

December 6, 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:

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent – Carolyn Schoettmer

December 7 – Anticipation Mass 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, Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, Mike Witka, Ruth Atchley (sister of Jeanie Harrison), Rylie Bennett, and all those newly infected with the COVID 19 virus and their families. We have not added new names to our COVID list this week, but have added 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 have had two burials this week. We entrust to your prayers the families of **Cheryl Naderman**, and **Hilary Holdreith**. Hilary was young, only 28, a single mom, and sustained fatal injuries in a tragic crash. Her two surviving children need our prayers. If anyone is interested in contributing to the fund, we will help to defray her funeral expenses. May they rest in peace.

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. This was again a very good week thanks to a major contribution! Thank you!

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: November 29, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,323.00
Catholic Campaign for Human development:	\$60.00
Energy/Fuel:	\$370.00
All Saints Day:	\$10.00
Maintenance:	\$50.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception:	\$50.00
Share in the Care of Retired Religious:	\$50.00
Giving Tree:	\$480.00
Total Collections:	\$3,393.00

Today's Special Collection is for the **Maintenance Fund**. We are grateful for your contributions! In addition, we are depending on your Holy Day contributions for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, even though Mass has been cancelled for Monday evening.

Next Sunday, our special collection is for the **Retirement Needs of men and women Religious**. Most Religious Congregations are facing the housing and healthcare costs for members who worked for seventy or eighty years for little pay, and now retired and aging, depend on your generosity to assist them. Please be generous. The Archbishop's letter is posted on the bulletin board. In these difficult days you may feel as though

your generosity has been exhausted. Know that I join our elder and retired religious in thanking you for the support of this collection, and join my prayers with theirs for your protection.

The Archbishop has written a second letter, this also is posted on the board, but this one is not begging for contributions. He writes concerning the “**Exodus 90**” a ninety-day spiritual exercise for men based on prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. Over 30, 000 men have participated thus far, and the program is having a positive impact on their lives. They report a more intentional Christian life, thus experiencing more peace and happiness in their lives. Access the link: Exodus90.com/Indy or see more details on the board.

It is that time of year when everyone is asking for contributions. Many people are in the “giving mood” and many want to take advantage of that time. We here at Immaculate Conception always head into December hoping that “end of year” contributions will bridge the gap between what is budgeted and what has been realized. We are always lagging a bit going into the final stretch, and this year is no exception. We are struggling this year to make up for what usually comes in during the Auction. But we are very fortunate! Many parishes are hurting worse than we are. Thank you for your continued generosity during the uncertain times of the past eight months! 2020 was indeed a painful year, but we have accomplished a great deal! Our buildings and grounds are in far better shape than they were a year ago due to the generosity of many, many people here at Immaculate Conception. God has blessed us with a bountiful harvest, and continues to bless us with the support of one another. We have much to be grateful for! When the restrictions dampen our spirits, we just need to look up to the steeple and be proud of what we have accomplished in spite of it all.

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. We need you!

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. Father is willing to resume home visits.

Confessions following Sunday Mass will resume Dec. 13. Dec. 6th will be for all Religious Ed. families.

Liturgical Ministries

December 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Lector: Melea Gault

Musicians: Men’s Choir

December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Jerry Fry, Donald Fry, Tim Scheidler

Niki Johannigman

the Schwerings with Abby

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

Dates to Remember:

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 – has been **Cancelled**.

Those making their **First Confession** this morning following Mass are: Avery AmRhein, Bradin Baltus, Reese Gault, Daniel Hornberger, Henry Nobbe, Hudson Ortman, Emily Stier, Jacob Stier, Kathryn Stier, and Cohen

Watts. Congratulations to each one as they approach this sacrament for the first time. And thank you to Jeanne Fry for paving the way! May each of us be inspired to also confess our failings and cleanse our souls!

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 (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 – There are still a few ornaments for this year's Christmas Outreach 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!

You have all heard of the **Safe Haven Baby Boxes**, but did you know one is planned for Decatur County? The Decatur County Right to Life has partnered with the Washington Township Trustee to raise the funds for installation, and training for our first responders. Donations can be made by mailing a check to Decatur County Right to Life, PO Box 481, Greensburg, Indiana 47240. Please mark "**Baby Box**" on your check.

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.

CHRISTMAS will look and sound, and feel different this year, due to the COVID 19. More details hopefully will be confirmed by next weekend. Stay tuned.