

February 28, 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 28 – 1st Sunday of Lent – Barbara Sandhage

March 7 – 3rd Sunday of Lent – Clem & Gertrude Koors

March 14 – 4th Sunday of Lent – Cathy Wittkamper

March 21 – 5th Sunday of Lent – Carolyn Schoettmer

March 28 – Palm Sunday – Barbara Sandhage

April 4 – Easter Sunday - Ambrose & Elizabeth Volk

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 60 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.

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.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: February 21, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,188.00
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$107.00
Total Collections:	\$1,295.00

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 a second mailing to elicit more pledges. Some of you may have given part of your pledge but intend to give another portion sometime soon. The card is that reminder. If we send in all that we have promised, we will surpass last year. Let's give it our level best!

Dates to Remember:

March 3 – Wed. 6:30 pm, joint meeting of Parish Council, Finance Committee, & Buildings and Grounds

March 7 – Sunday, Welcome our new Sacramental Minister, Fr. Jey

March 21 – First Communion Parents Meeting, following Mass, in gym

March 25 – Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15 pm, Office Meeting Room

March 27 – Parish Council Meeting, 6:30 pm

April 18 – Sunday, Confirmation Practice, for candidates and sponsors, St. Mary's 12:30pm

April 24 – Confirmation with Archbishop Thompson, St. Mary's, (Candidates, sponsors and parents only)

April 25 – Sunday, First Communion Practice, parents and children, immediately following Mass

May 2 – Sunday, First Communion during regular Parish Mass

Liturgical Ministries

Feb. 28

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Lector: Melea Gault

Eucharistic Minister: Mark Stier

Musicians: The Schwerings with Abby

March 7

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

LaDonna Hoeing

Melea Gault

Men's Choir

March Church Cleaning: LaDonna Hoeing (Chair), Linda & Bailey Mazingo, Mary Jo Wenning

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 Lenten season 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," 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 supported 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! Patricia Louagie, **Decatur County Right to Life**, will speak to us next Sunday concerning this project.

Confirmation Retreat: Our candidates appreciate your financial support and all prayers and notes of support as they participated in the Confirmation Retreat last Sunday! The retreat was a very good experience for them, and they have come back to us filled with energy and enthusiasm! Please continue supporting them as they move into their final weeks of preparation.

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.

Turtle Soup Sale – Holy Family Cafeteria Thursday, March 11, 2:00 – 6:00 pm, \$5/qt, see bulletin board
Drive -Through Turkey Dinner, Napoleon, March 13, 2021, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, \$12.00, see bulletin board
Community Blood Drive, March 15, 2021, 12:00 – 6:00 pm, Napoleon Church Hall, see bulletin board.

As we begin March, we are reminded of two deadlines, both on the same date. **March 15th** is our deadline for submitting any **budget requests**, or needs for funding for the next fiscal year. The Finance Committee needs your input for their planning, and cannot fund spontaneous requests throughout the year. They will take a look at our current fiscal reality, and try to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of all, to maintain our property, and support our parish ministries. And in addition, March is open season for **mowing bids** for our parish grounds and both cemeteries. If you have done this work in the past, and would like to bid again, please submit your bid prior to March 15th. If you have never done this work, but are interested in doing so, please submit your bids. Because these continue to be “low income times” for our parish, it is pretty certain that the lowest bid will get the job. We are open to non-parishioners as well, and several bids have already come in. If you are interested, please pick up a bid form, and submit to the office before March 15th.

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.

“A Prayer when Wearing a Mask”

by Cameron Bellm

Each time we put on a mask,
May it be an invitation to remembrance,
A communal call to pause and grieve
All those we have lost,
A number so high it defies imagination.
Apart though we are and must be,
May we recognize that we are linked,
All of us held together by these bits of fabric and elastic,
Stitched into a beautiful quilt of shared humanity,
Wrapping all the way around the globe.
To put on a mask is to light a candle,
And may our light be bright indeed,
Bright enough to comfort us in our mourning,
Bright enough to dare us to hope,
That our love will lead us to a better future.

Amen.