

**November 29, 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:**

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

**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!

We are most grateful for your continued financial support by way of the drop box, mail-in, and on-line giving, at [www.archindy.org/Giving](http://www.archindy.org/Giving). This was a very good week! Thank you!

**Stewardship of Treasure:** Our Sunday Collections: November 22, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,945.00
Catholic Campaign for Human development	\$256.00
Energy/Fuel	\$420.00
All Saints Day	\$52.00
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$3,673.00</b>

**Collection Counters:** Volunteers are not coming forward. Some of you may be waiting for the restrictions to be lifted, or the risk to be decreased. Don't be surprised to get a phone call. This needs to be resolved. Per Archdiocesan policy and the code of Canon Law, counting of Sunday collections is required to be done by parishioner volunteers to ensure checks and balances in the system.

**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.

**Confessions** following Sunday Mass will resume Dec. 13

**Liturgical Ministries**

**Nov. 29, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Ushers:** Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

**Lector:** LaDonna Hoeing

**Musicians:** Quiet Mass

**December 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Melea Gault

Men's Choir

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

**Dates to Remember:**

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Advent – the beginning of a new liturgical year

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

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

Mary Jo has submitted the following invitation:

**Parish Family Christmas Card.** We have missed seeing friends this year. Because postage would be costly to send many Christmas cards, we could put together a Christmas card from each of us to each of us. On a Christmas card write a message to our parish family sharing how you are doing, your thoughts, feelings, prayers, events, wishes for 2021, etc.; a few words or as many words as you can write on a card. You can include a snapshot family photo or other photo; and use only first names since we know each other. Take a photo(s) of your card and attach in an email to [mjwennin@gmail.com](mailto:mjwennin@gmail.com) (no end g), or send by U.S. mail to Mary Jo at 8524 S CR 180 E. A photo of each family's card will be inserted into the group card, which will then be sent to you as a pdf file by email. Include a family member email contact to send our card to our older parishioners. This card will be for parishioners and is not intended to be shared publicly.

And from the Giving Tree Committee:

**2020 Christmas Outreach** - All ornaments for this year's Christmas Outreach are available on the tree in the back of church. We are helping 9 SDES families this year with their Christmas needs by providing shoes, shirt, pants, underwear, and an item from their wish list! This is sure to be a blessing to all the families again this year. Please return ALL gifts UNWRAPPED, and with the giving tree ornament ATTACHED. This will help us to know which child the gift was intended for. All gifts will need to be turned in by Sunday, December 13. If you would prefer not to shop, feel free to place money in an envelope marked **Giving Tree** and place in the Sunday collection. Our elves will do the shopping for you! If you have any questions please reach out to Dana Fledderman, Jeanie Fry, Melea Gault or Laura Meyer. Thank you in advance for all that you do for these families!

**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.

## **An Autumn Prayer of Acceptance**

Autumn God, the earth teaches me by her natural turning from one season to another, as she enters into the dying and rising cycle, and seems to welcome the changes. May I be open to the teaching of this wisdom, and turn, as Autumn does, toward opportunities for my spiritual transformation.

When I accept only the beautiful and perfect, and reject the tattered torn parts of who I am, when I reject or discard those things that are falling apart or worn, walk with me among dying leaves. Let them teach me about their power to re-energize the earth's soil by their decomposition and decay.

When I refuse to wait with the mystery of the unknown, and when I struggle to control rather than to let life evolve, wrap me in the darkening days of November. Encourage me to enter into stillness and silent mystery, to wait patiently for clarity and wisdom.

When I grow tired of using my gifts to benefit others, take me to the autumn fields where earth freely yields to the bounty of her summer. Let me become aware of how she allows her lands to be stripped clean so that her fruitfulness may become a source of nourishment.

When I resist efforts to warm a relationship that has grown stale by my chilly indifference or resistance, let me feel the first hard freeze of Autumn's breath, and the death that this coldness brings to greenening things.

When I neglect to care for myself, and become overly absorbed in life's activities, let me take a lesson from the animals. Take me inside the caves of those who hibernate, and remind me of my need for a contemplative time, which is part of true nature.

When I fight unwanted and unsought changes, and when I seek to keep things just as they are, place me on the wings of birds flying South for another season. Gather their spirit of freedom into my heart. Let me be willing to leave my well-satisfied place of comfort, for the discomfort of a long flight into the unknown.

Thank you, God of transformation, for all these lessons that the Autumn earth teaches me.