

**March 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@millhousechurch.com](mailto:sisterdonna@millhousechurch.com)*

**Mass Intentions:**

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

April 11 – Second Sunday of Easter - Carolyn Schoettmer

April 18 – Third Sunday of Easter – Barbara Sandhage

April 25 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Cheryl Johannigman

We continue to pray for peace in our country, in our parish, 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 families, our parish, 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 16 years of age and older are eligible for the free vaccine, beginning on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Indiana is rolling out a well-organized and safe execution of the vaccine distribution making it available to all but children at this time. Research for pediatric dosage and safety is still in process. We are hopeful that as many parishioners as possible will take the road to safety, encouraging and assisting family members to get vaccinated. It is ours to remain cautious, to follow all previous guidelines, and to continue distancing (at least 6 feet), 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, for our families and for our parish.

**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.

**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.

**Stewardship of Treasure:** Our Sunday Collections: March 21, 2021

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| *Needed <b>each</b> weekend to meet budget: | \$2,800.00 |
| Sunday Envelopes (and loose):               | \$2,719.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services:                   | \$21.00    |
| Maintenance:                                | \$50.00    |
| Church in Africa                            | \$137.00   |

Good Friday, Holy Places

\$50.00

**Total Collections:**

**\$2,977.00**

**Special Collection:** As in years past, the Good Friday collection is designated for the Holy Land, Holy Places.

**Dates to Remember:**

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 28 (Palm Sunday)**

**April 4 (Easter)**

**Ushers:** Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

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**Lector:** Ben Stier

Ben Stier

**Musicians:** the Schwerings with Abby

Men's Choir

**Passion Narrator:** Jerry Fry **People:** LaDonna Hoeing

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

**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 then finish the process.

This week, Gov. Eric Holcomb has announced that the **State Emergency Plan** for protection from the COVID 19 virus will officially end at the end of April. Though he strongly encourages continuation of the precautions that are currently in place until the time when we reach herd immunity, beginning April 6<sup>th</sup>, responsibility for mandates, safety precautions, and protection in public places, will shift to the County and local government. Marion County, and Indianapolis, the most highly populated area of our state, has already stated that it will continue the current precautions, at least until the end of May. We have not received a statement from Decatur County. However, concerning our parish, we will follow the guidelines recommended by the Archdiocese, even as we begin to relax our concern. Even as the tape and markings disappear, we need to be personally vigilant about social distancing, masking and sanitizing.

**Steeple** – If you passed by this week and saw a Kramer Roofing truck (our steeple contractors) in our lot, you may be wondering, “now what?” We had some problems with the church clock and chimes. When Norbert Hoeing went up to investigate the issue, he found that he was unable to access the clock faces from the inside, as the access panels were completely sealed. Kramer Roofing returned, custom created, and installed, new panels in all four directions. Thanks to them for their very quick attention to this matter. And thank you to Norbert for continuing to take full responsibility for maintaining our clock. He could use a young apprentice!

Thanks also to those who have been so diligent in cleaning up the cemetery! It is looking good!

**Jewish Customs:** As we embark on our Holy Week customs and celebrations, let us walk in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters who likewise begin the Jewish Passover customs. While our faiths differ, our customs and traditions have a shared history. Let us continue to pray for them and reverence that history.

**Palm Sunday** - Today is a day of both great joy, and terrible sorrow. It is a time of despair, perplexity, and contradiction. Jesus went to Jerusalem to join the throngs of other Jews to celebrate the Passover feast as prescribed in the Old Testament. He and His followers traveled on foot until they reached the gates of the city, less than two miles from Bethany. Other pilgrims who had already arrived, came out to welcome the new arrivals. Some had never met Him, but were caught up in the excitement. The very people who applaud Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, shouting out "Hosanna" will, within a week, be crying out, "Crucify Him." They will first praise Him and then mock Him. Even friends entering at His side will desert Jesus. The story begins today, and we are in the crowd, waving our palm branches. This was not lost on the Pharisees, who regarded His increasing popularity as a growing threat. Riding on a borrowed donkey, Jesus makes a humble entrance. This joyful scene belies the sorrow and agony that will soon follow.

Palms were symbols of life among the nomads crossing the desert. They rejoiced upon seeing a palm, as it indicated an oasis of life-giving water was near. Palms were also a sign of victory, success, and glory. We know His true victory, will come through the cross. We know how it will end. We know that joy will turn to sorrow, but then back to joy again! The palms we take home with us are a reminder of Christ's victory over death, and that we too, can achieve everlasting life!

**Chrism Mass** – Tuesday afternoon, televised from the cathedral, the priests of the Archdiocese will renew their vows, and the Holy Oils, used during the coming year, are blessed and distributed to all parishes.

**Holy Thursday** – the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This is the day we celebrate the institution of the Mass, and honor the Blessed Sacrament, present within each church. Because of COVID the celebration will be much simpler this year. We will omit the washing of feet. And there will be no procession with the Blessed Sacrament, no hour of adoration following Mass. We would encourage each person to take a quiet time of personal prayer, during the evening or night, remembering that he asks "watch one hour with me." (The agony in the garden.)

**Good Friday** – The day of the Lord's Passion and death. This day is observed as a quiet day, a somber day, a day of quiet, a day of **fasting and abstinence**. John's Passion Gospel is read, and we adore the cross, and receive the Eucharist. This celebration is also modified due to COVID. We will not touch or kiss the cross. As we come forward, observing social distancing, we will either genuflect or bow to the cross, reverently honoring our Savior.

**The Easter Vigil** - while this feast is the culmination of the Holy Season, we will not celebrate it here at Immaculate Conception, but will re-convene on Easter morning.

**Easter Sunday** - The Paschal Candle is blessed and lighted, and we will renew our baptismal promises.

**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.**