

January 24, 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 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. In addition, we 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.”

Concerning COVID: once again, this week, the pandemic continues to ravage our country. Happily, our state and county are not leading the way! But the virus is all around us. The counties all around us for a wide radius are RED, except for Decatur and Bartholomew. According to our Governor we still are not receiving the vaccine doses that were originally promised. Please be vigilant, and please be respectful of others. 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. We are hoping to get word very soon that those 65-70 are included in the eligibility.

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 here at Church or anywhere on campus. There have been deaths among us, yet how quick we are to abandon the precautions that are proven to help. Someone noted this week that we are not using the six-foot markers on the carpet as we move in and out of the building, and when coming up for Communion. Let's do our best to distance.

Remember in Prayer: Gary Chandler, (father of Jeff), 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. If you didn't pick them up last Sunday, please do so today so we can save a little postage. 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!

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: January 17, 2021 (amount is for three 3 weeks)

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$3,391.00
Energy/Fuel	\$595.00
Christmas	\$60.00
Steeple/Church Repair	\$225.00
Other	\$55.00
Total Collections:	\$4,326.00

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 up to 83% 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!

Special Collection: The special Collection this morning is for the Church in Latin America. The Archbishop has written a special letter explaining this collection. You can see in on the bulletin board.

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. 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. Also, if you have envelopes "left over"

from last year, 2020, please discard them. **Everyone's numbers have changed beginning January 1st.** The computer was updated. If the old envelopes come in, the amounts given could be logged onto another families new giving number. All contributions are truly entered into the computer **by envelope number**, not by name.

Liturgical Ministries

Jan. 24

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Lector: Jerry Fry

Eucharistic Minister: Jeanne Fry

Musicians: the Schwerings with Abby

Jan. 31

Jerry Fry, Donny Fry, Tim Scheidler

Niki Johannigman

Mark Stier

Several questions have come in concerning Lent, and in particular, Ash Wednesday. Remembering that we are still under high precautions, and expecting that won't lift any time real soon, our Lent may look very much like last year. But may not be so severe! Hopefully we won't be closed! But services and gatherings will continue to be minimal. We were asked to cancel everything but Mass and sacraments. So, a lot of our Lenten practices may continue to be private. Family rosaries and family stations can replace communal services and gatherings. We do plan to use our "Sacrifice Jars" and collect for food for the Bread of Life center. If anyone would be interested in coordinating those efforts please let me know.

Concerning the distribution of Ashes: Pope Francis has circulated a new directive, eliminating the need for touch. The ashes would be blessed, and the people would be blessed, all at once rather than individually. Then, those who wish to partake, would come forward as usual, but instead of receiving a cross on the forehead, each one would get ashes sprinkled in the hair, or on the top of the head. This "no touch" approach would all be in silence, without words. It is good to remember that receiving ashes is not a sacrament, is not essential, and is only symbolic, a reminder that death will come to each one of us. We will receive the blessing regardless of choosing to come forward. It is also worth noting, that Ash Wednesday is **not a Holy Day** of obligation. We usually draw a fairly large crowd. By contrast, our crowds are getting smaller for Holy Days of Obligation, like the Solemnity of Mary, on New Year's Eve. Let's put emphasis on the days that the Church considers Holy! Expect more about Lent as the information becomes available. Ash Wednesday Mass is confirmed for **6:00 pm**.

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. Many new names have been added in recent weeks. We are happy to help keep you informed.

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.