

December 13, 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 13 - Third Sunday of Advent – Barbara Sandhage

December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Albert Naderman

December 24 – Christmas Eve – Jerry Jacobs

December 27 – Feast of the Holy Family – Carolyn Schoettmer

December 31 – Anticipation of Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (New Year's Eve) – Wanda Barnes

January 3 – The Epiphany of the Lord – Albert Naderman

January 10 – The Baptism of the Lord – Cathy Wittkamper

Baminelli Sunday

Baminelli Sunday is a beautiful tradition celebrated on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent.

Thousands of people come to St. Peter's Square bringing the Baby Jesus figurines from their creches and nativity scenes. During the Pope's Angelus address, he blesses all of the little figures of the Child Jesus.

Families also traditionally spend their Advent season making small sacrifices or doing good deeds for the Child Jesus, represented by adding a piece of straw to His manger for each good deed performed. When Christmas Day arrives, the Baby Jesus is placed in the empty creche made comfortable by these acts of charity. Today, we bring our own Baby Jesus figurines, to have them blessed. Right after communion, we will **lift them up** as Fr. does the blessing for us. Let's see how much straw we can accumulate in each manger by our small sacrifices, and acts of kindness, by Christmas Eve, and then place our babies on this comfortable bed.

Christmas – Christmas **will** look, and feel, and sound, so much different this year! But we will celebrate Christmas just the same, and perhaps next year some of the old traditions will return, or maybe we will like the changes! Not even COVID can take Christmas out of our hearts! The first big change, that will impact all of us, is the timing of our Christmas Liturgy. Instead of Mass at 4:00 pm, ours will be at **3:00 pm** this year, to help our priests with scheduling all three parishes. Last year we started having only one Liturgy. We thought then, that we could easily all fit into one celebration. We had over **385** attendees on Christmas Eve. Currently we are averaging 120 on a good Sunday, and sometimes less. But we think this is a good number and that we can accommodate all who may show up, yet stay socially distanced. It has been recommended, and many churches are following this recommendation, to pre-register everyone and reserve seats, with on-line registration. We are **NOT** following this recommendation. We don't know how many to expect, but we do not want to turn anyone away. Yet we have only one liturgy. So, I am encouraging everyone who wants to come, to please come early, and take your places. Families can gather more tightly to allow others more space. We **will** set up chairs. Ushers will assist. And we will make it work. Another big change, is that the children's choir will not be singing. It was not possible to have rehearsals safely with them. And they will take up less space grouped with their families. The **Men's choir** will sing, and their "safe space" is the choir loft. The loft will **not** be used for overflow of the crowd. Chances are, the crowd will not be a huge issue. We also are **NOT** decorating in our usual style. The many trees and large nativity scene will come back next year. Again, it is not safe to gather the crew and still follow sanitation and social distancing regulations. The simpler decorations will still lift our spirits. We still want to honor the **second grade** as is our tradition, but we may not be able to have all of the children adorn the tree. We are working on that. They **have** created their homemade ornaments. We would like

to follow the tradition of **ringing all the bells** during the Gloria, so if you have bells and want to join in, please bring them along. Anyone of any age can join in the ringing. Two of our Confirmation students are working on the Luminaria. It may not be dark enough to appreciate the beauty of the lights as we exit the church, but as the evening darkens they will continue to glow. We **WILL** celebrate and be grateful for his coming!

Remember in Prayer: Nell Ann Pfeifer, who is again declining, Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, Mike Witka, Ruth Atchley (sister of Jeanie Harrison), Rylie Bennett, Denis DiGiusto, and all those newly infected with the COVID 19 virus and their families. In addition, let's remember all those who have lost loved ones since last Christmas, and are facing the first Christmas without them.

On Sunday morning, parishioner Tim Rupp, brother to parishioner Niki Johannigman, died very suddenly, leaving his mother, Sharon, and their whole family totally surprised, and grieved. The service and burial took place on Friday here at Immaculate Conception. Please remember them all in your prayers!

On Wednesday, Herman Wagner, father of Lisa Huff, lost his battle with COVID. His wife Agnes is recovering. Please pray for this whole family! Little did they know as they celebrated Thanksgiving, that it would be their last celebration together. The funeral and burial will be at St. Mary's on Tuesday.

Sacrament of Anointing: On Friday we anointed two more parishioners. If you or a loved one need this sacrament of healing and strengthening, please call for an appointment.

Confession times: Confession time is offered each Sunday following Mass.

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! Thank you!

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: December 6, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,211.00
Maintenance:	\$745.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception:	\$30.00
Giving Tree:	\$360.00
Total Collections:	\$3,393.00

Our special collection today is for the **Retirement Needs of men and women Religious**. Most Religious Congregations are facing the mounting and burdensome costs of housing and healthcare 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.

Liturgical Ministries

December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Donald Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lector: Niki Johannigman

Musicians: the Schwerings with Abby

December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent

Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobb

Ben Stier

No music

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

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 – Santa's workshop opens this morning immediately following Mass! All gifts (unwrapped) and all contributions need to be turned at this time to facilitate the scheduled delivery. We are helping 9 SDES families this year with their Christmas needs and your response has been awe-inspiring! By providing shoes, shirt, pants, underwear, and an item from their wish list, this community has become the true spirit of Christmas, a blessing to these needy families!! A huge thank you to each of you for opening your hearts! And a huge thank you to our elves as well! If you have any last-minute concerns or issues please reach out to Melea Gault. She will update you as she is able.

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.

Did you notice the **LIFT** in the school lot this morning? Just when we thought construction was finished! But this is a much-needed project. The school chimney is being removed for safety reasons. Special thanks to Dave, Ken, and Steve Stone for their donated labor and expertise. And thanks to Bruns-Gutzwiller for making it possible!

We haven't forgotten the **collection envelopes**. They will be available to you for pick up next Sunday. Please remember to pick up any calendars you may need, gift of Bass & Gasper Funeral Home. We need space on the table.

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.