

November 22, 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 22 – Feast of Christ the King - Albert Naderman

November 25 – Anticipation for Thanksgiving – Omer Fry (Mass cancelled)

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent - Wanda Barnes

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent – Carolyn Schoettmer

December 7 – Anticipation for Holy Day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception – (Mass Cancelled.)

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent – Barbara Sandhage

December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Albert Naderman

December 24 – Christmas Eve – Jerry Jacobs

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. 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. But it may be longer than we like. The Archdiocese has asked us to cancel everything except Mass and the sacraments. Luckily our Religious Ed. program has previously planned to be off for a few weeks for the Christmas break. There will be no classes next Sunday. The following Sunday, Dec. 6th, we will meet for the sacrament of Reconciliation. All students are expected to meet in the classrooms unless otherwise instructed.

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.

We are **Happy to have Fr. Santhosh** back with us this weekend. Though he tested negative, and completed his quarantine, Fr. Stan Pondo is still sick and Fr. Santhosh is covering all three parishes. The other two parishes are not as small as we are. So, we need to be flexible. This morning he is booked for a 9:30 Mass after he leaves here, so we will curtail as much as possible to get him on his way. To save his time, we will have communion this morning at the end of Mass.

Cancelled: While Thanksgiving is not a Holy Day of obligation, it behooves us to give thanks, for our lives, and health, and all of the blessings which are poured upon us! However, given the current situation, it is also prudent to NOT come together. So, the Wednesday evening Mass has been cancelled. If you gather as a family please begin your celebration with a time of prayer and thanks. And if it becomes one more day for you to be alone, thank God for the blessings of family and friends, and food and shelter. This time of trial will surely end. Remember those less fortunate. And, maybe pick up the phone to reach out to someone you would like to spend time with. Thank them for being in your life. Email a friend or family member. Share a tale of Thanksgivings past. And remember those who have gone before us. The harvest is plenty! We have indeed been blessed!

Remember in Prayer: Nell Ann Pfeifer is doing a little better, as she has survived a bout of pneumonia. Please remember Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, Mike Witka, Ruth Atchley (sister of Jeanie Harrison), and all those

newly infected with the COVID 19 virus and their families. We have added new names to our COVID list, and new names to our quarantined list. A reminder that our behaviors, our actions, our decisions, affect the lives of many others. Be careful. Be respectful. Be safe!

Our parishioner Evelyn Keifer lost her sister Thelma, this week, and because she is home bound she grieves alone. The burial was at Batesville on Monday. Please remember Evelyn and her sister in your prayers. She would appreciate a card or note.

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. As our attendance has tapered off, so too our giving. We are running a bit below budget. Please help if you can.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: November 15, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget: \$2,800.00

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$.00

Energy \$.00

Total Collections: (No Mass, no collection.) \$0.00

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 two weeks and has had no one take advantage of the opportunity. He will not be available this morning following Mass. We will post a date for confessions in December.

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.

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 Hermesch, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

LaDonna Hoeing

Quiet Mass

December Church Cleaning: Chairperson, Mollie Johannigman, Sarah Hermesch, Nikki Johannigman, Nicole Schoettmer, Cincy Johannigman, Jessica Hamilton.

Rite of Enrollment for our **Confirmation Candidates** has been planned and cancelled and rescheduled. We hope to have it go forward for all those who are able to attend. We do want to introduce the students and

formally initiate their **Journey of Preparation** for this sacrament. You will have the opportunity to hear their desire, to witness their contract signing, and to accompany them as they grow in wisdom and understanding of their faith these next six months! The young people entering into this contract and preparation time are:

Rylie AmRhein, Hunter Collins, Hope Diekhoff, Jessica Diekhoff, Caaden Gault, Campbell Johannigman, Maria Meyer, Alli Nobbe, Clair Schoettmer, Mary Schwering, Michael Stier, and Evan Wullenweber.

United Catholic Appeal: Last Sunday was supposed to be pledge Sunday for this most important appeal. It was introduced the weekend before, 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 and drop it into the drop box.

CCHD – the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is scheduled for today. The envelope is in your box. There is a letter concerning this campaign, 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!

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 22nd – Begin Giving Tree Outreach

Nov. 22nd – Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation today

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

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 - Cancelled.

Did you notice the new addition to our Church building? The West side **sacristy steps** have been renewed. Thanks to Ken and Steve Stone for pouring cement to make a great improvement! Sidewalk is coming.

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.