

August 23, 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 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 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.

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.

Next Sunday four of our very young members will be receiving their **First Holy Communion!** By necessity it will be a very simple service, but they have waited long enough for this special privilege. Please share in the excitement with: **Lane Asher, Quinn Johannigman, Brinley Scudder, and Elyse Stone.** As always, please stay seated until the ushers direct you forward.

On Tuesday of this past week we lost a friend of the parish, 89-year-old **Robert J. Schoettmer**, a resident the past few years of Crown Pointe Senior Living. Bob lost his wife, Kathryn, a few years ago, and since that time has found solace in coming to join us for liturgy about once a month, always sitting right up front and taking an

active part. When the COVID pandemic curtailed this activity, he felt warmly supported by your cards and well wishes. A very social man, he was eager to get back, and we maintained a phone dialogue, but that ultimately was not enough to satisfy. May he be enjoying a grand reunion now with his wife! Mass this morning is offered for Kathryn and was scheduled many months ago. He was buried on Friday from St. Mary's.

On Thursday afternoon, the **Ronsheim** family, former Millhousen residents, buried not one, but two sons in our cemetery. Jeremy recently deceased, and his brother Christopher who died tragically some 33 years ago, now lay side by side in a place they can call home. Please remember these parents as they grieve.

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. 16, 2020

Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1290.00
Maintenance	\$110.00
Assumption	\$147.00
Total Collections:	\$1547.00

The new **Ministry List for September** will be attached to the bulletin next weekend. Only those folks who have been updated will be placed on the new ministry list. We need your help! Please come and be retrained.

To volunteer for any liturgical ministry, please call the parish office so that you can be updated.

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: As one approaches the parish from either direction, the East or the West, the shining white steeple is a beacon of faith and hope! The project is finally complete. The last check was mailed this past week. And the finished effect is one we can all be proud of. It is a beautiful sight to behold as one approaches from the East at sunrise. And at sunset, the same glory is visible as one approaches from the opposite direction. Hopefully it will be welcoming folks long after all of us are gone to our rest. Let it be a source of pride! But more importantly, let it lift our thoughts and voices in prayer of praise and thanksgiving!

Tuck-pointing: The school building is nearing completion. All that remains is the brushing and cleaning process with Sure Clean. The backside of the grotto has been resealed as well, and a little work will go into the pedestal out front, which folds the Infant of Prague. By the time our students return, the building will be cleaned and sanitized just like the church building. Just as in our Church building, all who enter, for class or a meeting, will need to hand sanitize and mask, in addition to safe distancing. Any unnecessary (non-essential) gathering within either building will be curtailed and all those who do use the buildings will find a safe space to be.

Religious Education of Youth 2020 - 2021: Catechists and classroom aides are in place. Registration is complete, and books have been ordered. Safety precautions for our program continue to be developed. 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!

As most of you know, **Fr. Bill** will be saying Mass for us for the last time on September 6th, the Sunday of **Labor Day** weekend. We would like to make it a special tribute to him, but we know that some of you may be away for the last rite of summer. To accommodate your cards, personal messages and well wishes, there will be a box available in the entryway beginning next weekend, where you can drop off any cards or notes addressed to him. In addition, we have a special gift ready for him, and ask that you take a moment as you come in or go out today and next Sunday, to sign it. Following Mass on that September 6th, there will be doughnuts available on tables set up outside on the West side of the Church. Doing our very best at Social Distancing, we will send him off with a sweet treat! Please join us.

Mass Time: Beginning on September 13, our Mass time will change to **8:30 am**. Please make note of this change. The change will allow travel time for Father, and help to accommodate breakfast time for our students before coming in to Mass and Religious Ed. In addition, the 12:00 PM Mass at St. John Osgood will be officially eliminated that same weekend. Everyone sacrifices just a little for the common good. Thank you!

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 23

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Donny Fry, Aaron Gault
Lector: Mary Jo Wenning
Eucharistic Minister: Jeanne Fry
Musicians:

August 30

Jerry Fry, Donny Fry, Aaron Gault
Melea Gault
Jeanne Fry
Abby Wagnor, Donna & Sarah Schwering

We are planning to introduce a little music to our liturgy for First Communion, but we do so, expecting all to listen rather than to participate. Thank you!

And a note from St. Mary's: they will not be having their parish festival after all. All is cancelled. The 5K will be virtual.