

March 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

Mass Intentions:

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 1 - Holy Thursday – For Members of our Parish

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 50 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.

Today we welcome our new **Sacramental Minister**, Fr. Jeyaseelan Sengolraj, a native of India, having served in Greenwood for the past year of COVID. He is the youngest of nine children, born into a fishing family, ordained in 2008, and has come to the US to broaden his experience and to be exposed to “a different dimension of pastoral ministry.” He now resides at Batesville and will be commuting on weekends, while also serving at Batesville & Morris. You will find an insert in the bulletin today which he kindly provided. Welcome, Fr. Jey!

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 28, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,362.00
Catholic Home Missions:	\$107.00
Criterion:	\$45.00
Fuel:	\$50.00
Other:	\$45.00
Total Collections:	\$1,609.00

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 mailing is that reminder as well. 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 7 – Sunday, Welcome our new Sacramental Minister, Fr. Jey
- March 25 – Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15 pm, Office Meeting Room
- March 28 – First Communion Parents Meeting, following Mass, in gym
- March 29 – 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

March 7

- Ushers:** Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler
- Lector:** LaDonna Hoeing
- Eucharistic Minister:** Melea Gault
- Musicians:** Men’s Choir

March 14

- Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe
- Jerry Fry
- LaDonna Hoeing
- The Schwerings with Abby

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

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, an 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 today concerning this project.

Burial: On Thursday we buried former parishioner Marita Butz Wagner, beside her husband who was buried here almost 50 years ago. May she rest in peace.

Thank you: to Tim Scheidler for the new West Sacristy **banisters**; Mike Ortman and Jerry Fry for 15 new wooden crosses in the oldest section of the cemetery to replace grave markers that were disintegrated; and to Mike Bedel for replacing the sacristy window glass that has been broken for months, along with replacing the light switch in the sacristy closet. All very helpful improvements!

The Knights of St. John: All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry, 5-7:30 pm, 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, or 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 all, parishioners and non-parishioners, and several bids have already come in. If you are interested, please pick up a bid form, in the office entryway, and submit to the office before March 15th.

Annually we receive **Lenten Guidelines from the Office of Worship**, reviewing rituals for this season, suggestions, and updated regulation. Usually it comes prior to Ash Wednesday. This year it was late, just arriving on Thursday of this week. We were informed that they were waiting to include the very latest state mandates on COVID and to include updated protocols for this year, Lent 2021. The very first words on the page were this:

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.

Some were hoping it would be lifted. It was not. Please see a summary of the document on the bulletin insert.

Dear Friends,

I am Fr.Jeyaseelan Sengolraj from India. You can address me friendly Fr.Jey. I was born in Karankadu from southern state of Tamilnadu in India. Karankadu is 135 year old parish founded by a Portuguese Father Gabriel nathar. Three fourth of land is surrounded by Bay of Bengal. All people living here are only Catholics. SS Francis Xavier and John De Britto had done their missionary work of spreading the Gospel here.

My parents are Late Sengolraj and Arputhaseeli. I am from the family of nine having only five brothers and three sisters. All have got married and settled there and I am the youngest one in my family being consecrated to God. Our family profession is fishing in the deep sea. I used to go along with my dad for fishing in the mid night and come back around 7am and rush to school.

However, one day while returning from fishing I saw my mom waiting for me holding a letter in the seashore. I was so excited to read that letter. It was written there ***“Come and follow me, Jesus says, I will make you fishers of men.”***(Mtt 4:19). Since then, I left everything and joined the seminary and was ordained as a priest in 2008 for the archdiocese of Delhi, northern part of India.

Though I belong to southern part of India and my mother tongue is Tamil, I went to northern part of India and learnt Hindi and other local dialects in order to preach the Gospel of Jesus. Now I can speak Tamil, Hindi, English and other local dialects as well.

Having worked in the northern part of India for 12 years I wanted to come to America to expose myself and to have a different dimensions of pastoral ministry. I am really thrilled to be here and seeking your prayers and blessings. God bless you all. ***“We ascend high only when Jesus takes us there.” Amen***

Considerations for Lent and Holy Week 2021

From the Office of Worship

The second point of consideration, just as important as the first (on the dispensation) is: All Mass participants are to continue to **wear a face covering (except while reading), while maintaining at least **six feet** of social distance between individuals and or household groups, and washing and **sanitizing** hands and frequently touched surfaces. There is a note: “we are aware that the recommendation in schools is 3 feet for social distancing, but **6 feet** continues to be the recommendation in all other settings. This consideration will continue to be monitored.”

- May **begin** safe Reintroduction of lay liturgical ministers, (ushers, lectors, sacristans)
- All priests and other ministers of Holy Communion **MUST** wear a face mask while distributing Holy Communion.
- Holy water fonts remain **empty** until further notice.
- Continue to suspend congregational singing except for brief responses.
- Full choirs are still not permitted. Cantors and instrumentalists are encouraged, or small groups distanced (as in the loft).
- Virtual or private prayer and worship is encouraged where possible.
- All processions are discouraged. Have parishioners gather in their places.

The **Chrism Mass** (where the priests renew their vows, and Holy oils are blessed for the year) will go on as scheduled on Tuesday afternoon. Only priests and PLC's with a group of Deacons may attend. Oils will be available for pick up.

- **Palm Sunday:** Palm branches may be blessed and distributed.
- The Passion may be done by a lone lector. There is no need for parts. A Short form may be used.
- **Holy Thursday:** Washing of the feet is omitted. Always has been optional.
- No procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Priest may take ciborium to the tabernacle.
- No monstrance, and no altar for adoration.
- **Good Friday:** No readings are omitted, no short versions, but Passion may be by one person.
- **Adoration of the Cross:** option for multiple crosses has been revoked. **If** people are invited to come forward, they **may not touch or kiss the cross**. May genuflect or bow instead. Or, all may adore the cross from their places.
- **Holy Saturday Easter Vigil:** There are three full pages for Holy Saturday: we will not have a Holy Saturday service. We have no baptisms.
- **Easter Sunday:** Renewal of Baptismal Promises and sprinkling with Holy Water are optional this year. We will bless the Easter candle.

*** **We affirm again that being vaccinated (by any of the three options available) can be an act of charity that serves the common good.”**