

December 12, 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.

Today, December 12th is the Third Sunday of Advent, **Gaudete Sunday**, a joyous celebration! The Celebration serves as a mid-point break from our preparation, to remind us to **“rejoice in the Lord, always”!** The vestment is festive in a pink or rose color! And we pause from the rushing and frantic pace, to relax and recognize that the time is almost upon us. Breathe deeply, and take stock of what is left to do. It is like a beautifully wrapped gift that we can’t wait to open. The wondrous gift is the birth of Christ! We renew our commitment as Christians to reach out to others, remembering that Christ comes as a vulnerable child who requires our concern, nurturing, and care.

In the Gospel this morning, the people ask John the Baptist, “What should we do?” he tells them to share their cloaks and their food with others, do what is right and just. We ask the same question today, after twenty-two months of COVID and uncertainty. The answer we have received is the same: Demonstrate your love of neighbor by wearing a mask. Protect the vulnerable by getting vaccinated. Keep physically distant but not socially apart. Watch out for our sick. Mourn our dead. Raise up our children to care about others.

Today is a day of rejoicing, a fiesta, a time to affirm the gift of life, no matter how fragile. Fiestas are responses of gratitude for the God who accompanies us!

Bambinelli Sunday! Bring your Baby Jesus forward for a blessing, then place him under your Christmas tree until Christmas morning, when he is placed into the nativity set. A reminder that it is not quite Christmas yet!

Mass Intentions:

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 (4:00 pm)

December 26 – The Holy Family, Jesus Mary and Joseph - Charlotte Redelman

December 31 – New Year’s Eve, The Solemnity of Mary – Marie & Ed Stier (6:00 pm)

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. 12 (3rd Advent)

Dec. 19 (4th Advent)

Light Advent Wreath: Eric & Melanie Stone family

Pat & Carrie Stier Family

Cross Bearer: Mary Stier

Randy Huff

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Sacristan: LaDonna Hoeing

Sister Donna

Lector: Jerry Fry

Mary Jo Wenning

Offertory Bread: Lois Johannigman

Cindy Hermes

Musicians: Women's Choir

Men's Choir

Counters: Steve AmRhein, Randy Huff

Josh Hornberger, Randy Huff

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: December 5, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$2,971.00
Donation:	\$5,000.00
Holy Day – Immaculate Conception:	\$60.00
Energy (fuel):	\$50.00
Maintenance:	\$395.00
Retirement Fund for Religious:	\$100.00
Total Collections:	\$8,576.00

Remember in Prayer: Craig Simon, who continues to struggle with Leukemia, and for his wife Emily and family. Alfred Diekhoff who was diagnosed with lung cancer this week, Norbert Hoening who is recovering from shoulder surgery. Benji Ortman, Dan Knoche, Dennis DiGiusto, Rylie Bennett, Fr. Bill Turner, Laykin & Joey Silva, 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 tripled the number of COVID cases. Please be cautious, especially when shopping or in groups where some are unvaccinated.

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 12 – “Bambinelli Sunday,” bring your Baby Jesus to Church for a special blessing!
- 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 is completed) Replace furniture, and decorate church. Many hands are needed.
- Dec. 19 – **Our planned return to the newly painted, cleaned and decorated 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: This week has seen our church transformed! A few people need to be acknowledged! **Donna and Sarah Schwering** top the list with four complete days of dedicated hard labor! They have to be exhausted!! They have removed pounds of debris, plaster, dirt, cobwebs, and fine white dust! And ended up washing all of the pews! **Mike Ortman** spent the better part of two days reframing, and rewiring the stations of the cross. He worked alone, never complaining. **LaDonna** too was a trouper, helping for hours on end to organize cupboards, cleaning the bathroom, carrying out trash, restocking supplies, vacuuming the stairway, and washing all of the windows and radiator covers. **Mike Bedel** replaced the light fixture in the bathroom, fixed the faucet in the sacristy, worked to replace the exit signs, and hung the outside wreaths. **Cindy Johannigman** worked tirelessly for an entire afternoon to vacuum the entire church! And the **Stier family** came to replace the furnace filters, ready the processional candles, place all of the new song books, hang the

garland and carry down all of the indoor wreaths. We had non-parishioner assistance too. The gentleman who annually tunes the organ, came back to uncover, vacuum, and wipe it down, then connected, and reactivated all of the mechanisms. He spent several hours, just because he cares about our instrument! The sound system crew returned to finish installing the electronics for our new sound system. They spent an entire eight-hour day. The wireless components have still not shipped, after almost six months, but the lectern stands, and a temporary altar microphone are in place and will serve us well. We are now ready to gather a few strong men to assist in moving the furniture back into the building, and to assemble the nativity. That activity is scheduled for Tuesday evening, December 14th at 5:00 pm to make use of the diminishing daylight. Folks are welcome to gather Sunday after the school tables are assembled if you prefer, or Sunday afternoon, whenever it seems best. The Tuesday evening timeframe is just a suggestion and may not be needed at all if it all comes together beforehand. If these times are not agreeable with your individual schedules, please call the office 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 to be back in the newly painted church by December 19th, the Sunday before Christmas, one week from today. It will take a united effort. Any time you can carve out to assist us this week will be appreciated (Dec. 12-19). A reminder to pray for the safety of all, especially all who volunteer, as we move forward.

2021 Christmas Outreach - We are helping 9 SDES families this year with their Christmas needs by providing shoes, shirt, pants, underwear, and an 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 today, 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.

We have circulated 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 the past two weeks. Please take a few minutes to reach out to one or several of the folks on our list!

Help Aging Religious: Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today many are frail and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's special collection.

Please see the **Advent weekly Reflections/Action Steps** (week three) as an insert this morning. It serves to enlighten our care and concern for the earth, and to deepen our reflection on Pope Francis' 2015, encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

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 has been low. 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, highlighting the importance of this sacrament in our lives.