

September 13, 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:

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

Welcome: This morning we extend a warm welcome to our new Sacramental Minister, **Fr. Santhosh Yohannan**, associate pastor at Batesville, who will be with us each Sunday at 8:30 am. He will serve to bring us the Eucharist each week and will baptize, anoint, and administer all sacraments. Following the guidelines of the Archdiocese, he wants to continue in the pattern we have established, and is grateful for the “safe space” of the sanctuary. Because he interacts with a lot of people each week, he thinks it best, at present, for him NOT to distribute the Eucharist. We promise a more formal “Welcome Sunday” when we can interact safely and not fear transmission of the virus. In the meantime, please remember to NOT enter the sanctuary, and to respect the six-foot barrier. Also, as in the past, we will not publish his phone number, but ask you to call the parish office for assistance. There will be no confessions this morning, but we will publish the new confession schedule as soon as possible.

Fr. Santhosh is a native of India, and was educated and ordained in that country 24 years ago. He is now a “Missionary” to the United States, serving at Batesville this past year. He has learned the English language quite well due to his diligence in study, and his efforts will be noticeable and appreciated. Over the next few weeks we will all train our ears to hear, and his delivery will be quite well received. He will tell us more about himself today. Please give him a warm welcome!

Sunday, September 20th 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, Wayne Schutte, & Jim Cobb.

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: September 6, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,270.00
Assumption	\$ 35.00
Catholic University of America	\$5.00
Religious Education	\$10.00
Maintenance Fund	\$220.00
Total Collections:	\$2,540.00

Today, 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.

Next Sunday we have a **Special Collection** envelope, and we really need your support. The collection is for our own **Religious Education** program. Due to all of the COVID-19 precautions our budget has changed drastically. We have ordered all one-time use pamphlets to replace the text books. And in addition, have had to deep clean and will be doing weekly sanitizing. We purchased hand sanitizer and wipes for each classroom in addition to other cleaning supplies. There is nothing more important to our parish than passing on our faith to our children! Please be generous if you can.

Dates to Remember:

September 13 - Religious Ed begins immediately after Mass
September 17 - Finance committee meeting, 5:15 pm in the office.
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!

Mass Time: Beginning today, September 13, our weekly Mass time is **8:30 am**. Please make note of this change. The change will help to accommodate breakfast time for our students before coming in to Mass and Religious Ed. In addition, please remember that the 12:00 PM Mass at St. John Osgood has been eliminated.

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"!

This week we want to thank Tim Scheidler and Jerry Fry who leveled all of the new graves and spent time cleaning up the Cemetery. In addition, they took time to power-wash the garage. Special thanks too, to Mike Bedel for painting the Auction garage. Both buildings look amazing! Our property is looking good!

Liturgical Ministries

September 13

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler,
and Mark Hermesch
Lector: LaDonna Hoeing
Eucharistic Minister: Cindy Johannigman
Musicians: Abby & the Schwerings

September 20

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing
Niki Johannigman
Melea Gault

Ministry List - Only those folks who have been updated will be placed on the new ministry list. We need your help! Please step forward to assist. To volunteer for any liturgical ministry, please call the parish office. Thank you to Tim Hoeing, Mark Hermesch, and Tim Scheidler for coming forward this week!

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.

Veterans Day – Who are our Veterans? We are aware of Ralph Hermesch. But there must be more. With Veterans Day approaching we are reaching out to all of you to tell us who in our parish has served their country? We will try to honor, respect, and acknowledge each one. If you are a veteran or know someone who is, please share your secret!

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** last 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. 1st, unless informed otherwise.

As we struggle with the dangers of the coronavirus perhaps it's time once again to **“Whistle a Happy Tune.”** As the song says, to convince ourselves that we are not afraid. Facing our fears, against a common foe may be an evolutionary step in leaning how to live together into the future.

SEASON OF CREATION WEEK 2—SEPTEMBER 6-12, 2020

PRAY: Penitential Act

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si

Confession of Faults

We recognize that we have failed to listen to your urgings for a kingdom of love, respect, and peace—a world where all created beings are safe, cared for, and brought to the fullness of life which you intended. For each of our failings to be stewards of God's life and grace, we pray, Lord have mercy.

In our blindness, we sometimes neglect to acknowledge the beauty of every created thing, to honor the Creator who alone fashions the wonders of everything we see and experience. Give us new eyes to recognize the Giver within the gift of creation, we pray, Christ have mercy.

In our weakness, we sometimes neglect the care of ourselves, failing to provide for our own physical health and spiritual well-being. Help us be good stewards of ourselves, honoring the precious gift of life and capability which you have placed in each one of us, we pray, Lord have mercy.

God, how vast and amazing is your creative power, and how remarkable is your goodness shown in all creation! Give to each of us, Servants of Christ, the energy and determination to value all that you have made and to protect and foster the well-being of every created being. We ask this grace through Jesus, our Guide and Brother.

Delouise Menges, OSF, Prayer service, 9.4.20

PONDER: Response

Francis saw God in everything and so do we. We look upon the earth with humility and with an open and grateful heart, aware of the divine goodness in all things.

PRACTICE:

Each day of this week reflect on one verse from St. Francis' Canticle of Creation, or sing one stanza of Marty Haugen's hymn, Canticle of the Sun.