

**February 7, 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:**

February 7 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time – Alex Veerkamp

February 14 - 6<sup>th</sup> 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

We continue 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:** Our state and county are much improved! There are again new cases among us, but the numbers are improving. Please continue to be vigilant, and please be respectful of others. ALL people 65 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. Please remember to 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.

**Remember in Prayer:** Benji Ortman, Gary Chandler, (father of Jeff), Tom Johannigman, Andy Meer, Katie & Kevin Meyer and family, 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. If there is another time that you prefer, let me know and we will try to arrange it. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available at our neighboring parishes, St. Louis,

Batesville, Friday, **March 12** - 9am - 1pm; 2:30pm - 6:30pm; Saturday, **March 20** - 8am - 12pm; and Friday, **March 26** - 9am - 1pm; 2:30pm - 6:30pm. Or at St. Anthony, Morris: Friday, **February 26** - 9am - 1pm; 2:30pm - 6:30pm. Please see Bulletin insert for additional opportunities. In addition, the Outdoor “Way of the Cross” is being offered as a safer option than indoor services. Also, on the bulletin insert, are locations offering outdoor stations.

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!

**Stewardship of Treasure:** Our Sunday Collections: January 24, 2021

*Needed <b>each</b> weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,096.00
Energy/Fuel	\$130.00
Criterion	\$50.00
The Church in Latin America	\$1.00
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$1,277.00</b>

A word about The **United Catholic Appeal**: You might be surprised to know that we have jumped to 84% 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 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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**

**Feb. 7**

**Ushers:** Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

**Lector:** Jeanne Fry

**Eucharistic Minister:** LaDonna Hoeing

**Musicians:** Quiet Mass

**Feb. 14**

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Jerry Fry

Mark Stier

The Schwerings with Abby

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! 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.

**Financial Support Appreciated:** for our **Confirmation Retreat:** Please keep these young parishioners in your prayer as they move into their final months of preparation! On February 21, our Candidates will be participating in a Confirmation Retreat at St. Maurice. We are very excited for our youth to participate in this faith filled event with other youth from our area! The retreat is an important piece of their preparation process. This event does cost \$35 per student, with a total expense to our parish of \$420. If you would like to help financially it will be much appreciated! Donations can be placed in the collection box in church indicating Confirmation Retreat. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **February is the month of love!**

It’s a time set aside to acknowledge and recognize the people we love and have loved, now and forever and in the past. We become a little less selfish. We do good works for people, maybe stop by with a dinner, take a loved one out to eat, or bring them a treat, some candy, a heart-shaped box that’s both sentimental and lovely. How many here ever scraped together a little babysitting or yard work money and bought your mother a bottle of cologne or a heart-shaped box of some low-grade chocolate for St. Valentine’s Day? Of course, you did! She was your first love. And then you grow, and look for more love. But, where to look? That’s the eternal question! Look no further than to the God of all compassion and promise! After all, “God is Love, and he who abides in Love, abides in God, and God in him.” You won’t be disappointed!

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** is the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, patroness of human trafficking. A Sudanese woman who, as a child, was kidnapped, sold, and resold into slavery. The pain of being ripped apart from her family, and the perpetual brutal beatings she endured caused her to forget the name given to her by her parents. Her captors gave her the name Bakhita, which means “Lucky one.” Human trafficking is a global crisis and affects the society as a whole. Let us be mindful of the more than 20.9 million women, men, and children who, like Bakhita, experience the brutality and anguish of human trafficking, a modern-day trade that is literally found in every nation. These victims face a cruelty that has no place in a civilized world. It is a crime that tears at our social fabric, strains our common humanity, violates what we stand for as Gospel people. Human trafficking does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, gender, or religion. Anyone can be a victim. May she intercede for all victims of human trafficking!

**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.**

**PRAY THE  
STATIONS OF  
THE CROSS  
OUTSIDE THIS  
LENT!**

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## **LOCATIONS**

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**All Saints - SJB Campus**

25743 IN-1, Guilford, IN

**Oldenburg Convent**

22143 Main Street,  
Oldenburg, IN

**St. Anthony of Padua**

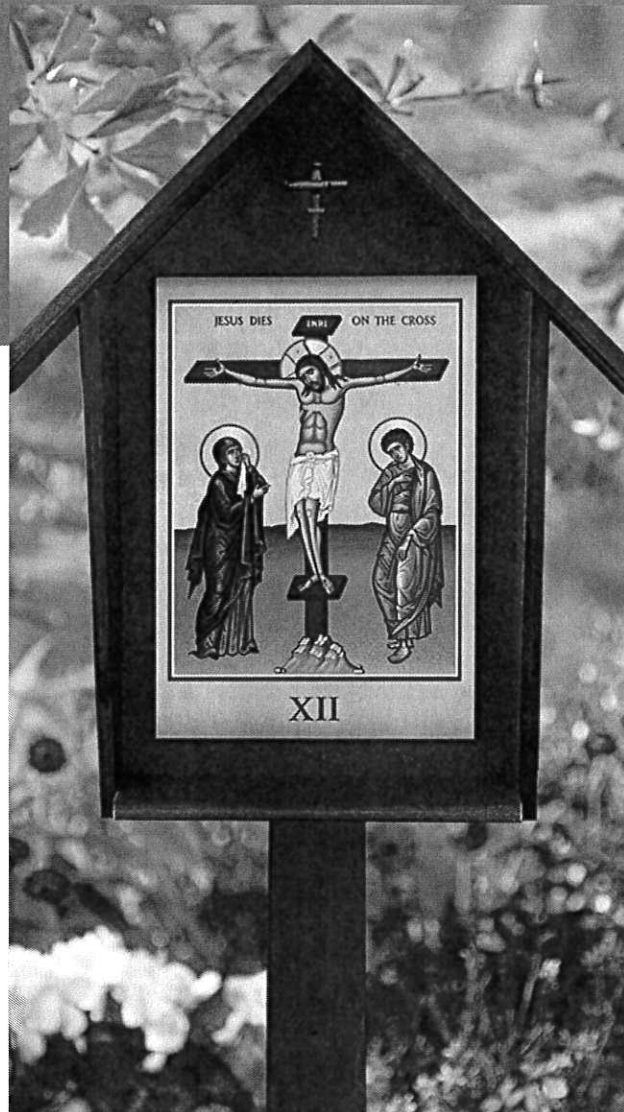
4773 Church Rd,  
Morris, IN

**St. Joseph**

1357 E. Meiks Rd,  
Shelbyville, IN

**St. Lawrence**

542 Walnut St,  
Lawrenceburg, IN



*Batesville Deanery*

**Outdoor  
Stations  
of the  
Cross**



**Batesville Deanery**  
**CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

***12 hours of confession every Friday  
this LENT!***

- **Feb 19 - St. Joseph - 228 E Hendricks, Shelbyville, IN 46176**
- **Feb 26 - Camp RiverRidge - 6145 Harvey Branch Rd, Oldenburg, IN 47036**
- **March 5 - All Saints, St. Martin Campus - 8044 Yorkridge Rd. Guilford, IN 47022**
- **March 12 - St. Mary's, Greensburg - 1331 E Hunter Robbins Way, Greensburg, IN 47240**
- **March 19 - St. Joseph, Shelbyville - 228 E Hendricks, Shelbyville, IN 46176**
- **March 26 - St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg - 542 Walnut St, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025**
- **April 2 - All Saints, St. Martin Campus - 8044 Yorkridge Rd. Guilford, IN 47022**