

May 30, 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

Memorial Day

Memorial Day, tomorrow, marks the unofficial beginning of summer, the first summer three-day weekend. But more importantly, Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally named Decoration Day, as folks decorated the graves of fallen soldiers following the Civil War, it eventually evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including the two World Wars, The Vietnam War, The Korean War, and more recently, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We salute these heroes, who served our country, fighting for the freedoms and privileges we enjoy today. As has been the custom for many years, graves have been decorated in our parish cemetery, and around **10:00 am** this morning, **the honor guard from the local American Legion and VFW** will visit and pay tribute to our fallen service men and women. Please come join us for this moving tribute!

Remember in Prayer: Dennis DiGiusto, Benji Ortman, Rylie Bennett, and all of those for whom we have promised to pray. Remember especially Edna Parris, the sister of Ruth Diekhoff, who died last week and was buried in Dayton Ohio. We support Ruth and her family in our prayer.

Mass Intentions:

- 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 23, 2021	
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,800.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,330.00
Catholic Communications Campaign:	\$80.00
Education of Future Priests:	\$50.00
Total Collections:	\$1,460.00

Special collection this week is for the **Education of Future Archdiocesan Priests**. Envelope is in your box. A note too concerning the **United Catholic Appeal**, which is winding down. Your generous pledges in Fall, and since, have helped us to promise 94% of our annual set goal. Thank you! Considering the challenges of the past year, we have done a tremendous job! However, not all pledges have been received. At last check, we were only at the **75%** mark in funds received. If you pledged and still intend to make good on your promise, there are just three weeks left to make a final payment. Again, thank you for your generosity!

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.

Parish Council – three members of our current parish council are completing their three-year terms. If you are interested in serving your parish on this very important board, please call the office to add your name to our ballot. The term of service would be from July 2021 to June 2024. Parish Council generally meets 4-5 times per year, not more than every two months.

Liturgical Ministries

May 30, Holy Trinity

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Sacristan: S. Donna

Lector: Ben Stier

Musicians: Women's Choir

Counters:

June 6, Corpus Christi

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Ladonna Hoeing

Jeannie Fry

Men's Choir

Josh Hornberger, Ann Stier

June Church Cleaning: Lois Johannigman, Chairperson, Jeannie Harrison, Carrie Stier, Nancy Vanderpohl, and Kate Bedel.

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 our buildings. This may be the last weekend that we are required to sign in as we enter the building. The ushers will guide you if there is a change. In addition, they will continue assisting to seat anyone who needs to find a safer spot.

Because our numbers continue to stay fairly low, we have begun to schedule **sacristans** and counters. Again, we are not encouraged, nor discouraged any longer from singing. We will begin to post the hymn numbers, and you can join in if you like.

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. A segment from a recent USCCB document 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.

MEMORIAL - honoring 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.

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 12 weeks left 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. The ceiling was dropped in the kitchen of the Parish Hall.

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 safety 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.