

**January 10, 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 10 – The Baptism of the Lord – Cathy Wittkamper (Mass Cancelled.)

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

This week's events in Washington D.C. reminded us all of the importance to pray for peace in our country and in our own hearts. We desire a peaceful movement toward the Inauguration. We also recognize our own responsibility to be people of peace in all of our endeavors. As a Community, we join in prayer for the transformation of our hearts, our political systems, and our country:

“God of all, IGNITE us with the fire of your love. INFLAME our hearts with courage to embrace dialogue that transforms and truth that frees. KINDLE our love with kindness to heal divisions and reconcile relationships. LIGHT our imaginations with insight to envision and create a world where all are one. STIR our actions with justice and peace to engage critical concerns and cherish all of life. FIRE our lives with audacity and hope to risk all for God's mission.”

**Concerning COVID:** the nation has set new COVID hospitalization records again this week. 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. Thus far the vaccination doses received have been distributed to healthcare workers and first responders, in addition to nursing home residents. On Monday the next group designated, those over 80 years of age, become eligible, until the shipment is dispersed. Some of our elders have already made appointments and some are working to do so. We encourage all who may need assistance in this process to call the office and we will help with registration and or transportation. The end goal is to get all vulnerable individuals vaccinated. We are all vulnerable! Unfortunately, we cannot bring the cure to you. It is available only at the hospital.

One of our elders reflected thus: “As I wait to receive the vaccine, I sit humbly with a heart full of gratitude for all who spent tireless hours and worked together to create this vaccine, which has the potential to stop this virus and save lives. I sit in reverence knowing that this vaccine is not only protecting me. Like the mask I have worn religiously, this vaccine is about stopping the spread of COVID-19; it is about protecting others – my neighbor. I have a moral obligation to receive the vaccine and to witness to others who are fearful or hesitant.”

Another said, “It is my moral obligation to protect and witness that this is about the care of all, not some. Not those chosen, but **all**. Each person who receives the vaccine, just like each person who wears a mask, stops the spread of this highly contagious and deadly disease that continues to kill overwhelming numbers of people each day.

This is our moment to put into action love of neighbor. Our moment to think of **we**, not me. Our moment to care for each other in this year that has given us insights and reflection in our own lives and the beliefs we live that affect the lives of so many others.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees on Doctrine and on Pro-Life Activities said in a Dec. 14 statement, "Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good."

As we begin a new year, may we take all we have learned from 2020 — this painful yet insightful year — and act with charity and respect for one another. May we accept our moral responsibility and move forward as **we**, not me.

**Funeral:** On Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Nell Ann Pfeifer** lost her battle with cancer. Visitation is today, Sunday Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at Bass & Gasper Funeral Home. The Funeral Mass and Burial are here at Immaculate Conception on Monday morning at 11:00 am. Please hold Bernard and family in prayer.

**Remember in Prayer:** Gary Chandler, (father of Jeff), Cindy Johannigman (double knee replacement), 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.

**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), along with tuckpointing of the school and office building, and have balanced our budget. Well done!

**Stewardship of Treasure:** Our Sunday Collections: January 3, 2021

	New Year	January 3
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00	No collection.
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$560.00	
Christmas	\$240.00	
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$25.00	
Feast of the Solemnity of Mary	\$180.00	
Capitol Campaign	30.00	
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$1,035.00</b>	<b>\$,000.00</b>

The **collection envelopes** for 2021 are available for pickup in the back of church. They are **alphabetical** by last name. 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, or “Giving Statements” 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 10, Baptism of the Lord**

**Ushers:** Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

**Lector:**

**Eucharistic Minister:** Mark Stier

**Musicians:** the Schwerings with Abby

#### **January 17,**

Mark Hermesch, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Ben Stier

Melea Gault

Men’s Choir

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

**Christmas Decorations:** Do you still have your Christmas decorations up? If so, you are following the guide correctly! The Church’s liturgical season of Christmas, ends today, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which always falls in mid-January. Prior to 1962 the season ended on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Feast of the Lord’s presentation in the temple, which was literally, 40 days after Christmas. But with changes to the Roman Missal in 1962, the Feast was moved to the Sunday following the Epiphany, which was last Sunday. So, today marks a return to ordinary time, and all of the colorful lights may come down. Our homes are to be “domestic churches”, where God is at the center of our family, as we are called to worship Him always and everywhere. It is then important for us to live liturgically in the home. It is recommended that if we put up Christmas decorations, we should consider keeping them up until the end of the liturgical season of Christmas. Practically speaking, this isn’t always possible. We might need to discard out trees earlier, but we can always keep up a Nativity scene longer. But after today it can all come down. However you choose to keep Christmas alive in your home is ultimately up to you. The important element is to keep it alive within your heart!

#### **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

If you need assistance in signing on to “Remind” our parish texting service, please pick up a direction sheet in the entryway, or call the office for assistance.

**Preschool** open house and registration at St. Mary’s – see notice on bulletin board.

**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.**