

December 19, 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 19th the Fourth Sunday of Advent, is just five days before the birth of Christ! We are grateful to be able to celebrate today in our freshly painted Church! It is radiant with lights and decorations! Our gift to the Christ child on his birthday is this beautiful worship space! As we celebrate the Eucharist in honor of his birth, may we be blessed with the peace and joy that only he can give, and united as one in the missionary discipleship that is ours to serve!

Merry Christmas to all! Come, let us adore him!

Mass Intentions:

December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Cathy Wittkamper

December 24 – Christmas Eve. – Feast of the Nativity - Jerry Jacobs (4:00 pm) Holy Day of Obligation.

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. 19 (4th Advent)

Light Advent Wreath: Pat & Carrie Stier Family

Cross Bearer: Randy Huff

Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Sacristan: Sister Donna

Lector: Mary Jo Wenning

Offertory Bread: Cindy Hermesch

Musicians: Men’s Choir

Counters: Josh Hornberger, Randy Huff

December 24, Christmas Eve (4pm)

Brooklyn Ortman

Mark Hermesch, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

LaDonna Hoeing

Jeanne Fry, Ben Stier

Melissa & Katherine Stier

Men’s Choir

Liturgical Ministers: December 26, Holy Family

Cross Bearer: Mark Hermesch

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Sacristan: Sister Donna

Lector: Ben Stier

Offertory Bread: LaDonna Hoeing

Musicians: Women’s Choir with Abby

Counters: Steve AmRhein, Kate Bedel

December 31: New Year’s Eve (6pm)

Tim Scheidler

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

LaDonna Hoeing

Melea Gault

Alvin Hoeing

Men’s Choir

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections: December 12, 2021

*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,182.00
Donation: (end of year)	
Holy Day – Immaculate Conception:	\$154.00
Maintenance:	\$390.00
Retirement Fund for Religious: (Share in the Care)	\$378.00
Total Collections:	\$2,104.00

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, and has started radiation this week, Norbert Hoening who is recovering from shoulder surgery, and engaging in physical therapy, 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 or related issues.

A reminder again, to please stay at home if you are sick or have any symptoms of COVID, or of the flu virus. Both are ramping up! All are strongly encouraged to mask, hand sanitize, safe distance, and refrain from large gatherings, to help protect one another, especially indoors and in close quarters. Indiana has a marked increase in cases, and all hospitals are struggling again. Please be cautious, especially when shopping or in groups where some are unvaccinated.

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 19 – The Blessing of our Christmas Tree (adorned with ornaments made by the children.)
- Dec. 24 – The arrival of the Christ Child! Blessing of the Crib
- Dec. 26 – Blessing of the family
- Dec. 31 – Blessing of all clocks and watches
- January 9 – Take down Christmas decorations, right after Mass

Painting Project: This is the last mention of the painting project. During this week many willing hands came together to replace the furniture, set up the Nativity, and continue the cleaning process. This week there would be too many names to mention each one, but we are extremely grateful for all who pitched in to help! There is a little unfinished business: the wireless components for the sound system have still not shipped. We are fortunate to have an intact, working, and much improved sound system in place, but the hand-held devices, and the personal microphones will be added at a later date. In the mean-time there is a very good altar mic in place as a temporary measure, however, it is corded, and we need to be very careful when moving around the altar. Secondly, the ragged carpet from the choir loft has been removed, as it was quite deteriorated. For a few weeks you will hear additional “noise from the heavens” as the men move around above us. But a new “sound barrier” will be installed at least by the end of February. The delay here is due to the labor shortage. A special thank you to those who have been gathering weekly to pray the rosary for the safety of all those involved in this project. It is now complete.

2021 Christmas Outreach - Giving Tree - Thank you to all who purchased items or donated money for our Giving Tree this year. Because of your generosity we were able to purchase pants, shoes, underwear, shirt and an item from their wish list for 29, SDES kids and their families. In addition to these gifts, we were able to gift them with Sanders Market Gift Certificates, and Dave’s Service Station Gas Certificates for each of the 9 families! What a blessing at the most blessed time of year! Special “Thank YOU” to those who stayed after mass to help sort and bag the items. You made a large job fun and quick! Merry Christmas!

We have circulated a **list of elders** in our parish who may be grateful for cards, calls or visits. The list was attached as a bulletin insert a couple of weeks ago. Please take a few minutes to reach out to one or several of the folks on our list!

Thank you also, to the youth and their parents, for coordinating and delivering the **fruit and treats** to our elderly. They are most grateful for being remembered, and are calling to say thank you! They are grateful for the personal contact!

Please see the **Advent weekly Reflections/Action Steps** (week four) 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. As always, Fr. Jey is available, in the confessional, on the third Sunday of each month (**today**) at 8:10 am.

Each year it has been our custom to honor those living and dead, who have been significant in our lives over the past year, by assisting with the cost of the poinsettias in their names. An offering of \$5.00 or more can offset the cost of each plant and help to beautify our worship space, at the same time as it honors our loved ones. Please drop your donation into the drop box marked **flowers**, (envelopes provided) and add your loved one's name to the list provided. Thank you for this prayer.

Blessing of a Tree: When you get your Christmas Tree this year, turn the popular family tradition into a holy event for the whole family by blessing the tree, and asking for God's many graces to descend upon your warm and beautiful tree as well as upon your family. A copy of the blessing is attached as an insert today.

Blessing of a Nativity Scene: And bless that nativity scene as well! On the flip side of the insert, is the blessing of a manger scene, to be used on Christmas morning, as you place your infant into the crib. Again, gather the family for this ritual, and make it a holy occasion, a wonderful tradition.

The Wise Still Seek Him

And she shall bring forth a Son,

And thou shalt call his name

Jesus

For He shall

Save his people

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Let us Glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever. Amen.

My brothers and sisters, Christ Jesus, by his birth, brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing for a Nativity Scene

(Can be conducted by any member of the family.)

The infant was blessed and placed under the tree on Babinelli Sunday. As you place him into the crib on Christmas morning, bless the whole nativity scene and sprinkle with holy water.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Sing together: "O Come let us adore him,

O Come let us adore him,

O Come let us adore him,

Christ the Lord."