

**October 11, 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:**

October 11 - 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cathy Wittkamper

October 18 - 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time - Barbara Sandhage

October 25 - 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Albert Naderman

November 1 – All Saints Day – Carolyn Schoettmer

**Welcome** - This morning we are pleased to Welcome Archbishop Charles C. Thompson who had a change of plans this weekend and chose to spend Sunday morning with us! What a great way to usher in the season of harvest and thanksgiving! To protect him and us, we will need to remain social distanced, rather than mixing and mingling, but hopefully we will see him again after the precautions are lifted.

**Remember in Prayer:** Nell Ann Pfeifer, Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, Ruth Atchley (sister of Jeanie Harrison), and Fr. Frank Eckstein. Special prayers are requested for **Nell Ann**, who is nearing the end of her journey. Visits and calls are discouraged, but please keep Nell and her family in prayer.

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:** October 4, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	<b>\$2,800.00</b>
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,968.00
Fuel	\$645.00
Religious Education	\$45.00
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$2,658.00</b>

Next weekend we celebrate **World Mission Sunday**. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

On Sunday, October 25, **Carl and Eileen Moorman** will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary. You may want to drop them a card to wish them congratulations! They will be having an open house at the Knights Hall in Millhousen, that afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Stop by and help them to celebrate this special occasion! They request "no gifts" but just stories and laughter!

**Steeple:** Please see the promised "Steeple Update" included as an insert today.

**Dates to Remember:**

- Today, Oct. 11, there will be **no Religious Ed. classes**, as the schools are scheduled for Fall break. Enjoy your time off! But please remember that every Sunday belongs to God.
- October is when we usually celebrate our **Parish Harvest Party**. There is no safe way to do that this year, but we will resume this celebration next Fall.

- The Deanery is sponsoring a **Rosary Campaign**, offering eight days of outdoor rosaries at eight different locations throughout the Deanery. Beginning Oct. 6 at St. Joseph, Shelbyville, and running through October 13<sup>th</sup>. See the bulletin board for more details and a schedule.
- October 26, Monday, we are scheduled for our Archdiocesan Audit, which happens every three years. Our financial records, meeting minutes and parish processes will be reviewed and assessed. Pray that we have everything in order and clearly recorded.

**Confessions:** Some have been asking about confessions and when the sacrament might become available. Because Fr. Santhosh has a 6:30 am Mass at Batesville before coming here, and because he sometimes has a later Mass after leaving here, Confessions will be limited to **every other Sunday**, after Mass. Beginning with October, the sacrament of Penance, or Confession will immediately follow Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>. In November the dates are the 1<sup>st</sup>, the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. I will post a note on the Confessional noting those dates.

Ten of our young parishioners will celebrate their **First reconciliation**, (or Penance, or Confession) on Sunday morning **December 6<sup>th</sup>**. We will publish names as we get nearer to the event. But all **Religious Ed. students** will need to add this date to their class schedule. Classes will meet as usual immediately after Mass, in the school building, and then reassemble in Church as ALL are provided with the opportunity for individual Reconciliation.

For the season of Advent, the Deanery has decided to cancel all **Penance Services** usually scheduled throughout the Deanery. However, a flyer will be posted noting when individual Confessions are available throughout the Deanery so that all may avail themselves of those times and places.

### Liturgical Ministries

#### October 11

**Ushers:** Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing  
**Lector:** Jerry Fry  
**Eucharistic Minister:** LaDonna Hoeing  
**Musicians:**

#### October 18

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler, Mark Hermesch  
 Jeanne Fry  
 Melea Gault  
 The Schwerings with Abby

**Veterans Day** – Who are our Veterans? We are still hoping for more names. There are six on our list. 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!

In past bulletins you may have read a note concerning the new **“Gospel Weeklies”** the pamphlets that we have chosen to replace the classroom textbooks. They are working out very well! We ordered these products before we had come to final decisions concerning classes and registrations. Not knowing if there would be a Kindergarten class, we ordered four subscriptions and have them available for any family who might want to introduce the Gospel concept to their young ones. Four copies each, of the past month of Gospel Weeklies are available for pick up in the entryway. As you pick up the bulleting each week, your Kindergarten age child may want to pick up the colorful **“Promise”** pamphlet. Help yourself!

**Anointings:** It has become our custom, in the past few years, to have a special healing Mass with individual anointings, in the fall each year, to get a jump start before the weather gets bad. It has been a welcomed occasion, gathering 30 – 40 of our older parishioners, and those of the Cohort, in social support, a share in prayer and anointing, and a shared meal. The very people who need this spiritual gift, are not yet able to return to church, much less gather together. Perhaps a year from now we can resume this practice. But for now, Fr. Santhosh and I are willing to come to you for anointing. Last week we got an early start, and anointed five in their homes, before it became an emergency visit. One does not need to wait until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to be anointed, but may seek the sacrament for strength on the journey. If you are advanced in age, or chronically ill, or for any

reason would appreciate this sacrament of healing and strength, please call the office and let us know. We will come to you. On some Sundays Fr. Santhosh has time immediately following Mass. If you are open to it, we could visit your home at that time to bring the sacrament to you. Once one is hospitalized or in a nursing home, visiting becomes much more limited. Please don't hesitate to welcome us if you are ill or homebound, or if you know of a family member who is.

### **COVID RELATED PRECAUTIONS:**

Many of our elders 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 for all of their faithful leadership during these past few months, and will continue to follow their direction. However, we will begin to relax our social distancing precautions a bit to allow for additional seating. We will add chairs to the aisles, and a few in the back of the church as space allows. Because our cloth covered chairs are not suitable for sanitizing, we will be using only metal folding chairs. However, we will begin allowing each family to seat themselves, giving due respect to each other and maintaining the safe distance as prescribed. The tape barriers have been removed from the pews, allowing greater flexibility. Please be attentive to each other and continue to allow at least three feet of space or more as able. The ushers will assist as needed, but we are shifting responsibility to the individual. If assistance is needed please ask an usher. If this causes undue chaos we will return to our former practice of having the ushers seat everyone. Please be safe.

### **More Steeple Fund notes:**

A little space remains, so I will address a question posed from the Steeple Campaign: How much of our Steeple Collection was from outsiders, or corporations? The answer: We really did not receive any corporate donations. Funds received from outside the parish include one very large donation, and multiple others of a much smaller nature. Beginning with the large donation, it was received from a non-parishioner, someone completely removed from this area, an anonymous individual philanthropist in the amount of \$50,000. That helped us tremendously! Obviously, the individual wants a small-town rural church to survive and thrive! We are grateful! In addition: we had a \$5,000 grant awarded from the Archdiocese; two separate donations from the Stone Family Memorial Fund totaling \$1,173; proceeds from the Knights Breakfast with Santa, totally \$1,500; a donation from the Ladies Auxiliary of \$25; various smaller donations as memorials following a parishioner's death, and the proceeds from our very own Raffle of 2019, \$5,911. All of the other donations to this campaign were from parishioners, former parishioners, or family members. All were from individuals, couples, or families. Corporate America is not so giving to small town Churches.

Another question asked was: What were the average donations or how many large or small donations? The answer: No donation is too small. All of it adds up to helping our parish! And while many people wish to remain anonymous, it is customary to share and publish donations, so I will share just the donation parameters without mentioning names. Two families each donated \$25,000; two families each donated \$10,000; one family donated \$7,000; four families each donated \$5,000; five families donated \$4,000 or more; five families each donated \$3,000; eleven families each donated \$2,000 or more; thirty-three families donated \$1,000 or more; twenty-eight families or individuals donated \$500 or more, and there were various other amounts donated by individuals. ALL donations contributed to the common goal and ALL donations are helping us to maintain our buildings and keep our parish up and going. Thank you to each and every one for giving what you were able to give! Your generosity will surely be rewarded!

# **Steeple Repair Project Summary**

Immaculate Conception Church - September 30, 2020

## **Timeline**

August 2018 – Discovered leaks, initiated discussion, professionally inspected, bids solicited

March 2019 – Proposal written and presented to Archdiocese, Capital Campaign and Feasibility Study recommended, second inspection, continued discussion.

September 2019 – Contractor selected, Fundraising discussed, decision to move forward with parish capital campaign and all possible fund-raising.

November 2019 – Letter sent to parishioners, pledge cards included, urgency explained.

December 2019 – Pledge cards returned and we had more than met our goal.

January 2020 - Applied for grants, began contract negotiations, insurance, legalities.

February 2020- Materials ordered, calendar negotiated.

March 2020 – Delays in shipping due to COVID

April 24, 2020 – Crane arrived, work begun.

August 4, 2020 – Work completed, crane removed, follow up meetings and inspections.

September 21, 2020 – Bills all paid, last check cleared the bank.

# Steeple Repair Project Summary

Immaculate Conception Church - September 30, 2020

## Finances

Initial bid accepted - **\$173,500** with the understanding that this was the minimum, but there could easily be additions as the project unfolded. Finance Committee proposed, Parish Council approved, using 2/3 of our Savings, totaling **\$75,500** and a few early donations totaling \$3,000. The parish was asked to pledge and/or raise a minimum of **\$95,000**. We needed pledge cards back by the end of the year to begin making concrete plans. By year end, we had not only pledges, but money collected, sufficient to pay for the project without dipping into our savings, a total of **\$176,750**. Understanding that we could easily have additional expenses related to the project, we didn't stop there. Money continued coming in all through the spring and summer in spite of the COVID pandemic. As projected, there were additional expenses, with a final cost of **\$196,227** spent on this project. While the crane was in place, we painted the gables, and took down the smokestack. Research tells us that not all of what is promised or pledged will come in. In fact, planners often say that at least 10 % or more, will **not** materialize, and wisdom would have that deficit built into the plan. By and large, we keep our promises! Most pledge cards were returned along with the promised payment. Some pledged, and made a partial payment in December, and then a second payment in the new year. All but one pledge card was fully funded! And the one, did make a first installment. So, what we thought would be a three-year payment period turned out to be less than three months. Incredible! **\$274,905** was given to restore our steeple, our Church! Of that, **\$78,678** remains for future projects on our building.

Some discussion took place on various levels, as to how to use those funds. The funds were donated for Church/steeple repair, not for general expenditures, or to balance our budget. Even before the steeple was completed, we engaged a tuck-pointer to work on the school building and office building, both much needed repairs. Payment for those projects was taken from our Savings, not from the Steeple Fund. Many voices spoke to painting needed on the interior of the church, especially in the dome of the sanctuary. A decision was made some months ago, to not invest in painting until the exterior had been tuckpointed. However, after professional evaluation it was determined that tuckpointing of the church is not needed at the present time, and may not be needed for years to come. So, the idea of painting the interior of the church building has come up again. What do all of you think?