

March 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:

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 (6:00 pm)

April 2 – Good Friday – (6:00 pm)

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.”

One year ago, this weekend the country was shutting down, and the Church was closed as well. Little did we know, when we received that letter from the Archdiocese telling us to lock all doors and suspend all services, that our lives were changing forever! 9/11 was maybe the biggest shock we could ever have imagined in our lifetimes, but COVID became more personal, and would come to change every aspect of our lives! Some resisted for a time, not wanting to believe it could be real. But it touched us deeply when we began to lose our friends and family members, and members of our community. All of our lives have been impacted, everyone from rich to poor, from the powerful, to the powerless. COVID 19 has become the great common denominator. We have shared it, we have survived it, and we go on rebuilding our lives together. We all respond to crises, to tragedies, to loss and grieving, in different ways, and at different rates. Some are still reeling, some still anxious and fearful. Some had the luxury of taking a step back and watching it all go by. Others were in the front lines, and continue to be bombarded by realities beyond our comprehension. Many want it to be over, want life to go back to where it was, want to go back to normal. But life as we knew it, will never be the same. We are a new people. We are changed. Hopefully we have grown. One thing we all share in common, is the belief that God is with his people. He has **been** with us, and will **continue** to be with us. He is the constant. That will never change! We have his promise!

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 **safely** return to church attendance. Let’s do it for one another.

Remember in Prayer: Benji Ortman, Gary Chandler, Jim Price, Ruth Atchley, Rylie Bennett, Denis DiGiusto, and all those newly infected with the COVID 19 virus and their families.

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, Saturday, **March 20** - 8am - 12pm; and Friday, **March 26** - 9am - 1pm; 2:30pm - 6:30pm. Please see the Bulletin insert for additional opportunities within the Deanery. 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.

Special Collection: this morning for Catholic Relief Services. Envelope in box.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: March 7, 2021	
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,924.00
Catholic Home Missions:	\$85.00
Catholic Church in Eastern Europe	\$25.00
Total Collections:	\$2,034.00

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 16 – Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15 pm, Office Meeting Room

March 28 – First Communion Parents Meeting, following Mass, in gym

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 14

Ushers: Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Lector: Jerry Fry

Musicians: The Schwerings with Abby

March 21

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Don Fry

Melea Gault

Men's Choir

Sacrifice Jars: This year our **Lenten Sacrifice** 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.

Our contributions 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. Please help them choose life! Some have asked for envelopes instead of a jar to collect funds. Envelopes are available at the drop box.

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

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.

Cemetery prepares for annual clean up: before mowers can begin, and that day is quickly approaching, the winter decorations, worn and tattered flowers and wreaths, and all types of flying debris need to be collected and removed. This is a reminder that all grave adornments need to be placed only on the monument itself, or on a shepherd’s crook. Families members are asked to assist in the clean up of the graves of loved ones. The Cemetery Committee will finish the process in the very near future, perhaps as soon as next weekend.

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 the dispensation would be lifted. It was not. Please see a summary of the document on the bulletin insert of last week.

The process suggested a year ago, to count out the exact number of hosts needed each week, after all have arrived, and then consecrating just that amount, and putting nothing in reserve, in the tabernacle, was a good safety measure, with some not so good side effects. It does help reduce the spread of all germs and viruses, and not carried them over from week to week. But, it also is causing us to begin later and later. Beginning today, we will let go of that precaution. Because Father Jey has chosen to distribute Communion each week, the number of Eucharistic Ministers needed is greatly reduced, reducing the risk. Father and Sister will continue to be the only ones who have access to the tabernacle, but we will deposit any left-over consecrated hosts there and carefully sanitize hands before and after distribution. In addition, Fr. Jey will arrive early, and plans to begin on time. We don’t have the Church clock signaling the time to begin, but will aim for 8:30 sharp.