

April 25, 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

Remember in Prayer: Dennis DiGiusto, Benji Ortman, Rylie Bennett, and for all those we have promised to pray for.

Mass Intentions:

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: Confessions each Sunday following Mass. Just take a seat on the St. Denis bench and Father will come.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: April 18, 2021	
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,100.00
Maintenance Fund:	\$220.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$100.00
Church in Africa:	\$20.00
Holy Places	\$20.00
Total Collections:	\$2,460.00

The Special Collection this morning is for Catholic Home Missions – envelope is in the box.

Dates to Remember:

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
May 30 – Please join us for the honor guard – salute to our Veterans, Cemetery around 10:00 am.
June 6 – Memorial for all parishioners who were buried during COVID without a formal funeral, Mass time.

Liturgical Ministries

April 25

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Lector: Jeannie Fry

Musicians: The Schwerings with Abby

May 2

Mark Hermesch, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Jeannie Fry

Men’s Choir

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 last 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.) The spring Archdiocesan Business Meeting for all priests and PLC's is coming this week, and we expect updated guidelines.

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.

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 event will all be outside including two overnights, (in tents). It will also include opportunities for adoration, confession, and fireworks! It will end on Sunday with a closing Mass at 11:00 am. The retreat is open to all kids 8th grade through senior in high School. The team is actively recruiting youth team leaders to be trained in advance to assist with group activities. If interested in leadership, application must receive validation from pastor or PLC. The Deanery is so proud to be offering this opportunity! Learn more and register at

WWW.INTENSECONFERENCE.NET. Invite your friends! Expecting 250 to 300. Registrations. First come first serve. Registration will close when maximum safe number is reached.

Confirmation: Yesterday, Saturday, April 24, 12 of our young parishioners were **Confirmed in the Spirit!** They met for an hour with Archbishop Thompson, and then were anointed at St. Mary's along with the youth of the surrounding parishes. Because of COVID restrictions, each candidate was only allowed to invite two guests in addition to their sponsor. So, this morning, we honor these 12 youths here at Immaculate Conception, where they can be recognized by family and friends. Please join them for an outdoor doughnut reception following Mass, and congratulate them on this achievement. We are grateful for the support of their parents, and for the dedication of catechist Julie Diekhoff, who went out of her way to provide support and guidance on this journey. Those confirmed this year include:

Riley AmRhein	Hunter Collins	Hope Diekhoff
Jessica Diekhoff	Caaden Gault	Campbell Johannigman
Maria Meyer	Alli Nobbe	Clair Schoettmer
Mary Schwering	Michael Stier	Evan Wullenweber

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 next Sunday! Please be reminded, and please model for our young parishioners how to receive this most precious gift! Show them how important it is to you by your reverence and respect.

MEMORIAL MASS -You may be aware that many people were **not able** to have a formal funeral during our year of COVID. Those hospitalized were not even able to have company or family attendance during their last hours. All were given a **proper burial**, but some families would like a bit more closure. We have attempted to schedule a group Memorial Mass several times, and each time it is cancelled due to more COVID diagnosis. We are trying once again, on June 6th. following our usual Sunday Mass (men have volunteered to sing), we will **remember** each person buried at Immaculate Conception during this past year. Please join us and invite extended family or friends. Following Mass, we hope to go to the cemetery to bless any graves that have not yet been blessed.