

**April 18, 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](mailto:sisterdonna@millhousenchurch.com)*

**Today**, we acknowledge and congratulate a couple who yesterday celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary! 50 years of love and support for one another. 50 years of sharing the ups and downs, the good times and bad, the struggles and joys! Congratulations to **Marvin and Ann Stier**! May they continue to be blessed! What a witness for our youth!

**Remember in Prayer:** Benji Ortman, Rylie Bennett, and all those devastated by the shootings in Indianapolis this week.

**Mass Intentions:**

April 18 – Third Sunday of Easter – Barbara Sandhage  
April 25 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Cheryl Johannigman  
May 2 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Joseph & Lenora Diekhoff  
May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day – Martha Fry  
May 16 – The Ascension – Carolyn Schoettmer  
May 23 – Pentecost Sunday – Barbara Sandhage  
May 30 – Trinity Sunday – 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.

<b>Stewardship of Treasure:</b> Our Sunday Collections: April 11, 2021	
*Needed <b>each</b> weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,846.00
Maintenance Fund:	\$140.00
Church in Africa:	\$25.00
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$2,011.00</b>

**Dates to Remember:**

April 18 – Sunday, Confirmation Practice, for candidates and sponsors, St. Mary’s 12:30 pm  
April 24 – Confirmation with Archbishop Thompson, St. Mary’s, (Candidates, sponsors and parents only)  
April 25 – Sunday, during Mass, honor our Confirmation Candidates, outdoor reception to follow.  
April 25 – Sunday, First Communion Practice, parents and children, immediately following Mass  
May 2 – Sunday, First Communion during regular Parish Mass, pictures follow, in front of school.  
May 9 – Mother’s Day, May Crowning  
May 16 – honor our graduates during Mass

## Liturgical Ministries

**April 18**

**Ushers:** Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

**Lector:** Nikki Johannigman

**Musicians:** Men's Choir

**April 25**

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Jeannie Fry

The Schwerings with Abby

**Decatur County Board of Health:** You may be aware that we have settled into the blue zone on the matrix, so we are doing well as a county! Actually, the state of Indiana is doing well. Some of our neighbors are not! We will monitor that all very closely while taking our lead from the Archdiocese. Masks are required at all businesses, until we reach herd immunity, and Masks are required here at Church, until the Archdiocese feels it is safe. We did receive a follow-up letter this week from the Archdiocese addressed to all priests and PLC's asking us to please maintain all precautions. They are discussing next steps, but state "there have been no changes to our guidelines at this time." And "it is still the expectation of Archbishop Thompson that a face covering be worn at all liturgies." And "an individual's status regarding vaccination does **not** change this expectation." More information regarding other liturgical considerations will be forthcoming. But "again, the **key issue is that face coverings are worn by all participants at our liturgical celebrations both as an act of charity and to protect the common good,**" The forthcoming information may well be concerning the dispensation. Stay tuned. (Letter is posted on bulletin board.)

**Concerning COVID-19 vaccinations:** ALL are strongly encouraged to receive the vaccine "to promote the common good and protect the health of the most vulnerable among us." But, note there is **no policy requiring** employees, or volunteers, to get vaccinated. From the letter, I quote "Receiving the vaccine is a personal choice that should be made in consultation with one's physician, and after reviewing ethical guidance from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)." They go on to quote from a recent USCCB document which states: "Being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good."

**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.

**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.**

The Archdiocese has also sent a letter announcing the appointment of a new Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Brian Disney has a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Indiana University, and is licensed in both school administration and as a school superintendent. He is a lifelong and very active Catholic from St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville. He will assume his new role on July 1, 2021.

A message from the Region 15 Foster Care Unit: of the **Indiana Department of Child Services** announcing that May is **Foster Parent Appreciation Month**. They are hoping to gather donations to help show how much we appreciate our foster parents, especially during this past stressful year. Decatur County is part of this Region 15. They are asking for gift baskets, or financial contributions. Checks may be made payable to the So Loved Clothing Closet and mailed to 125 N. Walnut Street, Rising Sun, Indiana 47040 by May 3, 2021. This letter is also posted on the bulletin board with a phone number for questions or assistance.

## SOMETHING AMAZING IS HERE for our youth!!!!!!!!!!

A year ago, we started talking at our Deanery meeting about developing a **Youth Retreat** experience here in the Batesville Deanery. Some of the priests and youth leaders have been involved in planning, and are happy to announce the first ever **Intense Youth Conference**, will take place this summer June 18-20. It will be held at St. Leon, and cost will be only \$100.00 per youth to cover the speakers, and fees. The Deanery is so proud to be offering this opportunity! Learn more and register at [WWW.INTENSECONFERENCE.NET](http://WWW.INTENSECONFERENCE.NET).

**Confirmation:** the year long preparation period is coming to an end. On Saturday of this week, 12 of our young parishioners will be **Confirmed in the Spirit!** They will meet for an hour with Archbishop Thompson on Saturday morning, and then will receive the sacrament at 11:00 am. joined by others from surrounding parishes. Because of COVID restrictions, this anointing will take place with only the sponsor and parents in attendance. But next Sunday morning, we will honor these 12 youths here at Immaculate Conception. They will be joined by their family and friends, will be introduced, will again renew their baptismal promises, and will be honored with an outdoor doughnut reception following Mass. Please join us in congratulating these young adults in reaching this milestone! It was a difficult year, but they were able to reach out and serve this local community! We are grateful for the support of their parents, and for the dedication of catechist Julie Diekhoff, who went out of her way to lead them on this journey. Names will be published next weekend.

Our **First Communion** students are also gearing up! And they could use your support and fine modeling. They are indeed watching and listening as all of us receive the **Body of Christ** each Sunday. So, lets review and brush up on our own reception of the Eucharist!

- First off, we process up to the communion station observing social distancing, that is, six feet of space between each person.
- Secondly, we stop and bow before receiving, (while the person before you is receiving).
- Thirdly, we make eye contact with the person presenting Jesus, and when introduced to the “Body of Christ” we respond clearly, and audibly “**AMEN.**”
- We extend our arms, and cup our hands to **receive**. We don’t reach out and **take** the gift! We refer to that as “Body Snatching.” The Body of Christ will be **placed** into your hands.
- We move slowly, we don’t rush! Our goal is to make this exchange “no touch” meaning that the hands of the person receiving should not touch the hands of the person distributing. If hands touch, chances are you are moving too quickly.
- Those too young, or for another reason, choosing not to receive, may approach the communion station with arms crossed, signaling that they are not receiving. All people present are encouraged to reverently approach the station, to be actively involved in this rite of reception. During this time of COVID, a **verbal** blessing “God bless you” will be imparted, but no one will be touched.
- The receiving person will then return reverently to their seats, and will enter into a prayer of **thanksgiving** for this wondrous gift of life received! This is the perfect time to say thank you to Jesus for coming into your life, for touching your heart!

First Communion is only a couple of weeks away. Please be reminded, and please model for our young parishioners how to receive this most precious gift!

