

December 5, 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	812-614-8874
Sacramental Ministers – Fr. Jeyaseelan Sengolraj, and Fr. Binu Mathew		

Sacrament of **Anointing** is available upon request. Please call the parish office to schedule.
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.
Rosary – Mon. 10:30 am; Wed. 6:30 pm in the school hall. Bible Study Wed. 7:00 pm

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

Mass Intentions:

December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent – Charlotte Redelman
December 7 – Anticipation Mass for Holy Day, Immaculate Conception – Ralph Bruns
December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent – Arnold “Ink” Bokelman
December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Cathy Wittkamper
December 24 – Christmas Eve. – Feast of the Nativity - Jerry Jacobs
December 26 – The Holy Family, Jesus Mary and Joseph - Charlotte Redelman
December 31 – New Year’s Eve, The Solemnity of Mary – Marie & Ed Stier
January 2 – The Epiphany of the Lord – Arnold “Ink” Bokelman
January 9 – The Baptism of the Lord – **The end of the Christmas Season** – Kathryn Schoettmer

Liturgical Ministers: Dec. 5 (2nd Advent)

Dec. 12 (3rd Advent)

Light Advent Wreath: Tim & Stephanie Hoeing family

Eric & Melanie Stone family

Cross Bearer: Grady Scudder

Mary Stier

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Sacristan: Sister Donna

LaDonna Hoeing

Lector: Melea Gault

Jerry Fry

Offertory Bread: Kristen Stier

Lois Johannigman

Musicians: Men’s Choir

Women’s Choir

Counters: Josh Hornberger, Ann Stier

Steve AmRhein, Randy Huff

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: November 28, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,267.00
Energy (fuel):	\$80.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$37.00
Total Collections:	\$1,384.00

Remember in Prayer: Norbert Hoeing who is recovering from shoulder surgery, Benji Ortman, Dan Knoche, Dennis DiGiusto, Rylie Bennett, Fr. Bill Turner, Laykin & Joey Silva, a special intention, for the families and loved ones grieving losses this holiday season, and for all those for whom we have promised to pray. In addition, please pray for all those in our community who continue to suffer from COVID and related issues.

A reminder again, to please stay home if you are sick or have any symptoms of COVID. All are encouraged to mask, hand sanitize, and safe distance, to help protect one another, especially in crowds or when in close quarters. Just as everyone is beginning to relax precautions, the numbers are rising again. Indiana has more than doubled the number of cases. And some among us are back to quarantine. Please be cautious, especially when shopping or in groups where some are unvaccinated.

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 5 – Advent Penance Service at 9:30 today. We welcome Fr. Paul Landwerlin, in addition to Fr. Jey.
- Dec. 7 – Mass at **6 pm**, in anticipation of our Parish Feast Day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a **Holy Day of Obligation**.
- Dec. 12 – “Bambinelli Sunday,” bring your Baby Jesus to Church!
- Dec. 12 – Fruit Basket Project for our youth (in second floor classroom)
- Dec. 12 – Giving Tree sorting and organization (in school basement)
- Week of Dec. 12-18, cleaning (lots of cleaning) and decorating church. Many hands are needed.
- Dec. 19 – ****Our planned return to CHURCH.**
- Dec. 19 – The Blessing of our Christmas Tree (adorned with ornaments made by the children.)
- Dec. 24 – The arrival of the Christ Child!

Painting Project: The professional work is coming to an end. The lift and all scaffolding have been removed. Plastic covers are down and the first round of vacuuming is completed. The dust is settling. Detail work continues, including work on the frames of the stations. While a lot of cleaning is needed, it no longer looks like a war zone. This week, we hope to complete the stations and touch up work, finish installation of the new sound system, change out the furnace filters, and have the organ uncovered and reactivated. Between all of this a few ladies are bearing the load of cleaning, and hoping for a few more volunteers. With all of the usual Christmas activities we realize everyone has full calendars already. Please give Sister a call when you have an hour to assist, and specify the best time to fit your schedule. All of the furniture and wall hangings will need to be wiped and cleaned before being returned to the building. If all goes well this week, we are hoping to gather a few strong men next week to assist in moving the furniture back. That activity is scheduled for Tuesday evening, December 14th, at 5:00 pm - until dark. Then, on Wednesday evening, December 15th, again beginning at 5:00 pm to make use of the diminishing daylight, we will gather to decorate. Again, we will need a few strong men to haul out the trees and bring back the nativity. If these times are not agreeable with your individual schedules, please call to volunteer when you ARE available. Sister will coordinate all of this activity, and will have a checklist prepared of work to be done. Our goal is still to be back in the newly painted church by December 19th, the Sunday before Christmas. We will need many hands that last week, and for most people that is the busiest time of the year. Any time you can carve out for us that week will be appreciated (Dec. 12-19). A reminder to pray for the safety of all, especially all who volunteer, as we move forward. This will need to be a united effort.

Advent- the season of waiting, and preparing is upon us! Even as we wait to get back into our church, our primary focus is waiting for, and preparing for the birth of our Savior! We prepare our living spaces, cleaning, fixing, decorating, rearranging. We work well in advance planning special meals, preparing special dishes, inviting and celebrating every tradition, and lights begin to come on. Everywhere we look, there is sparkle and glitz! Our hearts too are coming alive in new ways and warming our cold days. We are bombarded with opportunities for **giving**, for reaching out to **others**, for remembering the **poor**, for mending our fences, for enlarging our circles, for including those otherwise forgotten, and for being **grateful** for the many, many, blessings in our lives! Prayer then, is nourished and deepened by our opening of minds and hearts to the God of all goodness and gracious giving!!

The **Knights of St. John** welcome all to their **annual pancake breakfast** this morning from 8-11. With sausage, eggs, pancakes, biscuits, and gravy, coffee cakes, milk, juice, coffee. Santa arrives at 9:00. Free will offering, with proceeds going to our parish. Please support them as able.

2021 Christmas Outreach - We are helping 9 SDES families this year with their Christmas needs by providing shoes, shirt, pants, underwear, and item from their wish list! This is sure to be a blessing to all the families again this year. Please return ALL gifts UNWRAPPED, and with the giving tree ornament ATTACHED. This will help us to know which child the gift was intended for. All gifts will need to be turned in by Sunday, December 12. If you would prefer not to shop, feel free to place money in an envelope marked "**Giving Tree**" and place in the drop box. Envelopes are available at the drop box location. Our elves will do the shopping for you! If you have any questions please reach out to Jeanie Fry, Melea Gault or Laura Meyer. If you are interested in helping with this committee reach out to Melea Gault. We would love to have you! Thank you in advance for all you do for these families!

Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg is having a **Parish Mission** with Gary Montgomery, a lay preacher from Louisville, KY on Tues., Wed., and Thurs., December 14, 15, and 16, from 7 to 8:30 PM. Parishioners from all over the Deanery are invited to attend. The theme is "Christ our Light." Confessions are offered at 6:30 pm both Dec. 15 and 16, one half hour before the Mission preaching begins. **All are welcome** to attend and participate. See flyer on bulletin board.

The 35th annual **LIVE NATIVITY** sponsored by St. Anthony Church in Morris is scheduled for Fri. and Sat., December 10 and 11, from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Live animals, live manger scene, Christmas carols by local Church and school choirs, crafts, activities, sweet treats, hot beverages provided. Free event! Please see the bulletin board for details. Masks are recommended.

We have once again been hearing the need for a **list of elders** in our parish who may be grateful for cards, visits, the fruit basket offered by the children, and the sacraments. **Registered parishioners 70 and over** were called and invited to be included in any or all of these activities of out-reach. Some have declined. A few are unable to have visitors or calls. The list is updated monthly. It was attached as a bulletin insert last weekend. Since that time, we have been able to track down two homebound parishioners who are now unable to take calls. Please add Cletus Wessler, at Crown Pointe to your list. His daughter tells us he would be delighted to receive our outreach!

The family of **Marilyn Horan** (note received from Sandy) would like to thank Sister Donna and all members of her Church family for sharing in the celebration of her life. "Our entire family appreciated the support given. Thanks for all the stories and memories you shared. They truly helped our family and highlighted what a Treasure Marilyn was and we know she loved her fellow parishioners. We would like to acknowledge and thank all those who made food and served at the funeral meal. The meal provided family members a chance to gather and celebrate a life well lived."

Give in Gratitude -

A donor to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** writes: "I can still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to next Sunday's special collection helps to provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous to this last collection of the year.

Please see the **Advent weekly Reflections/Action Steps** (week one and week two) as inserts this morning. We received them a bit late for inclusion into last Sundays' Bulletin. But they still serve to enlighten our care and concern for the earth, and to reflect deeply on Pope Francis' 2015, encyclical *Laudato Si'*. More will be coming.

Please also see the bulletin board for information concerning "Year End Giving." I can think of no better cause to support than our own parish finances. We have lots of projects going, and our weekly giving is down. Gas, water, and electricity are all climbing. Sometimes charity begins at home.

Please also note the many opportunities for **confession** throughout the season of Advent! All those offered in the local Deanery, with times and locations are posted. In addition, all those throughout the Archdiocese have been published in the Criterion and that clipping is also on the bulletin Board. All are welcome to stay this morning for our **Penance Service** with the children, though, we ask for you to allow the children to go first in line. Parents, if your child is young and in need of your support, please join them in the waiting line and model how important this sacrament is for all of us.