

August 16, 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:

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)

September 6 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time- Carolyn Schoettmer

September 13 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cathy Wittkamper

September 20 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Barbara Sandhage

September 27 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Kathryn Schoettmer

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.

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.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: Aug. 9, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,550.00
Maintenance	\$765.00
Total Collections:	\$3,315.00

While we are not yet caught up, we are making great strides! Thank you for your generosity!

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!

Dates to Remember:

August 26 - First Communion class- school basement 6:30 – 7:30, Church for practice 7:30 - 8:00.

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

September 2 - Catechist Meeting, 7:00 pm in school basement

September 6 - Reception for Fr. Bill (Coffee and Doughnuts) outside of church immediately following Mass.

September 13 - Religious Ed begins immediately after Mass

September 19 - Fall Work Day beginning at 8:30 am.

September 26 - "Makeup Day" if Fall Work Day is rained out

Steeple: I would like to tell you that the Steeple project is complete, but not quite. While it is almost complete, including the grass seeding, and all clean up, there are a few wrinkles to be ironed out with the Finances. Maybe in another week.

Tuck-pointing: The school building is nearing completion, again maybe in another week. The lift may be in a new location by next weekend.

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: Last weekend we announced changes, and a schedule for the new school year. Additional copies are available in the entryway if you were away last weekend and still need a copy. We also announced that the registration process was ending, and that prompted a few more to roll in this week. Books are now being ordered and safety precautions developed for our program. It is our goal to start classes soon after Labor Day. Just as was the case for reopening our church, cleaning and sanitizing the classroom space is the next huge step in our process. Just like the church, the school needs to be sanitized after each use. So, we are offering to you the **sanitation opportunity**. We will need someone, or several people to rotate the task, to assure that the school is wiped down each week and ready for our young people the next Sunday. The task could be done any day of the week, whenever you have time, but needs to be consistently sanitized to meet church and state requirements to maintain a safe environment. If you are willing to contribute to this endeavor please call the parish office!

Mass Time: At this time, it has been determined that our Mass will change to 8:30 am beginning on Sunday, September 13th. 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 Ortman who got started on our chore list! He has tackled the weeds in various areas! A fall work day has been scheduled for September 19th beginning at 8:30 am. If, once again, it is washed out, we have a backup plan for the following Saturday Sept. 26th. Our goal is to get the work completed before the harvest season is upon us! If you are **not** available on Saturdays, but have time during the week, please come anytime to do your part. There is plenty of work to go around! God bless those who repeatedly say “yes”!

Weekly Ministries

August 16

Ushers: Mark Stier, Mitch & Lori Nobbe
Lector: Jeanne Fry
Eucharistic Minister: Melea Gault

August 23

Jerry Fry, Donny Fry, Aaron Gault
Mary Jo Wenning
Jeanne Fry

August 30

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Donny Fry, Aaron Gault
Lector: Melea Gault
Eucharistic Minister: Jeanne Fry
Musicians: Abby Wagner, Donna & Sarah Schwering