

February 14, 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:

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

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.

“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 vaccinations: 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. It is ours to remain cautious, to follow all previous guidelines, and to continue distancing, masking, and sanitizing.

Remember in Prayer: Benji Ortman, Gary Chandler, (father of Jeff), Andy Meer, 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 this year.

Our parishioner, **Ralph Hermes**, lost his brother Donald, this week. He was laid to rest on Friday at St. Mary’s, Greensburg. Please remember Ralph and his family in prayer.

Sacrament of Anointing: If you or a loved one need this sacrament of healing and strengthening, please call the office 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. There will be station booklets available in the entryway. Pick them up for use at home. But do NOT bring them back.

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: February 7, 2021	
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,797.00
Energy/Fuel	\$50.00
Criterion	\$363.00
The Church in Latin America	\$40.00
Total Collections:	\$2,250.00

A word about The **United Catholic Appeal**: We are leveled out at 84% of our goal! If we send in all that we have promised, we will surpass last year. That would be an accomplishment, and most appreciated during this challenging time. Let's give it our level best!

Collection envelopes for 2021 are still available for pickup in the back of church. 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. The end-of-year tax letters, or "Giving Statements" that are mailed out to each one of you, are **generated by envelope number**.

Liturgical Ministries

Feb. 14

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Lector: Jerry Fry

Eucharistic Minister: Mark Stier

Musicians: The Schwerings with Abby

Feb. 21

Mark Hermesch, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Niki Johannigman

Jeanne Fry

Men's Choir

Ash Wed., 6:00 pm

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lector: LaDonna Hoeing

Eucharistic Minister: Melea Gault

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 a local need. LaDonna has graciously offered to coordinate that effort.

Sacrifice Jars: If you remember from years past, each of us will pick up a "Sacrifice Jar" on Ash Wednesday or the next time we happen to be in the Church. As we move through the Lenten Days of sacrifice, we all do without, or reduce our spending in small ways. The money we have saved by these small sacrifices, is placed in the jar each evening, along with any change in our pockets. By the end of the Lenten Season we will have fed a charity and put the money to very good use. Last year we gave the collected funds to Clarity to support women choosing life instead of abortion. This year our money will go to the **Safe Haven Baby Box** project. The project

is sponsored by the Decatur County Right to Life, working with the Washington Township Trustee. \$10,000.00 has been raised thus far to secure the box. Much more is needed for construction, alarms and billboard fees. Our contribution may save innocent lives, babies whose parents are not able to care for them, but freely give up their babies to be cared for and secured. A worthy cause indeed!

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, and that we need to be prepared. We will receive the blessing regardless of choosing to come forward. Ash Wednesday Mass is confirmed for **6:00 pm**.

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 (St. Catherine of Siena Parish). 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! And today is the feast of Love, St. Valentine’s Day!

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!

Concerning “**good works**” in the name of love: I received two phone calls this week, bragging about our youth, our Confirmation candidates! A small group of them made homemade Valentines and paid visits to Shut-Ins within the parish! They truly made others happy! Those visits were the highlight of the week for at least two individuals. This is the “reaching out” that we are encouraging. It should make us proud!

The Knights of St. John: All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry, 5-7:30 pm Feb. 19th, Mar. 5th, 19th, Apr. 2nd. **\$10.00, Carry Out** with limited seating based on State of Indiana Guidelines the day of the event.

Register now for the 6th annual **E6 Catholic Men’s Conference**. It is being offered LIVE with easy one-click online access for only \$10 (to help defray the cost). Watch it with your friends, family, or host a watch party for only \$10! Anyone who registers will also receive an MP3 of all 2021 talks to listen to any time. Register now at www.e6catholicmensconference.com.

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.

Important Announcement

If you remember, last Sunday we were informed of a sudden death, that of Fr. Peter Gallagher, pastor of the parishes in French Lick and Paoli. He was only 60 years of age, and is one of several such losses in our Archdiocese of late. While his death may not have greatly impacted us initially, it is a vivid reminder of the suddenness of change, life, and death, and our need to be always ready and waiting. It accentuates our Lenten theme. “Remember, that you are dust . . .” and reminds us of the growing shortage of priests.

It also put into motion a chain of events and decisions that will impact each one of us. On Wednesday evening of this week, I received, not one, but two letters from the Archbishop. The first was to inform us that Fr. Santhosh Yohannan has received a new assignment. As of March 3, 2021, he will become the Administrator of two small parishes, one in Scottsburg, and the other in Salem, Indiana. He was as surprised as the rest of us! He has barely had time to get comfortable here. But we join in thanking him for his ministry and service to us these past six months. Death isn't the only change that may catch us by surprise.

The second letter was to inform us, that effective March 3, 2021, Fr. Jeyaseelan Sengolraj, currently serving at Ss. Francis and Clare Catholic Church in Greenwood, would become our new Sacramental Minister. Like Fr. Santhosh does now, he will live at St. Louis, Batesville, and will assume the roles vacated by Fr. Santhosh, including, Parochial Vicar at St. Louis, and Sacramental Minister at St. Anthony, Morris. And like Fr. Santhosh, he is a native of India. He is the youngest, in a family of nine, five brothers and three sisters, and speaks three languages, Tamil, Hindi, and English, along with various other dialects. We will learn more as time goes on, but the appointments will appear in the Criterion next week.

Please join me in welcoming Fr. Jey to our parish family!