

May 23, 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

Remember in Prayer: Dennis DiGiusto, Benji Ortman, Rylie Bennett, and all of those for whom we have promised to pray. Remember especially the family friends and classmates of Fr. Jey, who reside in India, where the COVID virus is taking the country by storm. India is second only to the United States in Covid cases, however, they are ill prepared to medically serve this growing population. They don't have the hospitals, oxygen, medications, personnel, nor financial resources to meet the need. All travel to and from India has been aborted. We are asked to support them with our prayers.

Mass Intentions:

May 23 – Pentecost Sunday – Barbara Sandhage

May 30 – Trinity Sunday – Cheryl Johannigman

June 6 – Corpus Christi – Nick & Rose Ann Schwering

June 13 – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Barbara Sandhage

June 20 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Jim Meyer

June 27 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cheryl Johannigman

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: May 16, 2021

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

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$1,561.00

Catholic Communications Campaign: \$190.74

Maintenance Fund: \$50.00

Total Collections: \$1,801.74

Dates to Remember:

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, after Mass.

June 20 – Our annual Father's Day "Pop Collection" to secure funding for soda pop for Auction Day.

Liturgical Ministries

May 23 Pentecost

Ushers: Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Lector: Melea Gault

Musicians: Schwerings with Abby

May 30 Holy Trinity

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Ben Stier

The Schwerings with Abby

Liturgy Notes: While Church attendance is **not** mandated yet, **all** parishioners, of any age, are encouraged to resume liturgy attendance, because **Mass attendance is a Privilege and a Joy**. The "coming together" is our way to support one another, to build up our community. The Eucharist is our source of nourishment, the food for our spirits. Archbishop Thompson strongly encourages us to continue the use of face coverings at all liturgies, and at all times within our parish buildings. If our activities are outside, we can ease up a bit. The

greater danger is within the confined space. He still encourages safe distancing, and sanitizing of hands, every time we pass in and out of the buildings.

We have resumed using the Holy Water font (optional) We have weeks ago resumed using the tabernacle to house the Blessed Sacrament. Along with this resuming use of the tabernacle, we were asked to **restrict access** of the tabernacle to one person only. In addition, if our numbers stay low, we will discontinue the signing in process by the **end** of the month. The ushers will (probably forever) need to get an accurate head count. That process was initiated long before COVID. Attendance records guide lots of decisions, especially allocation of scarce resources, our priests.

Because our numbers continue to stay fairly low, additional steps this week include replacing the **hymnals** in our pews, and adding **sacristans** back to our mix. Again, we are not encouraged, nor discouraged any longer from singing. But as long as all are masked, it is hoped that we can diminish the spread of virus amplified by projecting our voices. Officially, choirs continue to be forbidden at this time, unless they are secluded and distanced. Thank heavens for our choir **loft**, which helps us to meet those requirements.

A reminder, concerning our **internal** doors: all are required to remain open, to allow for the greatest air flow possible, regardless of heat, or cooled air lost. Like the masking, this will probably remain in place for a considerable time.

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** parishioners, or volunteers, to get vaccinated. The memo goes 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.”

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 June 11, 2021.

****Have you registered for the Youth Retreat? Registrations are still open but moving toward maximum number.**

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. Learn more and register at WWW.INTENSECONFERENCE.NET.

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 has been cancelled due to more COVID diagnosis. We are trying once again to honor and memorialize these parishioners, 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. If you have prayer cards or pictures of these loved ones, please bring them to share, in the entry way tables.

Planning for our annual fundraiser has officially begun! Please mark August 14th on your calendars for the **Immaculate Conception Community Auction**. While some people haven't begun to circulate yet, others are filled with anxious anticipation! We may have to make some modifications. Our end goal is making money for our parish, but **safety for all** needs to be our biggest concern. We are calling for all of you! We need everyone

to help fill all of the volunteer posts that are needed. Chairperson **Tim Hoeing** is leading the way. There are just 13 weeks before the big day, with a lot of work to be done. Everyone working together will accomplish the goal!

Building Maintenance: moving forward:

Five years ago, when I arrived to begin my six-year appointment as parish administrator, there were rumblings from some about the perceived need to **repaint** the church. Among other issues raised, like tuckpointing, and drainage concerns, painting was eventually put on a back burner. The top priority that emerged was to prevent rain water from entering and damaging the school building. Thus, the first major project: the **school building repair**. You will recall, the metal strip installed by the Stone brothers, on the entire front side of the school building. This helped. Some windows were sealed, but water still found ways to get in. Even so, the ceiling was dropped in the school building kitchen.

During that first year, we had a long overdue safety inspection, which produced a very long list of “work to be done” as soon as possible. Before we could even make a dent in that list, the **hail storm** of the decade ripped through, and **roofs** on all buildings except the school, were damaged and needed to be repaired or replaced. Midway through the roofing process, which included **gutters** and painting of under drops, water standing in fields, the ball diamond, and the cemetery, became the top priority. Initial steps were planned for tiling some of our achorage to improve drainage, but before we could make good headway, we discovered flood water rushing in and damaging structures in the church basement. The “**tiling project**” was born, masterminded by Jessie Hamilton. In the end, four separate areas of our property were tiled and water redirected. This necessitated breaking up some of our newly installed **blacktop**, but eventually, the blacktop was replaced and **landscaping** was completed around the church building. The church basement structures were saved, and the sink holes (dangers in themselves) were eliminated. A lot of cooperation was needed to complete all of this work, and we somehow accomplished the tasks, and threw in three **Auctions**, and several new rows of **cemetery headers**.

Meanwhile, little by little, the smaller tasks were begun, the operating budget was **challenged**, and only necessary expenditures were approved. On our “to do list” from the now year’s old safety inspection, was filling or removing an old **oil tank** left from the old boiler days. To meet OSHA requirements, the tank was emptied of the remaining oil, and filled with flowable concrete. This project was completed thanks to Jerry Fry. The concrete not yet dry, the crushed stone still being carried in for the paving, a new problem was discovered in our steeple! Rain and wind had taken a toll and water was again entering our building. We could not begin to cover the expense of this project from our operating budget. With the initiation of the “**Steeple Project**” came a **capitol campaign**, and pledges were realized sufficient to “save our church” structures again. In addition to four major donors, everyone pulled together to secure the needed funding. Before this work could actually begin, the **COVID 19** virus was making its entry into our lives. In the midst of a total shut down, and materials sitting on trucks unable to cross state lines, the steeple work began, and was completed over a three-month period.

In addition, two **chimneys** were removed, both safety hazards. Entryway painting was completed on three church, and office entries, and before the cranes even left the property, new equipment had arrived to begin **tuckpointing**. Water was continuing to enter the school building. In the final analysis, the school and the office building both were completely tuckpointed. In addition, the many smaller projects from that original long list, have little by little been resolved. **Pipes and radiators** have been removed from the old boiler system. **Concrete** has been poured for two sets of steps. **Crosses** have been added to the infant circle, and the old cemetery. Nothing else has surfaced as an emergent need. So, **painting** of the inside of the church, has once again reached the status of consideration. It has been “on the table” since the end of August. Bids were secured and reviewed. Along with sound system updates, the Archdiocese has approved the project. It has passed through the Art and Architecture committee. Very soon we will begin contract negotiations. Stay tuned.

Roman Catholic Province of Indianapolis
Lifting of the Dispensation from the Obligation of Mass
Effective 11 June 2021

The celebration of the Eucharist at Mass is the source and summit of our life and mission as Catholics.

As of March 2020, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Roman Catholics throughout the entire Province of Indianapolis, which comprises all five dioceses of Indiana, have been dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. However, with the decrease of cases in our state, the widespread availability of vaccines and following the guidance of public health officials, we are now able to safely accommodate more parishioners for Masses. Therefore, **effective June 11**, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is hereby lifted throughout the state of Indiana.

Except for the unique situations as described below, those who are otherwise healthy are obliged to return to Sunday Mass by the weekend of June 12-13, 2021:

- Those who are seriously ill, exhibit flu-like symptoms and/or may have a contagious disease (including quarantine due to exposure).
- Those who are unable to attend Mass through no fault of their own (e.g. transportation issue).
- Those who are homebound and/or incapacitated due to age, infirmity and/or medical restrictions.
- Those who have compromised health conditions and/or at high risk of contracting the virus.
- Those who are caretakers of person who are sick or of persons at high-risk of serious illness if they contract Covid virus.

If you have any questions about any specific needs, concerns or protocols, you are advised to contact your parish directly. Your pastor, who has the authority to dispense in individual cases, may be helpful in addressing individual fears and concerns.

The obligation to attend Mass is a joyful one, reflecting the very character of who we are as Catholics.