

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

November 15 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1:00 pm, the newly deceased (Mass Cancelled)

November 22 – Feast of Christ the King - Albert Naderman

November 25 – Anticipation for Thanksgiving – Omer Fry

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent - Wanda Barnes

In Flux: The virus has our lives turned upside down! None of us knows what to expect next. We are accustomed to having our calendars and schedules, and having a routine, a plan. And now, everything we think we know is being changed, and **cancelled**, and **rescheduled**. At least we are not alone. We are all in this together. Some are getting frustrated, some short tempered, many are fearful, some are exhausted. The numbers are not just climbing. They are skyrocketing! Everyday we receive more calls concerning loved ones who have tested positive, or are contact traced and now need to quarantine. If you are like most, you wonder each morning if today is your day to be “caught!” Please remember and pray for those who are **sick**, or **grieving** the loss of loved ones. That number climbs. And please remember that we are not only in this together, but we rest in God’s hands. He is with us through it all! He knows what his plans are for us, plans for us to prosper, not for harm or destruction. He offers us HOPE and a future! (Jeremiah 29:11)

The **Governor** has spoken, and so has the Archdiocese. We are taking a step backwards, back into stricter precautions. Our gathering is more limited, though we will be using the same methods of social distancing, hand washing, and mandatory masking. We are facing nothing new, but are asked to reinforce what we already do. Because Decatur County is now “red” our gatherings are limited to 25 people. That number applies to all gatherings inside or outside, but does not include our worship service. However, we are mandated to stay six feet apart, so the tape is back to distance spacing in the pews. The ushers will again assist with seating. Please listen and follow their guidance. It won’t be forever. We will ease up as soon as possible.

It has become **most imperative to sign in** as we enter the building. Contact tracing, while difficult, is designed to keep everyone safe. We have added more names to our list of attendees. Most are alphabetized. Just circle your name and add numbers for children attending.

Bulletins: Because everything is constantly changing, our Sunday Bulletin is becoming most important. It is the latest, the most updated source of information. Please remember to pick up a bulletin on your way out of church. We reduce the transmission of disease by not touching or **handing out** material. There are plenty at each doorway, and more in the white mail box. Please remember to stay tuned and informed. If you are not currently receiving our **REMIND** messages by way of texting, now would be a good time to sign up and apply for this service. If you don’t have a phone that accommodates texting, and choose to be on a call chain, please let us know of your need. These messages are becoming more common. Our web site, and Facebook sites are also helpful.

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. Fr. Stan Pondo, pastor at St.

Louis, Batesville, tested positive and is currently hospitalized. In addition, Fr. Santhosh is quarantined due to contact tracing, as he lives in the same house. At this time, he is symptom free. Please pray for both of these priests and others in the Archdiocese who are currently sick. 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!

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 8, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1449.00
World Mission Sunday	\$35.00
Energy	\$691.00
All Saints Day Holy Day	\$60.00
Total Collections:	\$2235.00

Collection Counters: Per Archdiocesan policy and the code of Canon Law, counting of Sunday collections is required to be done by 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. We have one dedicated volunteer. We need a few more. The ideal counting time is immediately after Mass on Sunday. Deposits are done on Mondays so that receipts are available for the bookkeeper on Tuesday. 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 five 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 needs, he will change the schedule to once a month.

Liturgical Ministries

Nov. 22, Christ the King

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lector: Jeanne Fry

Musicians: The Schwerings with Abby

Nov. 29, 1st Sunday of Advent

Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

LaDonna Hoeing

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 it.

Rite of Enrollment for our **Confirmation Candidates** has been planned and cancelled and rescheduled. We hope to have it go forward next weekend if we have a priest and are able to gather, 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!

United Catholic Appeal: Today was to be pledge Sunday for this most important appeal. It was introduced last weekend, and each one has received material in the mail along with pledge cards and envelopes. Please be as generous as possible to this most important appeal to support our aging and sick priests, our seminarians, the poor of our diocese and all services that reach out to support the underprivileged. Mail your cards today, or pick up a pledge card in the entryway next weekend.

CCHD – the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is scheduled for next weekend. There is a letter from the Archbishop posted on the bulletin board, and a write up in the Criterion this week. This is a national collection, but our Deanery does benefit. There is a service in the Batesville Deanery called **Teen Mother Choices** which is one service supported by this collection. This campaign serves those on the margins!

Our **Memorial Mass**, to honor and pray for those who have died in the past eight months, but have not had a Funeral Mass, was scheduled for today at 1:00 pm. That celebration along with others will need to be rescheduled. More about that in the weeks to come.

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 15th – Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation, 9:30 am. In the gym

Nov. 17th – Finance Committee, Tuesday evening 5:15 pm in the Office

Nov. 18th – Buildings and Grounds – Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the school hall

Nov. 19th – Parish Council Meeting - Thursday evening 7:00 pm

Nov. 20th – Giving Tree set up and prep, 6:00 pm in Church

Nov. 22nd – Begin Giving Tree Outreach, at Mass time

Nov. 22nd – Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation, at the beginning of Mass time

Nov. 25th – Anticipation Mass for Thanksgiving, 6:00 pm Wed. evening

Nov. 29th – First Sunday of Advent – the beginning of a new liturgical year

Dec. 6th – First reconciliation, (second grade) and Penance for all Religious Ed. students, 9:30 am

Dec. 7th - Anticipation Mass for Holy Day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 6:00 pm

COVID RELATED PRECAUTIONS:

The dispensation from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is extended in the Archdiocese and throughout the whole State of Indiana until further notice.

Those who are 65 and over and those with high risk health conditions are strongly encouraged to remain at home. This is the population that is most vulnerable to the coronavirus. Those who are symptomatic or have tested positive for COVID-19 are not to enter a church until released to do so by their health care professional.

Those requested to quarantine due to contact tracing, or close contact with someone who has tested positive, are asked to not return for at least 14 days.

We at Immaculate Conception will welcome all. We have the obligation to maintain a safe environment, so that we can continue to keep our churches open. Each person, regardless of age, needs to self-screen, and to think about the risk that they impose, not only on themselves, but on each person that they may come in contact with. All who attend will need to continue **masking, hand sanitizing, and safe distancing**. We will continue to NOT use the kneelers. We will continue to provide a “safe space” within the sanctuary and sacristy. Please observe this boundary, including light switches, sound system etc. Please sanitize the microphone after each use. Our behaviors are the only power we have to make a difference. If we don't 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????