

August 22, 2021

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, MILLHOUSEN, IN

Parish Life Coordinator (Administrator) – Sister Donna Prickel, OSF	sisterdonna@millhousenchurch.com	513-410-2600
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries – LaDonna Hoeing	ladonna@millhousenchurch.com	812-614-9224
Coordinator of Religious Education - Melea Gault	melea@millhousenchurch.com	812-414-8874
Sacramental Ministers – Fr. Jeyaseelan Sengolraj, and Fr. Binu Mathew		

Sacrament of **Anointing** is available upon request.

Sacrament of **Reconciliation** is available every third Sunday of the month, at 8:10 AM

Sacrament of **Baptism** is scheduled by appointment. Please call the parish office for sacramental preparation.

Sacrament of **Marriage** requires at least six months of preparation. Please call the parish office prior to setting your wedding date.

Bulletin information is due by Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Mass Intentions:

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

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

September 5 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Charlotte Redelman

September 12 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Harold Klosterkemper

September 19 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Martha Fry

September 26 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Velma Ortman

Liturgical Ministers: August 22

Cross Bearer: Tim Hoeing

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Sacristan: Sister Donna

Lector: Jerry Fry

Musicians: Abby & the Ortman

Counters: Steve AmRhein, Kate Bedel

August 29

Mary Jo Wenning

Jerry Fry, Dona Fry, Tim Scheidler

LaDonna Hoeing

Melea Gault

Men's Choir

Josh Hornberger, Steve AmRhein

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: August 15, 2021

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

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$1,523.00

Maintenance: \$20.00

Holy Day – Assumption \$237.00

Total Collections: \$1,780.00

Remember in Prayer:

On Saturday, August 14, 2021, **Dennis David Schwering**, father of Nancy Vanderpohl, and Jeanne Fry, and brother of Evelyn Johannigman, passed away at Morning Breeze in Greensburg. Dennis (known as Henry) was born and raised in the Millhousen and Immaculate Conception Church community. A member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greensburg, visitation for family and friends followed by the

funeral Mass, was celebrated on Wednesday morning at St. Mary's. Please remember Dennis, and family in prayers. Our sincere condolences are extended to parishioners Nancy, Jeanne, and Evelyn.

Also, a little over a week ago, parishioner **Joseph Diekhoff**, fell, working outside, and broke his left lower leg. He underwent surgery for repair on Wednesday of this week, and asks for your prayers as he recovers. Continued prayers are requested for Benji Ortman as he faces new treatment options, along with Jean Johannigman, Dennis DiGiusto, Rylie Bennett, Rosemary Albright, and all those for whom we have promised to pray.

Dates to Remember:

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 19 – Catechetical Sunday Our Catechists and Classroom aides will be commissioned.

***Rosary** for the parish, Monday mornings at 10:30. This usually takes place in the church. But this week it has been scheduled to take place outside in the cemetery. All are welcome.

Church Closed Temporarily: We are all aware of the need for improvement in our church audio system. Months ago, the project was approved by the Finance Committee. Components were ordered and delayed, first due to shipping issues, and then delayed again due to production declines and COVID backlog. When we finally had an opportunity to move forward, the cost had increased. Thanks to a generous donation from the Stone Family Memorial, the Finance Committee was able to approve the project once again. The Church will be closed, beginning Monday morning, to allow for the beginning of the installation process, for a new state of the art sound system that should serve us well into the future. Installing the components may take more than a week, and we are not sure there will be sound by next Sunday. But **we will** be back in church for Sunday Mass. Following the completion of the installation process, Brad Douglas, of Designed Sound & Video (Melody Mart) of Greensburg, will be with us to teach all of us, Father, lectors, musicians, how best to adjust to the system and will make all of the adjustments as needed. Please be patient with us during this transition process.

Liturgy Notes: It is no secret that church attendance is down, not only at Immaculate Conception, but all around our neighborhood, all around our state, and Archdiocese, all around our country! We would like to blame COVID. And COVID did impact the decline. But COVID did not cause the decline. The decline began a long time before we even heard of COVID. We were asked to do head counts and document attendance several years ago, long before COVID took center stage. We would like to blame the priests, for long homilies, for the inconvenience of having only one Mass time, for not meeting our needs. But when was the last time we reached out to support them? How many have invited Fr. Jey (or Fr. Santhosh) into their homes? How many have invited them to dinner, or a social gathering? Where are they to find social support? When did Mass stop being the center of our lives and become an unwanted obligation, or even an option? Our ancestors would be very disappointed. The Eucharist **was** the center of their lives. It was the focal point of their week. Even before modern transportation, they were willing to walk long distances, even miles, to attend Sunday Mass. They wouldn't

have even considered missing Mass on Sundays. And that was before they were able to participate. They just came and listened sometimes for hours! But they came, and were happy to come.

Some say “We can pray just as well at home.” Yes, we can. But we cannot form community. We cannot share the Word, or eat from one table, or support one another from the comfort of our homes. Christ is present within us, yes. But Eucharist is communal. We must come together to be truly nourished. The institution of the church is for spreading the faith, not for convenience. Our obligation as members of this church is to spread the gospel, live the word, evangelize! And we can’t do that from home. We would like to blame someone or something, but we have no one to blame but ourselves. Each of us has an obligation to attend Mass on all Sundays and holydays, to support one another, to build up the body of Christ. 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.**

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 in any way touch another. This is understood throughout the diocese and encourages respect for each other.

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 52 % mark. And Decatur County is dragging behind at only 43 % 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 **orange 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.

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, and preparing classrooms. The fire extinguishers have been inspected, the smoke detectors are getting new batteries, and school supplies are being organized. For questions or concerns, or to volunteer time or services, please give her a call. She will be grateful! Melea Gault at 812-614-8874.

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.

Note from the Archdiocese this week: Face masks are strongly encouraged at liturgical celebrations. See flyer.