

October 25, 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:

October 25 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Albert Naderman

November 1 – All Saints Day – Carolyn Schoettmer

November 8 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary time – Cathy Wittkamper

November 15 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Barbara Sandhage

November 22 – Feast of Christ the King - Albert Naderman

November 25 – Anticipation for Thanksgiving – Omer Fry

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent - Wanda Barnes

COVID RELATED PRECAUTIONS:

With the COVID numbers increasing, and the Nov. 1st date quickly approaching, we have been waiting for weeks for the next statement from the Archdiocese. While no formal letter or announcement has arrived from the Office of Worship, the newest decision concerning our liturgical obligations has arrived by front page of the Criterion: **“The five Catholic bishops of Indiana have extended the dispensation for the obligation to attend the public celebration of Mass on Sundays (and holy days of obligation) to all the faithful until further notice.”**

So, what does this mean? It means that **all of us** are relieved of the **obligation** to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. All of us can make decisions that are best for us, regardless of age. The newest statement makes no note about age or medical condition. But each person is given the **individual responsibility** to make the decisions that are best for the individual and best for those they encounter. Many of our elders are longing to rejoin us on Sundays. They know by now that they are at greater risk. But attendance becomes their own decision. We at Immaculate Conception will **welcome all**. The published statement goes on to remind us that we still have obligations, which focus on maintaining a safe environment, so that we can continue to keep our churches open. So, each person, regardless of age, needs to self-screen, pay attention to their own symptoms, and think about the risk that they impose, not only on themselves, but on each person that they may come in contact with. It is the responsibility of **all of us** to continue to create and maintain a safe environment for all who choose to attend. All who attend will need to continue safe practices, by masking, hand sanitizing, and safe distancing. We are still obligated to continue the sanitizing of our worship space after each use.

This might be the best time to remind everyone of our need to continue providing a safe environment for our liturgical ministers. As time goes on, we find more and more people forgetting the boundary established: to stay out of the safe space, the sanctuary and sacristy, and to not touch any surface, including light switches, sound system, lectionary, microphone etc. All of those surfaces are sanitized, and can be a vehicle for transmission. We will continue to limit our participation by necessity.

We are grateful to our ushers for all of their faithful leadership during these past few months, and will continue to follow their direction. Each family may 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. Please be safe.

Reception of Communion: Beginning this morning, we are returning the reception of communion, of the faithful, to its rightful place in the liturgy, right after the priest receives, rather than waiting until the end of Mass. So, why did we shift it in the first place? That was recommended to force everyone to leave the building slowly, individually, rather than everyone moving at once into the aisles and congregating in the common spaces. It was a good idea. It conditioned us to move out of the building, and to go directly to our cars, rather than gathering in groups to socialize. Yes, we all want to socialize, and as time goes on, more and more of that is happening. But it would be in the best interest of the group to NOT socialize, and to NOT gather. Once again, we are shifting this responsibility to the individual. The reception of Communion should be followed by a period of quiet, reflection, and prayer of thanksgiving. Today let's give it the reverence it deserves. When each person returns to their seat after receiving communion, we are conditioned to kneel during our prayer of thanksgiving. However, we are still not using the kneelers. So instead of kneeling, please sit down and begin your private prayer. We will stand for the final blessing and hymn.

Now, the **challenge of the day** will be to exit the building without close contact. We still encourage everyone to go directly to your cars (or classrooms). When a few people pause to chat, everyone wants to do the same. Let's promote a unity in our distancing. Don't forget to pick up a bulletin on your way out of church. We may not hand out material of any kind. There are plenty at each doorway, and more in the white mail box.

Remember in Prayer: Nell Ann Pfeifer, Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, Ruth Atchley (sister of Jeanie Harrison), and Fr. Frank Eckstein, and all those newly infected with the COVID 19 virus and their families. We received word that multiple parishioners are quarantined for the next two weeks, due to being in close contact with someone who tested positive. A reminder that the lives of many people can be affected by our actions.

Next Sunday is the **Feast of All Saints!** Are we not all on the road to sainthood? Polish up those halos! It is the custom of our children to come to Religious Ed. in costume, dressed as their favorite saint. Falling on a Sunday this year, it gives us an opportunity to witness the saintliness of the youth, and to try to identify who they are trying to portray. Be sure to join us for the "Parade of Saints" next weekend. And you might want to spend a little time, as they have done, in **learning** about some of the saints, so that we can follow in their footsteps. Halloween, or the Holy Eve, is the evening before All Saints Day, and the custom of dressing in costume has just been explained. This is how it all got started, an effort to remember and portray the saints. While door to door trick or treating has been discouraged this year, it is not illegal. However, there are safer ways to treat our children. Again, these decisions are up to the individual families, however, we ask for your respect to help protect our elders, their homes, their own safe spots.

Please remember to welcome back those returning for the first time!

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: October 18, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1066.00
Fuel	\$10.00
World Mission Sunday	\$335.00
Total Collections:	\$1411.00

Today, October 25, **Carl and Eileen Moorman** will celebrate their 60th 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, this afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Stop by and help them to celebrate this special occasion! They request “no gifts,” just stories and laughter!

Dates to Remember: Please remember to pray on Monday as the auditor reviews our books and files and processes. He expects to be here 9-5. Immediately following his exit, Sister will be leaving for her annual retreat and won't return until Saturday. So, there will be **no bulletin** next weekend.

Confessions: Some had been asking about confessions and when the sacrament might become available. But, when we had the first opportunity on October 4th, Fr. Santhosh had no takers. He sometimes has a later Mass at Batesville, but if our numbers continue to be small, he is willing to be available every Sunday, immediately following Mass.

Liturgical Ministries

October 25th

Ushers: Mark Stier, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Lector: LaDonna Hoeing

Musicians:

Nov. 1, All Saints Day

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Niki Johannigman

Men's Choir

Collection Counters: Beginning at the time of our closure in March, and continuing until this time, counting of our Sunday Collection each week, has been done solely by Sister Donna. Many of our former counters are among the elders that we are protecting during this time of COVID 19. Some of the former counters are no longer consistently attending Immaculate Conception, and two are now permanently in Nursing homes. While this new process has been “working” it will need to be amended. While preparing for the upcoming audit, it has been noted that counting needs to be a task of parishioner volunteers, and I am sure this “breach in policy” will be noted. The task is very “regulated by policy” but is not hard. It takes about 30 min. or less each Sunday, and any dedicated volunteer could be trained and would succeed. The most ideal situation would be for two dedicated (and unrelated) individuals to work together each Sunday to find their rhythm. In addition, we would need a couple of substitutes, who would be able to fill in whenever the assigned individuals are away, ill, or need a break. Most (or at least many) parishes have the same individuals count routinely each week. We could do the same. We don't really need four teams of three members each as we have used in the past. But we do need a couple of dedicated individuals. The ideal counting time is immediately after Mass on Sunday so folks don't need to be making additional trips. But that could be negotiated depending upon who is willing to take this on. Deposits are done on Mondays so that the deposit slips are here for the bookkeeper on Tuesdays. If you are interested, and have a little time each week, or frequently, on Sunday morning, please consider this role. We would like to have a “plan” by the time of the audit.

Veterans Day – Who are our Veterans? We are still hoping for more names. Our list is growing. 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!

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, shared prayer and anointing, and a shared meal. 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. One does not need to wait until the 11th 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 schedule a time to get the sacrament to you.

Baptism: welcome Amelia Louise Johannigman, infant daughter of Mollie & Mike, newest member!