

**August 9, 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](mailto:sisterdonna@millhousechurch.com)*

**Mass Intentions:**

August 9 - 19<sup>th</sup> 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 - 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Barbara Sandhage

August 23 - 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time - Kathryn Schoettmer

August 30 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Albert Naderman (First Communion Sunday)

An update from the Archdiocese concerning The **Sunday Mass Dispensation**:

**“While commending our pastors and parish life coordinators who have gone to great lengths to assure safe worship spaces in our churches, due to the increase in the COVID-19 cases in our state, the Indiana Bishops have decided to extend the dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass attendance beyond August 15 until November 1, 2020, unless further developments determine otherwise.”**

The update goes on to say that all people 65 or older and those who are sick or have medical conditions that make them especially vulnerable to the coronavirus are encouraged to remain at home. While this is a relief to some, it comes as a blow to many of our elders. Many of them are longing to rejoin us on Sundays. We at Immaculate Conception will welcome all, and encourage each person to make individual and appropriate decisions, based on their condition and personal judgement. We will continue to create and maintain a safe environment for all who choose to attend. Putting all judgements aside, we will support the individual’s freedom of choice. All who attend, however will need to continue safe practices, by masking, hand sanitizing, and safe distancing. We are grateful to our ushers and will continue to follow their direction. They are attentive and aware of how to accommodate the group. We cannot afford to become lax. We have been asked once again to not make physical contact during the “Our Father” and to NOT exchange a sign of peace. As the numbers continue to climb, the inherent risk involved in gathering into a common space is amply apparent. Our challenge then is to continue to model a safe environment.

**Reminder:** our Church property remains closed for all but essential meetings or activities. Mass is an essential activity. 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.

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.

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.) Please also remember to sign-in, for a dual purpose: we need to track in case of an outbreak. In addition, we need to count out the number of hosts

needed each Mass. 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. And our elders are returning. Please welcome them and assist them with our new practices.

A reminder: we are **not using or touching the kneelers** in church. For the present time, we will only stand, genuflect and sit. Frequent attendees have mastered this new habit! New comers may find it difficult.

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, & Jim Cobb, Eric Stone.

We are most grateful for your continued financial support. The new **drop box** has replaced the ushers collecting our envelopes at Mass and provides a safe and private way to donate as you enter or leave the church. For those who wish to give on-line, the site is: [www.archindy.org/Giving](http://www.archindy.org/Giving).

**Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections:** Aug. 2, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	<b>\$2,800.00</b>
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1309.00
Cemetery	\$50.00
Maintenance	\$875.00
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$2234.00</b>

**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.

Special thanks go out to all those who so graciously came forward to assist in the **education of our youth!** This is a very big commitment, but so vital to the continuation of our parish! They are embracing many changes in light of the changing times. Remember that each one of us is called to evangelization. Each one shares in the responsibility to pass on our faith. Not everyone is called to teach our youth. But all can pray for the success of this vital program. And some may want to make monetary contributions to help support the increased budget needed to maintain a safe environment for our youth. Some may want to help families pay their fees. In whatever way each one chooses to contribute, all will be needed to support this vital endeavor. It takes a village!

**First Communion - August 30** at the Sunday morning Mass.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation for our youth took place at St. Mary's Greensburg yesterday morning **August 8<sup>th</sup>**. This morning we honor them with a special recognition. Archbishop Thompson called forth the spirit into the lives of each one. Again, we all share in the responsibility to pray that the spirit may grow within them.

Congratulations to: **Emily Ann Georgi, Colton William Johannigman, Anthony Thomas Schwering, Benjamin Lawrence Stier, and Brian Patrick Wittkamper.**

**Steeple:** While a few finishing details remain, for all practical purposes the steeple project is complete. The contractor, along with the project manager, and our Archdiocesan Architect, came together with a few

parishioners to review the work and listen to the report. A white binder with finishing photos is available in the entryway for those who wish to take a look. It is a job well done, and one we can trust will not need attention again for the next thirty or more years. Each parishioner who so generously contributed to this project needs to take pride in the united effort that brought it all together. The contractor plans to return this week to plant grass seed, and to finish the clean-up. Paper work follows.

You may have noticed a lift in the school yard. The much-needed **tuck pointing** has begun! The gentleman working with us is the brother of parishioner Tim Scheidler. We thank Tim for helping to get this project initiated!

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.

**Religious Education of Youth 2020 - 2021:** We are currently gearing up for the start of the 2020-21 Rel. Ed. program at Immaculate Conception. The new year will consist of new safety protocols and may look and feel different from what it has been in the past. We are currently reviewing recommendations from the Archdiocese to adapt to our program. Changes thus far include adjusted schedules, entrance protocols, staggered dismissal, and weekly disinfecting and cleaning of classrooms. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more details. A reminder that Enrollment Forms were due a week ago, and are gradually trickling in. But this week is the last opportunity to register your children and youth. Books need to be ordered and arrangements made for spacing and safety. If parents are uncomfortable with your student returning or would like to consider a home-schooling option for other reasons, please indicate that on the enrollment form. Forms were mailed to all 2019-2020 program families. If for some reason you didn't receive an enrollment form and would like one, some are available in the back of church, or we would be happy to mail a copy at your request. It is **IMPORTANT** that you fill out and return the form to the Parish Office by Thursday of this week! It is our goal to start classes soon after Labor Day.

**Fees** associated with the program are listed on the enrollment form. They have not changed. If these fees provide a hardship for your family, please reach out to the parish office. We would be happy to facilitate scholarships for those families in need.

**Mass Time:** When I arrived here more than four years ago, I repeatedly heard the complaints about having only one Mass option here, and especially how hard it is for many to come so early in the morning. So, when I met with Fr. Santhosh for the first time, that was my immediate concern. Unfortunately, because he is assisting in several other parishes as well, there is not a lot of flexibility in his schedule. He did offer to move it forward a bit, but knows that he will be responsible for another parish liturgy later in the morning. He also has others scheduled on Saturday evenings. As it is, each parish served by the Batesville priests (pastor and assistant) will be sacrificing and changing their Mass times to accommodate everyone's need. At this time, it has been determined that our Mass will change to 8:30 am beginning on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Please make note of this change. The change will allow travel time for Father, and help to accommodate the breakfast for our students before coming in to Mass. Everyone sacrifices for the common good. Thank you!

A big **thank you** to Mike Bedel for completing the painting job on the entryway to the Office Building! It looks so nice! Also, a belated thank you to Steve Stone and Donnie Wilmer for mowing or bush hogging the lot behind the pond and surrounding area. That too was a very big improvement. We have a long list of small chores that need to be tended to. If you or your family is interested in picking up a few hours on odd jobs, you will be most appreciated. A fall work day will be scheduled soon, but you may come anytime to do your part. There is plenty work to go around! God bless those who repeatedly say "yes"! Together we can walk on water!



# Immaculate Conception Church

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

August 6, 2020

Hello! Sister Donna and I have been working diligently on our Religious Education Program for the 2020-2021 school year. If you have not turned in your Registration form please do so ASAP. This information is essential for us to order books and supplies in a timely manner.

As you can imagine, there are many changes coming from the Archdiocese on safety measures and protocols. But in addition to that, we have been taking a serious look at our program and the **needs** that we have versus the **resources** that it takes to sustain the program. With limited catechists/aides, smaller class sizes, and for several other reasons, we have decided that it would be in our best interest for the future of the program to make some significant changes. The changes are listed below and a class schedule is on the back of this letter. Please reach out to either one of us if you have any questions.

Our hope is that these changes may ease the burden of a Wednesday night commitment for busy families, reinforce the importance of Mass and its scripture readings to the kids through class instruction on a Sunday, and encourage family attendance at Mass more regularly. All good things!

### **Changes:**

- ALL classes (H.S. & Elementary) will be on SUNDAY. There will be no Wednesday classes.
- Class will be from 9:15a-10:30a
  - *Starting Sept. 13, Mass will begin at 8:30a, not 8:00a. Please see bulletin announcement regarding this.*
  - *Therefore, Mass will be from 8:30a – 9:15ish. Classes will start directly after Mass. Be sure the kiddos get breakfast before Mass! 😊*
- We will use both the school building and parish office for classrooms.
- We will be reducing classes to include 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 9<sup>th</sup> grade only. We will not be having Pre-K/KKG classes. *(If you have already registered your child for these classes and sent in a check, we will reimburse you soon.)*
- Students will be preparing for Confirmation in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade versus waiting until 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This change may seem early to some of you, but it is actually a common practice within our deanery and across the state. This year all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be confirmed, probably in April.
- COVID-19 protocols will also be coming your way in the coming weeks. Once we have an idea of class sizes, etc. we will communicate to you what you can expect.

**And of course, for all this to work we need volunteers to help pass on our faith to our students. Gratefully, those volunteers have come forward and we can proceed with planning! Thank you to those who have committed to the new Sunday morning program, both catechists and classroom aides. We couldn't do it without you!!**

Yours in Christ,  
Sister Donna M. Prickel, OSF

Melea B. Gault

## 2020-2021 Schedule

(25/1875)

**ALL Classes will be on Sunday's after mass until 10:30am. Please note Reconciliation will be on a Wednesday evening as indicated below. Confirmation date will be confirmed at a later time.**

### September

2 – Catechist & Aide Meeting at 7:00p (This is a Wednesday night.)

13 – FIRST CLASS

20

27

### October

18

25

### November

1

8

15

22

### December

2 – RECONCILIATION 7:00p (This is a Wednesday night.)

13 – NO CLASS (H.S. to help with Church Décor appreciated)

20 – NO CLASS (Choir practice & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Nativity practice)

### January

10

17

24

31

### February

7

14

21

28

### March

21

28

### April

11

18

25 – LAST CLASS (*potential Confirmation date?*)

### May

2 – NO CLASS – First Communion