

December 20, 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 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent – Albert Naderman

December 24 – Christmas Eve – Jerry Jacobs (Mass at 3:00 pm)

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

(This is a repeat from last week for those who have not read it.)

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 over flow 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, 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.

Sacrament of Anointing: 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 13, 2020

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,846.00
Maintenance:	\$300.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception:	\$85.00
Giving Tree:	\$390.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$640.00
Total Collections:	\$3,261.00

Special Collections: Thank you for your generosity in the Retirement Fund for Religious! The next “Special Collection” in our box of envelopes is on December 27th, and is marked for the Capitol Campaign for the Steeple Repair. When this box of envelopes was printed, we thought this special collection would be needed. You proved us wrong. As you know, the Steeple project is completely funded. Any funds coming in now will be directed to our next capital project, which is painting of the interior of the church. Some of you are well aware of this need. We have begun soliciting bids but it is too soon to project how much we will need, or when it would be possible to begin. We do know that we don’t have sufficient funds at present. If you care to use the enclosed envelope to add to this fund we would be most grateful!

The **collection envelopes** for 2021 are available for pickup this weekend. They are **alphabetical** by last name. While we are on the topic, a few words about using the envelopes: It is highly recommended that **we all use** the envelopes to assist in tracking our contributions. We need this paper trail to comply with the tax code and exemption. The auditor does match contributions with the envelopes and notes any discrepancies. It is **not necessary** to write your name or amount on the envelope. In fact, it is discouraged. The end-of-year tax letters that are mailed out to each one of you, are generated by number. Whatever is entered by that envelope number is what is printed on your tax letter. While it is fine to drop notes into the collection basket or drop box, please use another envelope. **PLEASE DO NOT WRITE NOTES ON YOUR COLLECTION ENVELOPE.** The note will be lost, as eyes fix only on the number. The counters have a method to record accurately the contents of each envelope. And all contributions are entered into the computer **by envelope number**, not by name.

Calendars: Please remember to pick up any calendars you may need, gift of Bass & Gasper Funeral Home. We need space on the table. If you know of others, family members or friends who may need them, please don’t hesitate to share.

Liturgical Ministries

December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent

Ushers: Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Lector: Ben Stier

Musicians: No music

Eucharistic Minister: Melea Gault

December 24, Christmas Eve 3:00 PM

Donny Fry, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing, Tim Scheidler

Jeanne Fry

Men’s Choir

LaDonna Hoeing

December 27, Feast of the Holy Family

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lector: Mary Jo Wenning

Musicians: The Schwerings with Abby

Eucharistic Minister: Jeanne Fry

December Church Cleaning: Chairperson, Mollie Johannigman, Sarah Hermesch, 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.

The family of Evelyn Johannigman invites you to shower her with cards to celebrate her **90th birthday** on December 28th. Her mailing address is 1082 E. County Road 820 S. Greensburg, Indiana 47240. Congratulations, Evelyn!

And from the Giving Tree Committee: (Melea)

2020 Christmas Outreach – Giving Tree Outreach - On Tuesday, Dec. 15 we delivered all the Giving Tree gifts to SDES for distribution to 8 families with a total of 25 children! The gifts were outstanding! We were able to gift each child with pants, shirts, shoes, underwear and an item off their wish list. In addition, family gifts of a nativity ornament, wrapping paper, bows, \$40 gas gift certificate and grocery gift certificates (\$25 per person - one totaling \$200 for a large family) were also given. All of this is such a HUGE blessing to these families during their time of need. You all have been so generous! THANK YOU for your help in donating items, or sharing monetary treasure. We pray you are blessed as much this Christmas season as you have blessed these families.

School Chimney – This project is complete! All except for the removal of the bricks. But the safety risk is no longer! Special thanks to Dave, Ken, and Steve Stone for their donated labor and expertise. Thanks to Tim Scheidler for creating and donating the new chimney cover. And thanks to Bruns-Gutzwiller for making it possible by donating the lift and insurance for a week! All of this, labor, materials and machinery, are greatly appreciated.

Wreaths Across America – On Saturday afternoon our cemetery was blessed with 30 wreaths to honor our Veterans! The goal of this National Project is to honor **every** Veteran with a wreath for Christmas! We have more than thirty Veterans, but this was a great beginning! Funds are collected prior to Veterans Day, \$15 per Wreath, and wreaths are placed just prior to Christmas. We are most grateful for those who donated, individually, or as a corporate donation, to honor our Veterans. Next year, this might be a great project for an individual, a family, or a couple of youthful parishioners to take on and organize. This year, we thank parishioners from a neighboring parish who gave to us from their abundance!

*** Please remember our **homebound** with cards and calls for Christmas! They appreciate your support!

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.