

January 31, 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

Mass Intentions:

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 of 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 rage on. Happily, our state and county are not leading the way! But the virus is all around us, and new varieties are springing up, more contagious, and more powerful! According to our Governor we still are not receiving the vaccine doses that we need, but our state has a plan and is following it. Representatives are canvassing our elderly population, to ensure that they receive the support needed, to register, to be transported, to get all of them vaccinated before opening the process to the rest of us. 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 take the road to safety. 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. 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 all tired of the “precautions” and “reminders” but we are at a critical time with this disease. 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.

On Wednesday of this week, we celebrate the feast of **St. Blaise**, Bishop and Martyr, remembered for his ability to heal and cure. It is the day we traditionally come forward to have our throats blessed. Because of the pandemic, our blessing will look different this year. We cannot risk coming forward an additional time, and we cannot risk touching one another with the candles repeatedly. So, we modify. Fr. Santhosh will offer a common blessing from the altar. We will receive it from our places.

We still have family members in quarantine, and we include them in our prayers. Parishioner, Cindy Hermesch had foot surgery this week and is recovering well. Keep her in your prayers. In addition, we remember:

Remember in Prayer: Benji Ortman, 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.

Evelyn Johannigman wishes to thank all those who remembered her special 90th birthday, and honored her with cards and notes. Your kindness thrilled her and blessed her day!

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. If there is another time that you prefer, let me know and we will try to arrange it. As Lent approaches the sacrament of Penance is always provided. Opportunities for the sacrament at other local churches will be printed for your convenience.

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 24, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,132.00
Energy/Fuel	\$115.00
The Church in Latin America	\$82.00
Total Collections:	\$1,329.00

A word about The **United Catholic Appeal**: 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!

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 were 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. 31

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Donny Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lector: Niki Johannigman

Eucharistic Minister: Mark Stier

Musicians: No music

Feb. 7

Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Jeanne Fry

LaDonna Hoeing

Men’s Choir

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. LaDonna has graciously offered to coordinate that effort.

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.

Our **Confirmation Retreat** has been confirmed! We were invited to join with the candidates at St Catherine of Siena Parish at the St. Maurice site on Sunday February 21st. It will be a one-day, all day retreat, with more information coming soon. Please keep these young parishioners in your prayer as they move into their final months of preparation!

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.