term. Both members are eligible for a second three-year term, and both are willing to run again. We are grateful for the work and dedication, and on-going commitment of Aaron Gault and Steve AmRhein. No additional candidates have come forward, and no one new has been nominated. So, the two candidates named are running unopposed. The ballots have been created, and are attached to your bulletin this weekend. Please confirm these generous candidates by marking your ballots and placing them in the collection box today or next weekend.

Many have been asking about the "Baby Bottles" which were given to you on Ash Wednesday to serve as a collection instrument during Lent. Very soon after that the order came to close our doors. As Lent continued, sacrifices were made and change collected. Our Almsgiving this year was to support our local Clarity Organization, serving Moms who are choosing life, and deciding against abortion. Boxes have been provided in the entryway for these baby bottles to be returned. Please bring them in with you the next two weekends, and drop them in the boxes as you enter. Kate Bedel is coordinating this project and will provide information to follow. All bottles due by July 12. Thank you so much for your generosity to this project.

The following message was received from Mike Witka, **Director of Risk Management**, at the request of Monsignor Bill Stumpf, Vicar General:

Our intel has informed us of the following warning for this weekend:

There is an up-tick in chatter and occurrence in regards to **radical elements** of the BLM movement destroying stain glass windows in mainstream churches and temples (not sure why they are hammering the Jewish community). Another item that they are calling out to be destroyed is statues and painting of Jesus, expressly statues and paintings of the Scared Heart (because it depicts a white Jesus).

The group "Order of Nine Angles" is becoming more active in both France and the UK... they are developing a following on this side of the pond (very anti-Christian... well anti God to be completely fair). They are not well organized at this point and I hope they stay that way. This group is scary. They have carried out several knife and club attacks over the last few weeks in central and western Europe.

Please be vigilant of your property. If you have any questions please contact Mike Witka, Director of Risk Management, at 317-997-3561 or email at mwitka@archindy.org

This may a good time to remind all parishioners of the importance of communicating when you plan to be on our church campus. Please remember to call the parish office or text Sister Donna when you will be gathering, working, or meeting on the campus, or when you plan to park a vehicle on the campus for a time. Any and all unexplained activity will be carefully monitored for the safety of all. Thank you for assisting to keep everyone safe.

Black Lives Matter! Please see insert.

Black Lives Matter

As Catholics, as Christians, should we be supporting the Black Lives Matter movement you might be wondering? Yes, **ALL** lives matter, so why say "black lives matter? "We say this because the lives of black people in this country and elsewhere, have historically been devalued. They were even counted as 3/5 of a person in our Constitution.

We are not saying that anyone in particular is a racist, though some may be. We are saying that the systemic racism – the injustice in our judicial system, in our educational and housing systems, and in our health care system needs to end now.

Why are more blacks and other people of color contracting coronavirus and dying disproportionately to whites? Why is poverty more rampant among blacks and other people of color? Why are people of color more likely to end up in our prisons than whites?

One's race does not make one more dangerous or lazier (as some believe) than anyone else. One's race does not make one more intelligent or more deserving than anyone else. Systems have deprived people of equal access to education, healthcare, good neighborhoods, and economic opportunity. These **systems** need to change.

Black lives matter. Jesus stood up for the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the Samaritans, the lepers, and anyone who was pushed aside by society in his day. We are attempting to do the same thing. Nobody has ever said in words, or in government policies, that white lives don't matter. So, there is no need to say that they do. We all agree. White Lives matter. No one is discounting us.

But we have indeed said that Black lives don't matter by our policies, by our biases, by our practices. It is time for that to change. We need to support all of our brothers and sisters, no matter the color of their skin. That is our Christian call.

What color is God's skin? It is black, brown, yellow, it is red, it is white.

Everyone's the same in the good Lord's sight.