

**September 6, 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:**

September 6 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time- Carolyn Schoettmer

September 13 - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cathy Wittkamper

September 20 - 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Barbara Sandhage

September 27 - 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Kathryn Schoettmer

And it is “**Fr. Bill Turner Day**” at Immaculate Conception! Thank you, Fr. Bill, for ten years of dedicated service to our parishioners! Please join us after Mass for a doughnut and thank him in person! We will gather on the lawn on the West side of church. Masks and Social Distancing are in order. And remember that he does have another Liturgy at 10:00, with travel time needed. We will send him off with a sweet treat, and best wishes!

Some of our elders are returning today to greet Fr. Bill. Please give them ample space and assist them with our new practices. For some it has been six months! To them we say “Welcome Home!”

Our Men’s Choir will sing this morning to give Fr. Bill a good send off! We welcome them back as well! We know this is breaking a lot of the rules, but we can return to the rules next week. Remember to just listen.

Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> is **Catechetical Sunday!** We will acknowledge and bless our Catechists and Aides. These ladies are blazing new trails with all classes on Sunday morning, and all new COVID precautions. We are most grateful for their time, their talent, their bravery, their dedication, and their team work, in providing for a safe environment to pass on our FAITH to our youth! May each one be blessed!

**Remember in Prayer:** Nell Ann Pfeifer, Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, 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](http://www.archindy.org/Giving).

**Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: Aug. 30, 2020**

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	<b>\$2,800.00</b>
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$750.00
Assumption	\$ 20.00
Fuel	\$500.00
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$1,270.00</b>

Next Sunday special collection for The Catholic University of America. If anyone would like to donate to Hurricane Laura victims in Louisiana, please drop your envelope marked “**Hurricane,**” in the drop box. All monies will be sent to Catholic Charities USA.

**Dates to Remember:**

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 20 - Catechetical Sunday  
 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 tuck-pointing project is complete, for the school and office building. 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 so that all those who do use the buildings will find a safe space to be.

**Mass Time:** Beginning next weekend, 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 it will 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. Everyone sacrifices just a little for the common good. Thank you!

A **Fall Work Day** has been scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 am. If rain makes the work impossible, we have a backup plan for the following Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. 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"! Kudos this week to Melea Gault for hours of tireless service in getting all the details of Religious Ed. coordinated. Thank you Melea, our volunteer of the week! Thanks too to Mike Bedel for fixing a leaky roof over the East sacristy. All much appreciated!

**Weekly Ministries****September 6**

**Ushers:** Don Fry, Mitch & Lori Nobbe  
**Lector:** Mary Jo Wenning  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Cindy Johannigman  
**Musicians:** Men's Choir

**September 13**

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler  
 LaDonna Hoeing  
 Cindy Johannigman

**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 updated. To volunteer for any liturgical ministry, please call the parish office so that you can be updated. Thank you to Tim Hoeing and Tim Scheidler for coming forward!

A note from our ushers: the object of their direction at Communion time, is to have all the parishioners form **one line in the center of the aisle**, each one six feet apart. Then, as you move to the front, please alternate left and right to the communion stations.

**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](http://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!

Tomorrow, **Labor Day**, we honor all those who work for the rest of us, all firemen, policemen, veterans, nurses, farmers, truck drivers, plumbers, electricians, teachers, secretaries, pastors, ditch diggers, councilmen, senators, writers, roofers, doctors, cooks, baggers, gardeners, entertainers, social workers, therapists, cashiers, minors, and laborers of every kind! May God bless all who labor!

St. Anthony Church, at Morris is having their annual **Labor Day chicken dinner** on Monday, but it will be drive through. They promise the same quality meal at the same price. See bulletin board for details.

### **COVID RELATED PRECAUTIONS:**

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. 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.

I draw your attention to an article in the **Criterion** this week, appearing on page 2, related to the obligation, or dispensation from the obligation, to attend Sunday Mass. The article clearly educates us on all related questions from Canon Law to **“inconvenience.”** Many have questions. Many are concerned that those currently not attending will never come back. Some no longer feel the obligation at all. And our elders, who are completely vulnerable, are the ones who struggle with guilt and long to return. Hope this article clears up some of the misconceptions. Please remember that there are no obligations at this time. We will resume normal attendance Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, unless informed otherwise.

Next Sunday we welcome Fr. Santhosh Yohannan.

- **SEASON OF CREATION – WEEK 1** – September 1 -5, 2020

This year we have chosen to adapt portions of the *Ecumenical Prayer Service for the Season of Creation*, prepared for this event. The planning committee included World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Evangelical Alliance, Global Catholic Climate Movement, Anglican Communion Environmental Network, Lausanne Creation Care Network, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the European Christian Environmental Network, and Christian Aid.

We will again use the format: PRAY, PONDER, PRACTICE for each week.

### **PRAY: Gathering Rite**

We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

Praise be the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light and all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13<sup>th</sup> century)

### **PONDER: Response**

Sacred the land, sacred the water, sacred the sky, holy and true.

Sacred all life, sacred each other; all reflect God who is good. (Rufino Zaragoza)

*Each day ponder this refrain - asking how does each (land, water, sky, all life, each other) reflect God who is good?*

### **PRACTICE:**

1. Pull some weeds.
2. Take a shorter shower.
3. Gaze at the moon and stars.
4. Smile with your eyes!