

August 30, 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 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

All of the Mass intentions that were omitted during March, April, May, and June, are now rescheduled. We are now booked solid through February of 2022. But no intention has been dropped or forgotten.

Yes, much of our printed material is being repeated. That is necessary because we are required to keep everyone, including our visitors, and those returning for the first time since COVID updated and informed. Changes and additional information are interspersed. Beginning next week, we will put all of the COVID material and reminders on the back page so it isn't the first thing you see. But it still has a high priority!

A word 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, while we support the individual's freedom of choice. All who attend, however, will need to continue safe practices, by masking, hand sanitizing, and safe distancing to protect the vulnerable people around them. 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 (the temptation is to begin socializing). And be advised that masks are to stay on until you reach your car. On church grounds these are not optional guidelines.

In addition, we will continue to safe distance, to avoid singing, and using the kneelers. And please remember to use the hand sanitizer provided each time you enter or exit the buildings. Even if you are “over” being concerned about the virus, it continues to be important to protect those more vulnerable.

First Communion: Today 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.** We are hoping their excitement will be as contagious as the virus! As always, please stay seated until the ushers direct you forward. The front pews will be reserved for these four families, and they may be seated more closely together because they are family. But our Liturgy will follow the new ritual of exiting the building right after receiving the Eucharist, except for those four children and their parents.

Remember in Prayer: Nell Ann Pfeifer, Judy Zapfe, Jim Cobb, & Eric Stone, Judy Kinker, Wayne Schutte,

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. 23, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$721.00
Assumption	\$ 27.00
Total Collections:	\$748.00

Dates to Remember:

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. 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 completed. And the tuck-pointers have moved on to the Office Building. They have only a couple of days left. The school has been thoroughly cleaned and the sanitizing has begun. Please say a prayer of thanks to those who are completing this work in spite of the heat! Just as in our Church building, all who enter the school, 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! This will be the last publication before hiring this task to be done.

As most of you know, **Fr. Bill** will be saying Mass for us for the last time next Sunday, 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 is a box available in the entryway today, 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, to sign it. Following Mass next Sunday, 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 rain makes the work impossible, 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"! A huge thank you this week to Jerry Fry for cleaning up the bat excrement, and to Tim Scheidler for power-washing the fence out in the cemetery. Tim also took down our Auction sign. Lots of tasks that no one sees are getting done.

Weekly Ministries

August 30

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

September 6

Mark Stier, Mitch & Lori Nobbe
Mary Jo Wenning
Cindy Johannigman
Men's Choir

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. The same for next Sunday. Thank you!

Ministry List - 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.

Alpha Online Fall 2020:

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Run over 11 weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is a safe, non-judgmental, friendly, and welcoming space to explore life's big questions together. Join us for an engaging talk and small group conversation. This version of Alpha is being offered online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is being sponsored by Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and will include the involvement of some seminarians as small group discussion animators. Registration is free. To find out more please visit shms.edu/alpha.

Some of the local parishes have decided to do drive through chicken dinners rather than full festivals this year. See the adds on the bulletin board. Many activities have transferred to virtual experiences. Support them if you can. Though our Sunday collection fluctuates greatly, some are worse off than we are. Give Thanks!