

January 17, 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@millhousenchurch.com

Mass Intentions:

January 17 – 2nd Sunday on Ordinary Time – Barbara Sandhage

January 24 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Carolyn Schoettmer

January 31 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Wanda Barnes

February 7 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary time – Alex Veerkamp

February 14 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cathy Wittkamper

February 17 – Ash Wednesday – Joe & Agnes Hoeing

February 21 – First Sunday of Lent – Carolyn Schoettmer

February 28 - Second Sunday in Lent – Barbara Sandhage

This week's events and news continue to remind 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 regardless of our political views. 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. The following prayer will be printed each week, until we have a sense that peace is returning. But we have a long way to go.

“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.”

The good news is that Fr. Santhosh is back with us today! His fever has dissipated, and he finished his quarantine yesterday. Though he still may have a low level of energy and enthusiasm, he is back and ready to make a new start! He won't be distributing communion, and we are kindly asked to keep our distance, both to protect him and to protect others.

Concerning COVID: once again, this week, the nation has set new COVID hospitalization records and the death toll continues to climb. When will we reach the top of the mountain? The pandemic continues to ravage our country. Happily, our state and county are not leading the way! But the virus is all around us. So please be vigilant, and please be respectful of others. Our state vaccination process is progressing, though we still don't have the promised number of doses. ALL people 70 years of age and older are now eligible for the free vaccine. We are hopeful that as many parishioners as possible will make the appointment and begin the road to safety for the rest of us. None of us are safe until all of us are safe. We are nowhere near a stabilization period, and won't be for many months yet, but we are moving in the right direction. In the meantime, it is ours to remain cautious, to follow all previous guidelines, and to continue distancing, masking, and sanitizing. It was heartening to talk with our elders this week and find many of them were already vaccinated or had appointments to be vaccinated. If anyone out there needs assistance, either in making an appointment, or in getting to that appointment, please call the office and assistance will be given. We are all vulnerable! We'll take care of each other.

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.

We are all tired of the “precautions” and “reminders” but we are at a more critical time with this disease than we have ever been. We have been asked, once again, to please remind everyone, that we may not use our “coming together for Eucharist” as an excuse to socialize. We may not engage each other in the Church or outside, even with masks, and even with the open air. We were asked a long time ago to exit the building, six feet apart, and to go directly to our cars, (or to remain at home). Because others are doing it, doesn’t make it safe or respectful. Please continue to use your phones and computers to socialize. And refrain from pulling others into conversation and social chatter.

One of our elders, talking on the phone, told me that she came into church, after not coming for many months. She came to deposit her envelopes, and to pick up reading material, calendars, and envelopes. She was taken aback by the socialization she witnessed and then was drawn into. She left, not staying for Mass. She didn’t feel safe. It is our responsibility to **make everyone feel safe**, and to **provide that safe environment**. The ushers can’t do it alone. They need all of us to do our part. Above all, please help us to protect our priests. When they are sick, we have no recourse.

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. Just take a seat on the St. Denis bench and Father will notice you.

As promised, the annual “Giving Statements” and tax letter are available for pick up in the church entryway. Please do pick them up and save us that postage if you can. 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. Thank you!

Also available, and included in this bulletin, is the parish six-month financial report. If you still have questions after you read the narrative, please call and ask. As the Finance Committee met this week and reviewed all of the material, they were pleasantly surprised. We are indeed making progress! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Well done! (And then we have no collection for two weeks! Ouch!!)

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: January 10, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget: \$2,800.00

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): No collection. Mass Cancelled.

Total Collections: \$,000.00

A word about The **United Catholic Appeal**: We are actually doing quite well, even though we haven’t heard much about it. Quietly, one by one, the pledges are being sent in. You might be surprised to know that we are already at 78% of our goal! Our goal was reduced this year, due to our declining numbers, but we are mighty!

If we send in all that we have promised, we will surpass last year. That would be an accomplishment, even if we don't reach the goal that was set for us. Let's give it our level best!

The **collection envelopes** for 2021 are still 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

Jan. 17

Ushers: Mark Hermesch, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Lector: Ben Stier

Eucharistic Minister: Melea Gault

Musicians: Men's Choir

Jan. 24

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Jerry Fry

Jeanne Fry

the Schwerings with Abby

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

Dates to Remember:

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.

Thank you! Because there is a little space left here after all of the entries that were requested, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for all of the cards, notes, gifts, and good wishes as we celebrated the Holy Season of Advent and Christmas! Because we could not "come together" as we would have liked, your efforts to keep the Christmas spirit were even more appreciated.

In addition, I am grateful to those who generously gave of their time to work on the Giving Tree, to assist individually with Christmas decorations, to clean and/or provide a "Clean and Sanitized" safe space for all of us, and to all those who helped to keep the spirit alive. A big thank you to those who reached out to our elders and shut-ins at this difficult time! They are most appreciative!

Thanks to Mike and Caaden, to Michael and Clair, to Campbell, and Maria, to Melea and Laura, to LaDonna and Norbert for that beautiful new star! Thanks to Ken and Steve for picking up the pieces! Thanks to Dave for adding to our security. Thanks to the DuMonds for donating poinsettias, and to Mike Gasper for the annual gift of calendars. And thanks to any I have forgotten. It really takes a village!

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.

January 15, 2021

Of Matters Financial: We have completed the 2021 “Contribution Statements” with tax letters, and that material is available today for pick-up in the entryway. Any envelopes not claimed today or next Sunday will need to be mailed, so please, assist us in saving that postage. Every parish household, regardless of giving history, is required to receive a giving statement and summary by tax law. If you are a registered parishioner and have not received your letter, please notify us so that we can update our computer records and get a statement to you.

On the flip side of this insert, is the six-month financial report for the parish. Since our “end-of-fiscal-year report” in July, we have completed the steeple project in its entirety, tuck-pointed the school building and office building, taken down both smoke stacks (church and school), poured a new half-row of cemetery footers, and poured new concrete steps at the West sacristy entrance. A lot has been accomplished in the past six months! We have had our financial ‘ups and downs’ as usual, impacted greatly this year by COVID, lower church attendance, loss of donors (a greater number of deaths), and more sporadic giving patterns. But our greatest liability by far was our decreased income related to the cancellation of our only fundraiser, the Auction/Raffle. That was a painful decision driven by COVID restrictions, but we are weathering the storm fairly well. Every time we think we cannot make ends meet, another check arrives in the mail, just in time.

Our “steeple fund” was a designated fund, which can only now be used for church repair. The tuck-pointing was not officially church related, so we paid for that project from our savings, in order to protect our cash flow. As you look at the numbers on the reverse side of this paper you can see that our expenses outweigh our income by about \$30,000. But when you take a look at our budget we are actually doing quite well, or at least as well as expected. We are gradually making up the difference.

The money remaining after all steeple bills were paid, has now grown due to the special collection envelope at the end of December. It is now designated as ‘Church Repair,’ and some of it rests in savings while some remains in our general checking. The report on the reverse side of this page shows the amounts. Our plan is to use what remains for painting the interior of our worship space. Due to the high ceilings, scaffolding will be necessary, and the project will be costly, but the need is becoming very apparent, and the designated funding is secured for that purpose. Do we have enough? Probably not, yet, but bids are coming in, along with a few “end of year” donations, and that will place us “in the neighborhood.” Again, we consider this project an investment in our future, and one that will live on for many years to come.

We approach each project with caution and planning, realizing that all steps taken need to be by necessity. We believe we have been good stewards taking **only** the steps necessary to protect our buildings and property well into the future. We trust in your continued faithfulness to the fiscal needs of our parish, and God’s promise of walking beside us into a future full of hope.

Immaculate Conception Parish
Mid Year Financial Report July 2020–December 2020
Fiscal year 2020-2021

| <u>INCOME</u> | | | <u>EXPENSES</u> | |
|---|----|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday and Holy Day Collection | \$ | 52,850 | Administration | \$ 7,298 |
| Special Envelopes (ie Maintenance, Fuel, Faith Formation) | | 8,644 | Cemetery | 5,011 |
| Cemetery Bequest & Donations | | 6,951 | Property Insurance | 13,960 |
| Chancery Collections | | 1,890 | Chancery Collection | 1,890 |
| Donations | | 3,495 | Archdiocesan Assessment | 10,912 |
| Faith Formation | | 1,150 | Faith Formation | 1,670 |
| Other Income | | 5,350 | Personnel Expenses | 28,171 |
| Interest Income | | 460 | Utilities | 4,361 |
| | | | Grounds/Maintenance | 32,092 |
| | | | Mowing Grounds | 2,522 |
| | | | Spiritual Life | 1,794 |
| | | | Charity Expense | 1,845 |
| TOTAL Income | \$ | 80,790 | TOTAL Expense | \$ 111,526 |
| | | | Net Deficit | \$ (30,736) |

*Includes tuckpointing \$25,000

| <u>As of December 31st</u> | | | <u>Notes</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Checking Account Balance | \$ | 56,941 | Contains \$29,712 of Steeple |
| Gaming Account | \$ | 9,011 | |
| ADLF's (Saving's Account) | | | |
| ADLF- Parish Savings | \$ | 104,810 | Contains \$25,000 of Steeple/ Church Repair Fund |
| ADLF- Building/Maintenance Savings | | 34,294 | Contains \$25,000 of Steeple / Church Repair Fund |
| ADLF- Cemetery Savings | | 66,184 | |
| ADLF- Technology Savings | | 3,834 | |
| | Total ADLF (Savings): | \$ 209,122 | |
| Designated Fund for Steeple | | | \$ 79,712 |