

July 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@millhousechurch.com

Mass Intentions:

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)

NEWS: (A repeat from last week): We have been informed by the office of the Archbishop, that he has named **Fr. Santhosh Yohannan** the new Sacramental Minister at Immaculate Conception, effective September 9th, 2020. Yes, after ten years of being with us every Sunday, Fr. Bill will no longer be our priest minister. He is not completely retiring however! He will continue to serve at St. Maurice, Napoleon and at St. John, Osgood. Fr. John Geis will be retiring officially from active ministry, and hoping to regain his strength and energy. We may see him from time to time, but neither one will have responsibilities in our parish. We are grateful for the lives and ministries of both of these men, and for all that they each have done to serve the needs of our community! This all came about through the ongoing effort of our Archdiocese to lift some of the pressure from the shoulders of our elder priests, especially those in our Batesville Deanery. I am told today that this is the first step of a probable series of steps planned over the next few years to shuffle the cards a bit and redistribute the work load, with the goal of keeping our parishes open, but sharing the responsibility in creative ways.

Fr. Santhosh is a bit younger, though ordained for 24 years. He is originally from the Diocese of Quinlon, in India, and has been serving in this Deanery for the past year, part time at St. Louis, Batesville, and part time at St. Charles Borromeo, Milan. He will continue his work at Batesville where he resides, but give up the Milan parish to take on Millhousen. We welcome him, and ask God's blessing upon his time with us! He visited for the first time this week following an organizational meeting. He was most pleased by the "safe space" of the sanctuary, and told me that he will Not be distributing communion, even though he is a bit younger. He works within three different parishes, and does not want to chance spreading the virus. His immediate focus is safety for all. We will have an opportunity to meet and greet but he thinks we may need to wait until the numbers begin to decrease. In the mean time we can all remember to please not enter the sanctuary or invade the "safe space" provided for both of our ministers.

Reminder: our Church property remains closed for all but essential meetings or activities. We know it is 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 and chat outside of church, before or after Mass, nor at any time. We are not to promote any activity that calls us together. All gatherings, inside or outside of our buildings, all coming together on church property, is subject to health and safety protocols, which include face coverings, sanitation procedures, essential and frequent hand washing, in addition to continued social distancing. The Social Distancing is the hardest regulation for most of

us to follow. The numbers are climbing again, and calling for us to intensify our efforts. Please remember to go directly to your car after receiving communion each Sunday morning. And be advised that masks are to stay on until you reach your car. On church grounds these are not optional guidelines, but remain stricter than in most other arenas. Please help us to keep everyone safe. If our older parishioners are to rejoin us on Sundays, we need to have our safety habits in place to provide a safe environment for them and all.

Please remember that the dispensation from attending Sunday liturgy is extended for **all** of us until **August 15th**. Our elder parishioners will be gradually rejoining us. Those of us attending weekly and getting acclimated to the changes, need to continue to develop new habits and create the safest environment possible, so that re-entry is possible for others. If there is a change to any of this, a remind message will go out to keep you informed.

Father Bill is resuming confession time prior to each Mass, in the confessional room in church. Please be aware that the room has no ventilation, no exhaust fan as is required for use. Each individual will need to sanitize hands, wear a face mask, and use the disinfectant spray provided before exiting the room. Chairs are placed six feet apart. Please observe all precautions to protect one another.

We need to be able to track an outbreak, so we ask each person who enters the church 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. 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. 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. Frequent attendees have mastered this new habit!

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, Rosemarie Leonard, & Jim Cobb.

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 wish to give on-line, the 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. We are slowly beginning to make up for the time we were apart, and have managed to end the fiscal year on a positive note, due to recent contributions and careful planning. We may not feel the pinch now until we move

into fall and find the usual Auction contribution absent. A fiscal year end summary will be coming in a few weeks. Thank you to all who have “rescued” us in the past few weeks. You have really come through!

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: July 12, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,811.00
Education of Future Priests	\$50.00
Maintenance Fund	\$50.00

Total Collections: \$1,911.00

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. We need your help! Please come and be retrained.

Upcoming meetings include:

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.

Confirmation: Confirmation for our youth will take place at St. Mary’s Greensburg on Saturday morning **August 8th**. Seating will be limited due to social distancing. Only the candidate, the sponsor, and the parents of each candidate may attend this year. But please remember to support these young adults with your prayer, and by notes and texts and social media.

Steeple: The crane returns on Monday and it is projected that the steeple project could be complete within the next two weeks. The old, unused chimney came down this week, and all gables have been painted. The clock faces will be stenciled on as a last touch, probably next week. A few shingles remain to be placed.

Ballots: Parish Council members re-elected by ballot last weekend are Aaron Gault and Steve AmRhein. Thank you, gentlemen, for serving!

“Baby Bottles” our local Clarity Organization, serving Moms who are choosing life, and deciding **against abortion** will benefit from your generous donations. Thank you so much for your generosity to this project.

We continue to be vigilant about activity at any time on our church property. Please call the parish office number before gathering, parking, or using the parish property for anything but essential meetings. Any and all unexplained activity will be carefully monitored for the safety of all. Thank you for assisting to keep everyone safe.

Seems lots of folks are **“breaking out,”** with fireworks, parties, cookouts, graduations, showers, camping and short trips, and upcoming Confirmation and First Communion parties. Please be aware that the numbers are climbing. Please be careful, and safe. Please maintain the safest distances possible. Please mask and wash hands frequently. Please help to protect each other. When we feel confined and restricted, remember those who have given their lives. When we tire of our safe distancing and home arrest, remember those who have no home, or safe place to go to feel safe and protected. We are indeed fortunate!