

February 21, 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:

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. As more people are vaccinated, more will be able to return to church attendance.

For all those who were not able to be with us for **Ash Wednesday**, a reminder that, the ashes are not nearly as important as our interior **repentance** and **commitment to conversion of heart**. The ashes are an outward sign, a symbol of the interior disposition. The ritual marks the “beginning,” but it is not too late, we can begin right now!

Remember in Prayer: Benji Ortman, Gary Chandler, (father of Jeff), 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.

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 14, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,230.00
Energy/Fuel	\$40.00
Criterion	\$152.00
The Church in Latin America	\$30.00
The Solemnity of Mary	\$10.00
Total Collections:	\$2,462.00

A word about The **United Catholic Appeal**: We seem to have reached a plateau at 84% of our goal! We have several months yet to make contributions. In the near future, those households who have not yet contributed to this important fund will be contacted by telephone to elicit more funding. If we send in all that we have promised, we will surpass last year. 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.

Liturgical Ministries

Feb. 21

Ushers: Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Lector: Niki Johannigman

Eucharistic Minister: Jeanne Fry

Musicians: Men's Choir

Feb. 28

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Melea Gault

Mark Stier

The Schwerings with Abby

February Church Cleaning: Beth Schwering (Chair), Sheila Diekoff, Diane & Steve AmRhein, Cindy Stone.

Several questions have come in concerning Lent. 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 of the cross can replace communal services and gatherings. We do plan to use our "**Sacrifice Jars**" and collect for a local charity. 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" today, found in the entryway. As we move through the Lenten Days of sacrifice, we all choose to 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 local charity and taken a step toward

social justice. 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, a option for parents choosing **Life!** 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! Please help them choose life!

Financial Support Appreciated: for our **Confirmation Retreat:** Please keep these young parishioners in your prayer as they move into their final months of preparation! **Today, 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. To cover the expense of outside speakers, lunch, and sanitation, 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. Please support our candidates today with your prayer of support. And bless them with notes, texts, cards, or other greetings during this important time in their faith journey.

This **Lent**, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will join together to reflect on the **Scriptural Stations of the Cross** that were celebrated by St. John Paul II. Through **14 Podcasts**, the listener will have an opportunity to practice the three pillars of Lent – **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving**. Each reflection will be led by priests from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The Walking with Christ Podcasts will air on **YouTube**.

New “Walking with Christ” podcasts will be uploaded every Tuesday and Thursday of Lent, and can be found by searching for “Walking With Christ” on the Apple Podcast app and Spotify app, or by following the link to SoundCloud at <https://soundcloud.com/sean-hussey-904281910>.

Additional Lenten resources, as well as recordings of the podcasts, can be found at www.archindy.org/Lent2021. Make sure to subscribe and share with a friend!

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

Saturday of this week is 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.

Thank you to all those who have assisted with snow removal! This week was quite a work out! Each time we finished we had to start again. If you are under 65 years of age and in good health, please think about assisting with this essential chore to make safe entry on our parish property. Current participants are “getting older” and we need to beef up our ranks! When we approach it as a team it doesn’t seem nearly so difficult nor take nearly as much time. If you would be willing to assist, please call Jerry Fry to offer. Or just show up with a shovel.



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Leadership Briefing

By Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

Human life should be respected, protected in all circumstances

“Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him. It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for [God’s] honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2280).



Our Church is committed to defending and supporting the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Our defense of the unborn is clear and our absolute commitment to the dignity of human life extends to other social issues as well. All forms of homicide, including infanticide (the killing of children) and genocide (the elimination of entire communities based on their religious or ethnic identities) must be strenuously opposed.

The same is true of capital punishment, which Pope Francis has declared to be “inadmissible no matter how serious the crime committed because it attacks the inviolability and dignity of the person.”

This same principle applies to all forms of euthanasia (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2276). Catholic social teaching emphasizes that “those whose lives are diminished or weakened” due to illness, disability or extreme old age “deserve special respect.” They should be helped to lead lives that are as full and dignified as possible in their diminished circumstances.

Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia (“mercy killing”) consists in putting an end to a human life. Our Church teaches that this is “always unacceptable.”

The same is true of suicide, which, tragically, is increasing in our society. According to the catechism, “Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human person to preserve and perpetuate his life. It is gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations” (#2281). It is important to note, however, that there may have been mitigating circumstances and that someone who takes their own life — due to severe depression or mental illness — may not have been capable of making that decision with full freedom and moral culpability.

We have reason for concern in the United States today, when many states have adopted laws that permit—even encourage—suicide assisted by physicians and loved ones, the Church is required to speak out and to declare that “suicide is contrary to love for the living God.”

In all these cases, the Church and all of us individual Christians have a moral responsibility to show compassion, understanding and loving support for our sisters and brothers who are under so much emotional pain and stress that they seriously consider taking a human life—their own, that of an unborn child or a loved one who is in terrible pain.

We cannot imagine how much intense pressure is placed on those who contemplate abortion, euthanasia or suicide. What’s needed above all is the unconditional love and mercy that our Lord Jesus Christ offers to all who are burdened in any way. His love is needed, often desperately, to break through the barriers of guilt and shame that surround our brothers and sisters who have given up hope and are seeking a way out of overwhelming crises in their lives.

Our Church’s absolute commitment to the dignity of life is not meant to “lord it over” women and men who are suffering. Instead, it serves as a call to the rest of us—spouses, family members and friends, neighbors and fellow parishioners, and all people of good will—to reach out to those who are suffering, and offer both words of encouragement and a helping hand wherever possible.

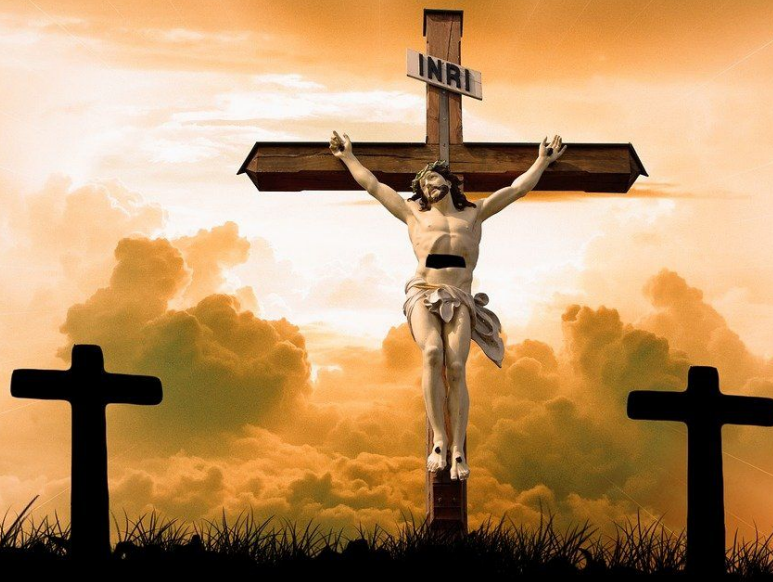
In order to be signs of the unconditional love and mercy of God, we uphold the conviction that “human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator who is its sole end.”

Because we know how much God loves each and every one of us, we affirm that “God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstances claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2258).

We are stewards, not owners, of God’s gift of life. Let’s do everything in our power to nurture, protect and defend this gift, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death!

*The Seven Last
Words of
Christ*

Sunday, March 21
5:00 pm
St. Mary Parish
Greensburg, IN



Fr. Dan Bedel



Throughout history, great men and women have left us great wisdom in their final words on earth. Jesus Christ, knowing his words would be recorded and passed down for generations, left us great wisdom and guidance in his final words. In the Seven Last Words of Christ, we will explore this wisdom and how it applies to our lives 21 centuries after they were spoken.

*Social Distancing and masks
required.*