

July 4, 2021

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, MILLHOUSEN, IN

*“We, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis,
joyfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people
by living his mission of mercy, hope and salvation.”*

Bulletin information is due by Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. sisterdonna@millhousenchurch.com

Mass Intentions:

July 4 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Charlotte Redelman

July 11 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Harold Klosterkemper

July 18 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Arthur Duerstock

July 25 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cheryl Johannigman

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: June 27, 2021

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| *Needed each weekend to meet budget: | \$2,800.00 |
| Sunday Envelopes (and loose): | \$2,789.00 |
| Cemetery: | \$285.00 |
| Peter’s Pence: | \$138.00 |
| Criterion: | \$20.00 |
| Pop for Auction: | \$60.00 |
| Total Collections: | \$3,292.00 |

Today, we continue the “Pop Collection” for the soft drinks for Auction Day. Look for the special jar marked “Pop Collection” in the entryway.

Liturgical Ministries

July 4

Ushers: Mark Hermesch, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Sacristan: Sister Donna

Lector: Ben Stier

Musicians: Men’s Choir

Counters: Josh Hornberger, Ann Stier

July 11

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

LaDonna Hoeing

Niki Johannigman

Men’s Choir

Steve AmRhein, June Johannigman

July Church Cleaning: Cindy Hermesch - Chair, Paula Fry, Melea & Aaron Gault, Stephanie & Tim Hoeing.

Remember in Prayer: Jean Johannigman, Dennis DiGiusto, Benji Ortman, Rylie Bennett, Rosemary Albright (battling Leukemia), and all of those for whom we have promised to pray.

*A group of parishioners **prays the rosary** together on Monday mornings at 10:30 in the church, for the intention of the parish. If you are home on Mondays and have a little time, please come join in.

Liturgy Notes: The dispensation from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation has now ended. All parishioners, of any age, are encouraged to resume liturgy attendance each Sunday. The “coming together” is our way to support one another, to build up our community. The celebration of the Eucharist at Mass is the center of our life and mission as Catholics. It is our nourishment, food for our spirits, and our source of joy.

To assist us in encouraging parishioners to return to the Eucharist with joy, the Archdiocese has prepared a number of very **brief videos**, each addressing a specific facet of what a gift and privilege it is for us to attend Sunday Mass. These video clips may be shared far and wide, using every digital communication means at our disposal. We can use them as a tool for evangelization. They may also be useful for individual and small group prayer and reflection, or for discussion.

We have a great opportunity, at this time, to highlight the centrality of Mass, the Eucharist and all of the sacraments, in ways that engage the minds and hearts of the faithful – **encouraging them to make Mass a top priority each and every weekend**. We pray these resources will be helpful to you as you continue to invite each other, and all parishioners, to return to the Eucharist with joy.

***** All resources are available at www.archindy.org/UnitedInTheEucharist .*****

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 be less concerned. 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.

Exchange of Peace: As we are resuming many actions and behaviors of our pre-COVID lives, Fr. Jey introduced back into our liturgy, the exchange of PEACE. A good move on his part! He has reminded us that this action is to be “touchless” as long as we are encouraged to social distance. He took that for granted. Some of us did not. We may nod or wave or smile, or verbally greet, but we are encouraged to NOT shake hands, hug, or in anyway touch another. This is understood throughout the diocese and encourages respect for the other. It is easy to fall back into old patterns, but hard not to. Be at PEACE.

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.”

A couple of **trees** on our property have come down during the recent storm. If anyone is interested in the **wood**, please call the office.

It has recently been announced that the first ever **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** will be celebrated this year on July 25th. Pope Francis has chosen to designate this special occasion to give a joyous message of pride and support to each and every grandparent and elderly person, even the most isolated.

With this in mind, it would be especially meaningful if, as the Day approaches, the scripture message that was announced today – **“I am with you always” (Mt. 28:20)** – could be delivered by every grandchild to their own grandparents, and by young people everywhere, to the lonely elderly members of their communities.

We will dedicate our Sunday Mass on that day to Grandparents and the elderly. And, in anticipation of the feast of Sts. Joachim and Ann, grandparents of Jesus, usually celebrated on July 26, we will explore a bit of what we know about these individuals.

According to tradition, Mary spent her young life as a child, at the temple. Her parents Joachim and Anne, presented their young daughter to the temple for service and study, in thanksgiving for the great gift God had given them through her. The memorial helps us to think about the ways we prepare ourselves for Jesus Christ to be born into our lives. We don’t know that much about St. Anne, but we know this: she was the only woman who gave birth to the Immaculate Conception.

Confused? Oh, don't be. In case you don't know just what the Immaculate Conception is, here's what it isn't. It isn't Christ being born without the benefit of sex. No, that's what we call the Virgin Birth.

The Immaculate Conception is the conception of Mary, in the womb of her mother, Anne, in the regular way, but without the stain of Original Sin. So, she was born pure.

How amazing. But that isn't all. Anne is the grandmother of Jesus, and that means God is also her grandson. He still had to listen to her! She's also the mother-in-law of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, and Mary's husband.

Anne was born in Bethlehem and married Joachim from Nazareth in Galilee. We don't know this from the Bible, because Anne's name is never mentioned. But she is talked about in the Gospel of St. James, which was written about 150 years after she was around. We know the name Anne comes from the Hebrew name Hannah, which means Grace. We imagine Joachim was a shepherd, a common profession in those days.

They were an older couple, and then an angel appeared to Anne and said she was chosen to have this very special little girl. She must have been thrilled, and a little nervous.

Since we know Mary knew how to sew, we imagine Anne was the one who taught her. And Anne likely took care of Jesus when he was a child, so Mary and Joseph could have a night out. She might have even witnessed his first miracles. And she probably scolded him when he didn't pay attention, or finish his dinner. And she passed down stories. Like all grandmas. As the Grandmother of Jesus, she has the ear of God. So, pray to her.

THE MYSTERIOUS RELICS OF ST. ANNE:

On Easter Sunday in the year 792, Charlemagne discovered the relics of Saint Anne with the help of a blind, deaf, mute boy. It's a great story.

Fourteen years after Jesus was crucified, a band of Christians piled into a boat and, with no sails and no oars, drifted in the Mediterranean until their boat made shore in the south of France. They included St. Mary Magdalene, St. Martha, and St. Lazarus, and they had the body of St. Anne with them. Some stories also say the Virgin Mary was among the passengers, and that makes some sense. Those ladies wanted to stick together. When they landed, they buried St. Anne's body in a cave, in the town of Apt, just north of Marseille.

Later, a church was built at the spot, but it fell into decay, and eventually nobody remembered that St. Anne was there.

Who could let a good piece of real estate just sit there? Centuries later, a new church was built, a magnificent church, and Charlemagne himself came to open it.

Imagine, the great emperor is standing around when a teenaged boy of about 14, deaf, blind, unable to speak from birth, walks up to the new altar, and strikes a stick on the first step.

Over and over again, this boy smacked that step, until Charlemagne finally had some workers remove the steps to see what was under there. Guess what? There was a passage under the church, and the boy walked into it. Everybody followed.

At the end of a corridor, behind a wall, through another long, dark passageway, they found a crypt. Anne's crypt.

Later, poor Anne's body was divided and her relics were sent to several churches and Cathedrals. At the end of time, she'll come back together. So, if you see a finger bone traveling through the air, you can guess what's happening!

Not much to be found about St. Joachim. But we'll keep looking.