

November 8, 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:

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

November 15 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 8:30 am, Barbara Sandhage

November 15 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1:00 pm, the newly deceased.

November 22 – Feast of Christ the King - Albert Naderman

November 25 – Anticipation for Thanksgiving – Omer Fry

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent - Wanda Barnes

First things first! We had planned to hold the **Rite of Enrollment** for our **Confirmation Candidates** today, but once again, COVID got in the way! Too many folks are out with Contact Tracing. So, our plan is to reschedule it for Sunday morning November 22. We do want to introduce the students and formally initiate their **Journey of Preparation** for this sacrament. You will have the opportunity to witness their contract signing, and accompany them as they grow in wisdom and understanding of their faith these next six months!

Secondly, we need to announce the **Memorial Mass**. When the pandemic broke loose in March and funerals were first delayed, we promised each family that we would plan a fitting service after the risk was behind us. We had no idea the risk would only get worse rather than go away. Some months ago, Fr. John suggested that we have one great gathering, a memorial Mass, and everyone would be welcome. In fact, he has one planned and has included all of our deceased in his listing. We at Immaculate Conception “kind of like to do our own thing” I have been told. So, I have been talking to Fr. Santhosh about this need. There is no easy way to make up for lost time and have 14 separate funeral Masses. Some families want to gather. Some do not. Some have grieved and moved on, others need a ritual to be able to let go and tie up those loose ends. Last Sunday we honored each of our recently departed loved ones, by lighting a candle and reading the names, as we do each year for All Souls Day. But the whole month is set aside to honor the dead, all those who have gone before us. And, there is no such thing as a “private Mass.” By its very nature, the liturgy brings us all together, gathers all the church, the living and deceased, in one great union, one great prayer of thanksgiving!

Next Sunday, November 15, **in addition** to our usual 8:30 am liturgy, we at Immaculate Conception, have the opportunity for a second liturgy, a **Memorial Mass at 1:00 pm**, honoring all those who have died and were laid to rest without a proper funeral Mass. One family chose the date, and suggested a time, and Fr Santhosh has graciously accepted the invitation to serve us. Calls have been placed to all families impacted by this pandemic grief, and thus far, six families have responded. Some will come and be with us, some will not. All are grateful to be remembered and to have their loved ones remembered. **ALL parishioners are welcome.** Both Masses, will be Sunday Masses, thus we’ll use the Sunday readings, and meet our Sunday obligations. The Mass intention for the second Mass will be for the repose of the souls of Barbara Hoeing, Roman Johannigman, Mark Wittkamper, Martha Fry, Velma Ortman, and Christopher and Jeremy Ronsheim. Join us for either Mass, as we witness to our membership in the Communion of Saints, and prepare for our own eternal life!

Now, the challenge of the day will NOT be to get everyone inside and socially distanced. The challenge will be to **exit the building without close contact**. We still encourage everyone to go directly to your cars, rather than stopping to chat and socialize. Your presence alone will be supportive.

Bulletins: Don't forget to pick up a bulletin on your way out of church. We reduce the transmission of disease by not touching or handing out material. But the number of bulletins picked up fluctuates. There are plenty at each doorway, and more in the white mail box. Please remember to stay tuned and informed.

Remember in Prayer: Nell Ann Pfeifer, Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, Ruth Atchley (sister of Jeanie Harrison), Mike Witka, 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 our lives, our actions, affect the lives of many others. Be safe!

All Saints Day Parade: We sincerely thank our children who modeled sainthood for all of us last weekend. They were creative and inspiring! Each received a sweet treat for their efforts.

Later this week we honor all **veterans**, those who served this country, to defend the freedoms we enjoy today, and too often take for granted. We take a moment today to remember their selfless giving, their sacrifices, their willingness to stand between us and harms way. We owe them a debt of gratitude, our respect, honor and praise! This list was compiled by those willing to call in, but there are no assurances that the list is complete. Today we say thank you to: **Ralph Hermes, Raymond Schwering, Carl Moorman, Alfred Diekhoff, Jim Koors, Marvin Stier, Robert AmRhein, Alvin Hoeing, Francis Hoeing, Norbert Hoeing.** May God bless each of you! And God bless America!

We are most grateful for your continued financial support by way of the drop box and/or mail in efforts. A few are choosing to continue giving on-line, the site is: www.archindy.org/Giving.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: November 1, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$972.00
World Mission Sunday	\$20.00
Energy	\$10.00
All Saints Day Holy Day	\$776.00

Total Collections: \$1778.00

AUDITOR: No one actually enjoys an audit, probably not even the auditor. But it is a necessary tool in the checks and balances of our fiscal responsibility as a parish. It happens once every three years, and our task is completed. We did well! As he is hired to do, he offered some fine tuning, but even HE was impressed with the positive change over the past three years. His biggest concern is our lack of a dedicated counting team at present. But he knows we are working to that end. He read our newest process and is awaiting the volunteers that need to come forward. The next step in the process will be to respond with a written plan of action.

Collection Counters: While preparing for the recent audit, it had been noted that counting needs to be a task of parishioner volunteers. While the task is very "regulated by policy" it 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. In the past two weeks one individual has come forward, but more are needed. The ideal counting time is immediately after Mass on Sunday. Deposits are done on Mondays as the bookkeeper comes on Tuesday and needs the deposit slips. If you are interested, and have a little time each week, or frequently, on Sunday morning, please consider this role. We need to have a working plan to respond to the auditor.

Confessions: Fr. Santhosh has been available for confessions each Sunday after Mass for the past four weeks and has had no one take advantage of the opportunity. He will continue to be available the next few weeks and then, if there is no identified need, he will change the schedule to once a month.

Liturgical Ministries

Nov. 8

Ushers: Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Lector: Ben Stier

Musicians: The Schwerings with Abby

Nov. 15 (8:30 am)

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Melea Gault

Men's Choir

Nov. 15 (1:00 pm)

Ushers:

Lector: Niki Johannigman

Anointings: 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 to schedule this sacrament.

COVID RELATED PRECAUTIONS:

“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.”

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. We continue to NOT use the kneelers.

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, but 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. Please be safe.

The numbers in the State of Indiana, and in Decatur County are higher than ever before. We are becoming more knowledgeable, and are better prepared to deal with this virus than we were in March or April. But our behaviors are the only power we have to make the difference. If we don't apply the knowledge, if we don't take personal responsibility for ourselves, and respect others enough to make the changes in our lifestyle, life as we know it will continue to disintegrate. We have the power to make a difference. What would Jesus do?

Prayer to Address the Sin of Racism

We pray for healing to address
The persistent sin of racism
Which rejects the full humanity
Of some of your children,
And the talents and potential You have given.

We pray for the grace to recognize
The systems that do not support
The dignity of every person,
That do not promote respect
For those who are seen as other,
Who bear the legacy of centuries
Of discrimination, fear, and violence.

We pray for graced structures
So children of color in Flint, and all children,
Have access to clean water and health care.

We pray for graced structures
So children of color in Mississippi, and all children,
Have quality education that will allow them to develop their gifts.

We pray for graced structures
So children of color in Camden, and all children,
Have homes where families can live in dignity and security.

We pray for graced structures
So children of color in Chicago, and all children,
Can grow up without fear, without the sound of gunshots.

Lord of all, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers.
Give us eyes to see how the past
Has shaped the complex present,
And to perceive how we must create
A new way forward,
With a new sense of community
That embraces and celebrates
The rich diversity of all,
That helps us live out your call to reject
The sin of racism, the stain of hate,
And to seek a compassionate solidarity
Supported by Your grace and Your love.
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.