

**January 3, 2021**

**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:**

January 3 – The Epiphany of the Lord – Albert Naderman

January 10 – The Baptism of the Lord – Cathy Wittkamper

January 17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday on Ordinary Time – Barbara Sandhage

January 24 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Carolyn Schoettmer

January 31 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Wanda Barnes

Happy New Year to everyone! 2021 holds a lot of promise and we should be thankful we are here to witness it! Even as we celebrate, the nation has set new COVID hospitalization records for four straight days. The high counts are a grim reminder that even with 2020 behind us, the pandemic continues to ravage parts of the country. And some leaders warn the worst is still to come. Here in Indiana, we still await the promised number of vaccination doses. We are hopeful that a stabilization period is near, but in the meantime, it is ours to remain cautious, to follow all previous guidelines, and to continue distancing, masking, and sanitizing.

While we are talking about sanitizing, we owe a HUGE thank you to **Donna and Sarah Schwering** for continuing to sanitize our church and school after each use! Their faithful service, even during the holidays has made it possible for us to come together in a safe environment. Thank you, ladies, for pleasant, consistent, and thorough service to meet our needs!

Thank you too, to the three Stones for brick removal this week, following the school project. They too are faithful servants!

**Remember in Prayer:** Nell Ann Pfeifer, Judy Zapfe, Jim Price, 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 in the past year. Nell Ann rallied a bit for the holidays, but continues a slow decline. Teresa Bruns, Ralph Hermes, The Cobbs, and Pauline Schoettmer, all send holiday greetings!

**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 morning 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](http://www.archindy.org/Giving). Thank you! You may be aware that as we ended November, we were barely meeting budget. But now, at year's end, we have a positive balance once again. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! A detailed end of year report will be coming soon, as will the individual "giving statements." In spite of the difficult year, we have completed a major project (the Steeple) and balanced our budget. Well done!

**Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: December 27, 2020**

	Christmas Eve:	December 27
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00	
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):		1,949.00
Christmas	2,562.00	25.00
Maintenance:	240.00	
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	10.00	
Retirement Fund for Religious	50.00	
Energy/Fuel	220.00	
Cath Camp for Human Devel.	10.00	
Feast of the Solemnity of Mary	50.00	
Capitol Campaign	1,245.00	21.00
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$4,387.00</b>	<b>\$1,995.00</b>

The **collection envelopes** for 2021 are available for pickup in the back of church. 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.

**Liturgical Ministries**

**January 3, Epiphany**

**Ushers:** Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing  
**Lector:** Jeanne Fry  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Cindy Johannigman  
**Musicians:** Men's Choir

**January 10, Baptism of the Lord**

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler  
Ben Stier  
Mark Stier  
the Schwerings with Abby

**January Church Cleaning:** Jeanne Fry, Chairperson, Dorothy Fry, June Johannigman, Rita Peters, Gretchen Stone.

**Dates to Remember:**

Jan. 10 – Baptism of the Lord; end of the Christmas season.  
Jan. 10 – Religious Ed. classes resume.  
Jan. 14 – Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15 pm in Parish Office  
Jan. 20 – Buildings & Grounds Meeting, 6:30 pm School Hall

**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.**

## A New Year Blessing for Clocks and Calendars

By Fr. Edward Hays,  
to consecrate the minutes, hours and months of your coming year, to God

Holy Creator, you who live outside of time, and reside in the imperishable moment,  
We ask you on the beginning of this New Year, your blessing upon your gift of time.

Bless our **clocks and watches** (and cellphones), you who kindly direct us to observe the passing of minutes and hours. May these markers of time make us aware of the miracle of each second of life we experience.

May these ticking servants help us not to miss that which is important, while you keep us from machine-like routine.

May we be ever free from being clock watchers, and instead become time lovers.

Bless our **calendars**, these ordered lists of days, weeks, and months, of holidays, holydays, fasts and feasts, all our special days of remembering.

May these servants, our calendars, once reserved for the royal few, for magi and pyramid priests, now grace our homes and our lives.

May they remind us of birthdays and other gift-days as they teach us the secret that **all life** is meant for celebration and contemplation.

Bless, O Divine Marker of Time, this new year, each of its 365 days and nights.

Bless us with new moons and full moons: bless us with happy seasons and long life.

Grant to us, O God, this new year's gift of a year of love. Amen.