

August 15, 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@millhouseschurch.com

Today, Sunday, August 15, our Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. In the Gospel reading for today, Mary prays with these words: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” (Lk 1:46-47) These are words from the Magnificat, the beautiful Canticle of Mary that the Church prays during Evening Prayer each day.

Pope Francis has called our attention to two verbs in this prayer: *magnifies* and *rejoices*. As the Holy Father notes, “We rejoice when something so wonderful happens that it is not enough to rejoice within, in our soul, but rather we wish to express our happiness with our whole body: thus, we **rejoice**.” Why does Mary rejoice? Because God has done great things through her. How many of us rejoice for the Lord, Pope Francis asks? “We rejoice over a successful result (like the Auction), and over good news, but today Mary teaches us to rejoice in God. Why? Because he (God) does “great things.”

The second verb that Pope Francis points out is “magnify.” Mary proclaims (magnifies) the Lord’s greatness; she praises and exults God saying that he is truly great. It is important to seek great things in life,” the Holy Father says, “otherwise we become preoccupied or distracted by many trivialities (little things). Mary shows us that in order to live a happy life, we should put God in first place because he alone is great.”

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates one of the greatest experiences in human history – the passing of Mary from her earthly life to eternal life with her son, Jesus. Mary’s death is a foreshadowing of the resurrection of the body that our Church teaches will happen to all the faithful on the Last Day. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her son’s Resurrection, and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.” We have reason to join Mary in **proclaiming** the greatness of God and in **rejoicing** in the resurrection of the dead that has been promised to us. As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let’s offer our thanks and praise to our merciful God!

Mass Intentions:

August 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – The Living & Deceased Members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. John

August 22 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Jim Meyer

August 29 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cheryl Johannigman

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: August 8, 2021

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

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$1,767.00

Maintenance: \$275.00

Religious Education: \$490.00

Total Collections: \$2,532.00

Liturgical Ministers

August 15 (Assumption)

Cross Bearer: Randy Huff
Ushers: Mitch & Lori Nobbe, Mark Hermesch
Sacristan: LaDonna Hoeing
Lector: Niki Johannigman
Musicians: Men's Choir
Counters: Josh Hornberger, Randy Huff

August 22

Tim Hoeing
Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing
Sister Donna
Jerry Fry
Abby & the Ortmans
Steve AmRhein, Kate Bedel

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.

***Rosary** for the parish, Monday mornings at 10:30 in the church. All are welcome.

Liturgy Notes: 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, our source of joy, and a “joyful **obligation**” each and every Sunday, as members of the Catholic Church. As always, those who are **sick or homebound are exempt from this obligation.**

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. **Mass is 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 .*****

For those who are vaccinated, and sitting with family members who are also vaccinated, masks are no longer required. They **are** required for those distributing communion.

Exchange of Peace: A reminder that the gesture of offering peace to one another is to be “touchless” as we move forward. 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, and hard not to. Be at PEACE.

Concerning COVID-19 vaccinations: All of us are vulnerable! Let's work together to keep everyone safe! As a nation we have been slow, but have finally reached the benchmark of 70 % of the population receiving at least one vaccination. As a state, Indiana has just arrived at the 48 % mark. And Decatur County is dragging behind at only 40 % having received at least one vaccine. We felt relatively safe for a while now, and most everyone was happy to discard the masks and sense of isolation. However, in the past week, while most of us were returning to life as normal, the virus has spread, and we are back to **high risk**, sitting securely now in the **red zone**! Just a week after crossing into the yellow advisory zone. The Delta variant doesn't care who we are or where we go. It follows. Even a couple of kids from our beloved South Decatur schools have

tested positive again. We can't let our guard down, even though we would all like to. Let's put our best effort into protecting one another. And let's support one another's efforts.

Concerning Religious Ed, vaccines and masks are not currently required. We continue to follow the protocols of the South Decatur School System. But if you are sick, please stay at home.

Auction 2021 in now a memory! The treasures are mostly gone now, and the junk is loaded in the roll off dumpster. Tents are coming down. Materials are returned to storage. Money has been counted, and the proceeds are being calculated. A huge thank you to all parishioners who volunteered in any way to pull this event off with flying colors! Hopefully a wrap-up report will come from our Chairperson in the next few weeks.

A note from The Coordinator of Religious Ed:

We are looking forward to another great year of Religious Education at Immaculate Conception! Registrations are now complete, and most fees have been received. Melea is busy lining up catechists and classroom aides. For questions or concerns, or to volunteer as a catechist, please give her a call. If you have time to invest in our youth, we will be grateful! Melea Gault at 812-614-8874.

Board of Directors – Annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, at 6:00 pm, in the Parish Office.

Dates to Remember:

August 15 – (Sunday) the Solemnity of the Assumption (usually a Holy Day) Mary is taken to heaven!

August 18 – (Wednesday) Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 pm

August 24 – Post Auction Meeting, to send out consigner checks, 6:00 pm

September 1 – Catechists Meeting 7:00 pm in the school hall.

September 5 – Mission Appeal Sunday. Our assigned Missionary is incapacitated, so note the date change. Someone will come, but a few weeks later.

September 12 – Religious Education begins immediately following Mass

Concerning the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance, Confession) We have had a long history of offering the sacrament, every Sunday before Mass. But when Fr. Bill left us in September, that ended and a time after Mass was offered as an alternative. Our numbers had been dropping off for a few years, so when no one was coming every Sunday, we asked what time would be good for you. No responses came in, so we have continued to scan the back of church, each Sunday morning, the St. Denis bench in particular, to look for folks waiting for the sacrament. We have had no one for quite some time.

Beginning this month, August, we are going back to a time **before** Mass. **Every third Sunday of the month, at 8:10 am**, Fr. Jey will be in the confessional. Maybe going back to our old pattern will be helpful.

In December, as always, we will offer an **Advent Penance Service**, to accommodate all of the Religious Ed. students. This year it will be on **December 5th** during the regular Religious Ed. class time, that is right after Mass. **ALL Parishioners are welcome to attend.** More details to come.

St. Catherine of Siena, Enochsburg campus, will host their annual Church Picnic on Sunday September 5, 2021, the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend.

St. Anthony, Morris, will host their annual Church Picnic on Monday, Labor Day, as is their tradition.

And **Holy Family**, Oldenburg, is scheduled for October 3. All parishes offer Fried Chicken dinners, mock turtle soup, games and raffles. Please support them as they support us! Please see bulletin board for flyers.