

April 4, 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

He is Risen Today! Alleluia!

*This good news is as joyous today as it was on that
first Easter morning.*

A most joyous and blessed Easter to all!

We warmly welcome all of you! Some may be back for the first time in a long while. Others may be visitors. Some are still a little fearful of re-entry. Others have worked diligently to help create and maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all. Though we have opened up seating, we still strongly encourage social distancing (6 ft.), and mandate masks and hand sanitizing, so that all may remain safe. Thank you for joining us and for helping us to maintain these safe standards. If you need assistance the ushers are happy to help.

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.

Mass Intentions:

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

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 Sister know and we will try to arrange it.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: March 28, 2021

*Needed **each** weekend to meet budget: \$2,800.00

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$1,658.00

Church in Africa \$5.00

Good Friday Holy Places \$410.00

Total Collections: \$2123.00

Easter Memorials: We are grateful for the contributions that have arrived to help defray the cost of Easter Flowers. They were received in honor of, or in memory of the following people:

Martha Fry, Bob & Velma Fry, Wayne Fry, Everett & Mary Ann Wenning, Fr. Bob Singelyn

Dates to Remember:

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**April 4 (Easter)**

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lector: Ben Stier

Musicians: Men's Choir

April 11

Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Melea Gault

The Schwerings with Abby

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 6th, 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.

Concerning COVID vaccinations: ALL people 16 years of age and older are eligible for the free vaccine, in our state. 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.

The Sacred Triduum

During these past few days, millions of Christians throughout the world have gathered to honor the humiliation, the torture, and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Awesome, considering a global culture that usually celebrates power, strength, and beauty. But what can be more compelling than the utter vulnerability of God? God leaves the safety and glory of heaven, in a sense, and embraces the limitations of our human condition, coming to know both the glory and tragedy of our nature. In the last week of his life, Jesus completely hands himself over to us. In the Eucharist, in the scourging and crucifixion, the Son of God loves us completely without restrictions, conditions or limits. Whether we accept, reject or ignore this Divine Love, Jesus never changes his fundamental stance toward us.

The weakness of the cross, the simplicity of the Eucharist, the love that seeks to embrace a traitor, a thief and a coward is so beyond the grasp of power and politics, the swirl of social norms, and the world of earthly grasping! No wonder that kings would stand speechless in the presence of the “Suffering Servant” as Isaiah says.

If God could become poor, humble and vulnerable to love me, how can I ever defend my own self-importance? But this week, weakness becomes strength, love conquers fear, miserable despair transforms into resurrected hope, and perpetual death gives way to eternal life. We **should** let the Lord love us during this time! Let all the symbols be our praise, reverence, and love for the humble Master who has saved us and set us free.

We have the opportunity to taste the grace of the Eucharist, to embrace the crosses in our own lives, and to know the mystery of suffering in our own lives is actually the sacred ladder by which we are able to ascend to the beauty of the Kingdom of heaven. The Easter fire has reminded us that we are now filled with the mighty force of the risen Christ and the courageous strength of the Holy Spirit. As we proclaim the resurrection of Christ, may we know that the Lord walks with us, loves us and leads us to the fullness of joy and peace!

A few words from our Archbishop:

“During this holy season, create a clean heart in us, Lord. Help us to prepare for the joy of Easter by meditating on the Lord’s prayer and by always adding to our prayers of petition “your will, not mine, be done.” May our faith in You sustain us through all the hardships we must endure in this time of pandemic, social unrest and economic difficulties. Help us to cast all our anxieties onto You, Lord. We know that You will care for us and that You will protect us from every harm. Amen.

Charles C. Thompson,
Archbishop of Indianapolis

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.