

September 5, 2021

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, MILLHOUSEN, IN

Parish Life Coordinator (Administrator) – Sister Donna Prickel, OSF

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Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries – LaDonna Hoeing

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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:

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: Sept. 5

Cross Bearer: Mark Hermes

Ushers: Mitch & Lori Nobbe, Mark Hermes

Sacristan: Sister Donna

Lector: Nikki Johannigman

Musicians: Men's Choir

Counters: Josh Hornberger, Josh Hornberger

Sept. 12

Steve Stone

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

LaDonna Hoeing

Jeanne Fry

Women's Choir

Steve AmRhein, June Johannigman

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: August 29, 2021

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

Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$2,857.00

Holy Day – Assumption: \$20.00

Maintenance: \$50.00

Total Collections: \$2,927.00

Remember in Prayer: Continued prayers for Benji Ortman whose clinical trial was unsuccessful, and who is now doing 10 rounds of radiation in Indianapolis to hopefully shrink the tumors and alleviate symptoms; for parishioner Joseph Diekhoff, who continues to improve as he continues his post-op therapy; for Rosemary Albright who struggles with leukemia, and has had an unsuccessful clinical trial, now seeks additional options; Dan Knoche, who was recently diagnosed with late stage tonsil cancer, too late to seek viable treatment options; Dennis DiGiusto, Rylie Bennett, and all those for whom we have promised to pray. When we've had a hard day, and life is frustrating, when the world seems up side down, take a step back and remember that it really could be worse. And pray for those who have it worse!

Speaking of worse – The state of Indiana is struggling too. All counties are in the red color code now. Which means our numbers are very high. In fact, confirmed cases, deaths and hospitalizations are all up higher than they were back in January before the vaccine became available. 99.9 % of all new cases are unvaccinated individuals, including many children. **Pray for our children.** Our hospitals are filling up. Many elective procedures are being cancelled. The healthcare providers are swamped! Pray for a safe vaccine for children, and please help to protect all vulnerable people by getting vaccinated and stopping the spread. And please remember to stay at home if you have symptoms or feel sick.

Please see the bulletin insert today, a briefing from our “chief catechist,” Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, concerning the **Catholic Church’s stance on vaccination.** Pope Francis has made a clear statement, and now Archbishop Thompson is reiterating it. We cannot use “ethics, faith or morals” as an excuse for not taking advantage of a viable option to stop the spread of this deadly disease. Nothing in our faith, prohibits, limits, or stands in the way of taking this step toward love of our neighbor. We are strongly encouraged, unless a physician advises otherwise for personal health reasons, to step up and get ourselves vaccinated to protect ourselves, and one another.

Dates to Remember:

September 5 – Mission Appeal Sunday.

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

Mission Appeal: Today we welcome Fr. Paul M. Gins, O.S.M. of the Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites)-U.S.A. Province, here to celebrate the Eucharist with us, and to speak about the missionary work in KwaZulu-Natal, Republic of South Africa. The missionaries need our prayers and material help to carry on their ministries. Thank you in advance for your prayers and financial assistance.

Painting Project: The painters have staff lined up and ready to go. They hope to begin work on September 8th. They will need a minimum of eight weeks, maybe more, depending on the impact of COVID as we proceed. We plan to move our Sunday celebrations to the school hall until the painting project is complete. Our new goal is to be moved back into our **refurbished space by Thanksgiving.** If it happens sooner we will rejoice! If you are strong and able to spare a little time this morning, please stay after Mass to assist us in moving the essentials to the school, and to remove all furniture from the Church. We are seeking a couple of young gentlemen.

St. Catherine of Siena, Enochsburg campus, will host their annual Church Picnic on today.

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.

The **KSJ Ladies Auxiliary** meeting for September has been changed to **Tuesday, Sept. 14th** at 7:00 pm at the Knights Hall. All able members are urged to attend since a few items of importance need our attention. Light refreshments will be served.

The Care of Creation Task Force offers for the **“Season of Creation” Sept. 1-Oct. 4**, weekly prayer sheets, attached. Also attached is a Prayer for our **Sisters and Brothers in Afghanistan.**

Prayer for Our Sisters and Brothers of Afghanistan

Good and gracious God, You who made each and every one of us in your own image, You who loved us into being, You who live within and among and through us, Help us to see you in the face of every Afghan woman and girl. (Pause) Help us to hear your voice in the cries of our Afghan sisters. (Pause)

They seek only the dignity that is their right. They desire only the freedom that is their due. They want only the chance to live and learn and grow. They need only the opportunity to become all that they can be.

Like us, they dream of a world Free from violence and hatred, Free from systems and structures that limit, Free from misshapen beliefs and misbegotten politics. (Pause)

God of abundant love, Give us all the insight to see you in the face of every Afghan woman and girl. Give us the wisdom to hear your voice in their cries. Give us the courage to join them in their struggle, As together we build your beloved community,

Here and now, in this time and this space. Amen. Amen. May it be so!

SILENCE

Ecclesiastes 3:4-7 says: “a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak”

SILENCE

The Talmud says: “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief.

Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now.

You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.”

SILENCE

An Afghan’s Experience

“When I started working for the US mission, I was 17 years old when the US military in Afghanistan really needed translators, and I worked for 10 straight years for the US military. I was feeling like I was not only serving my country, but I was also serving in the US mission. At the beginning I had underestimated the dangers that came with the job until I experienced them myself in real time. While I was in Afghanistan, I actually endured several long firefights while I was on the job. I was required to be on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When I started working for the US, the SIV program didn’t exist at that time. I

actually know many people that are waiting to receive their Special Immigrant Visa. Many of these people that I know, we worked on the same base.

Even to this day, I still think and continue to worry about my remaining family members there and I am worried because of their safety and security. The danger is real every day that passes by, and they are under constant threat. They risked their life. They were there when we needed them. And now I think it's time for us to return the favor.”

SILENCE

Prayer by an Afghan Immigrant Woman

Almighty God, today we lift Afghanistan in our prayers.

We pray for the young women and girls, for the young men and boys, for the elderly, for the sick, the tired, and the vulnerable who might feel helpless in a time of chaos and unrest. We pray for those who have lost families, friends, and loved ones. Give them strength and patience during their times of sorrow and grief.

Comforting God, we pray for the violence and chaos to end. Sheltering God, we pray for all the families and individuals who are forced to leave their homes.

We pray for protection and guidance as they embark on a dangerous journey in hopes of finding a safe refuge.

For all Afghan families who have moved to a new place trying to start a new beginning, Loving God, give them courage and patience to find their place and surround them with people who will show them unconditional love. For all those who have remained in Afghanistan, Steadfast God, protect them.

Let your love and mercy be a source of comfort for all. Reigning God, we lift Afghanistan and pray for healing across the country.

We pray for the sick, we pray for the wounded, we pray for the broken hearted, we pray for the ones who are lost. Eternal God, gather your children and protect them wherever they are and wherever they may go. Amen

SILENCE

Prepare for What's to Come

Continue to let your light shine brighter and brighter with every breath out as you send love and good intentions to our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. May our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan know peace.

May those who are coming be received with warm welcome.

May we all choose compassion and kindness.

May those who are hurting find safety and healing.

May those who are grieving find space and support.

May those who are called to serve, serve with giving hearts.

May the light inside of me and the light inside of all of us together heal our world.

Used with permission from LIRS: Solidarity and Sacred Silence for Afghanistan

Laudato Si' "Season of Creation" prayers, are provided by the Care of Creation Task Force thru the month of Sept - Oct.4.

"Season of Creation 2021: **"A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God"**". This theme highlights that every creature belongs to the Earth Community and that the entire community belongs to the Creator. A Greek word for Earth community is Oikos, and each of the beloved creatures belongs to this common "Oikos".

Week One: PROFESSION OF FAITH

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.

We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.

We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.

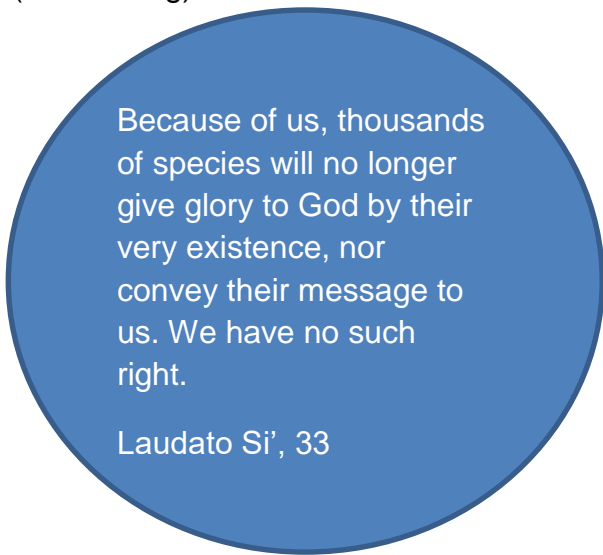
We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.

Together, we belong to the Earth, our common home.

The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it

(Per Harling)



Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

Laudato Si', 33

Prayer: As we come to recognize the urgent threats, we ask Creator God to deepen our trust in your faithful love, your work in us, among us, and through us.

Send the healing power of Christ to open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts. Unite the human family at work renewing all things in creation.

Action: Spend some time soaking up the beauty of creation and ask forgiveness for our destructive policies and way of life.

What one thing can I do to reduce consumption that is harmful to the earth?