

January 2, 2022

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 church.

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

Mass Intentions:

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
January 16 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Carolyn Schoettmer
January 23 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Charlotte Redelman
January 30 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cathy Wittkemper

Liturgical Ministers: January 2, The Epiphany

Cross Bearer: Mary Jo Wenning

Servers:

Ushers: Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe

Sacristan: Sister Donna

Lector: Emily Baltus

Offertory Bread: Jessica Diekhoff

Musicians: Men’s Choir

Counters: Josh Hornberger, Ann Stier

January 9, The Baptism of the Lord

Oliver Hamilton

Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

LaDonna Hoeing

Jerry Fry

Stephany Hoeing

Ryan Stone

Steve AmRhein, Alvin Hoeing

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections:

	December 26	December 31
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$3,175.00	\$50.00
Christmas:	\$105.00	\$100.00
Holy Day – Immaculate Conception:	\$20.00	
Holy Day – Solemnity of Mary (New Year’s)		\$ 85.00
Maintenance:	\$100.00	.00
Total Collections:	\$3,400.00	\$235 .00

On **Tuesday** of this week we received word that **Cletus Wessler**, 81, residing at Crown Pointe, died very suddenly. He had been very supportive of us financially even though he was unable to drive or attend Mass with us. We had been in contact just two weeks ago and he wanted and enjoyed visitors. His daughter lives out of state, so funeral is a bit delayed,

next Saturday, January 8, 10:00 am, here at Immaculate Conception. Visitation is Friday evening, January 7 at Porter-Oliger-Pearson FH. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

On **Thursday** of this week another surprise came to us! Parishioner **Donnie Wilmer**, only 66, also died suddenly. His funeral arrangements are pending at this time, but will also be here at Immaculate Conception, earlier in the week.

While neither of these two deaths are COVID related, it is important to note that COVID numbers, in the state of Indiana, are higher right now than they have been since the beginning of the pandemic. If ever there was a time to be cautious, to social distance, to mask and sanitize, it is now! Please protect one another.

Remember in Prayer: Evelyn Keifer, who was placed on Hospice care, and is losing ground; Ted Harmeyer, (son of Joyce) battling cancer; Bernard Pfeifer who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and is currently being treated in a nursing home in Greenwood. Alvin Pfeifer, newly diagnosed. 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, Norbert Hoeng who is recovering from shoulder surgery, and engaging in physical therapy, Benji Ortman, 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 running full steam! 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. All Indiana hospitals are struggling again. Please be cautious, especially when in public, or in groups where some are unvaccinated people.

- **Dates to Remember:**

- January 4 – Finance Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm in the office
- January 9 – Take down Christmas decorations, right after Mass
- The Parish Office will be closed this week (as much as possible) due to a much-deserved holiday break, and due to Sister being out sick. If it can wait until next week, please try to let it do so.

It is that time of year when we pause to reflect, on where we have been, where we are going, and how we will get there. Some make resolutions, commitments, or stepping stones, to lead them into the direction they want to go. Some never get to the resolution stage, but at least refocus on the goal. They realign themselves, or redirect their energies. Those familiar with the use of a compass, know the essential nature of staying on course. The wisdom of the **Magi** rests in having the determination and insight to follow the star. They knew from study that the star was significant. And they pursued it, in spite of ridicule, judgement, and lack of support from many of their fellow astronomers (parishioners). They took the risk, they spent the time, they traveled out of their comfort zones. And they found their treasure!! The star was their compass. What is ours? What are we looking for? Will we know it when we see it? Will we have the strength and perseverance to complete the journey?

When we look at the reality of our world today, of the current day church, the state of our nation, our families and our future in general, what do we see? What are we hoping for? How do we attain it? What will nourish us? What will we follow? And how do we know it is right? It is very easy to get off track, to follow paths that take us no-where.

Our goal is life with Christ! The light! Our Hope and our Salvation! The Church is not what it used to be. But what was it meant to be? It was never intended to be a social institution. It was instituted to be our light, our compass for the journey, to help us stay on course, to enlighten us, to teach us, to be our strength for the journey. The goal is all about saving souls! It is all about reaching out to others to bring salvation to all. Salvation is the goal. Heaven is that end point. We are all pilgrims on the same journey. The goal is not to amass wealth, or power, or control. The goal is to arrive at the destination. We are given this moment in time, at least once a year, to refocus, to get back on track, to let go of what is weighing us down, to part with what is no longer useful, and to set our eyes on the destiny! Life on high in Christ Jesus! Our resolution?

New Year Blessing for Clocks and Calendars

On New Year's, as the old year gives way to the new, we pray together this blessing

by **Edward Hays**, taken from his book

“Prayers for The Domestic Church: A Handbook for Worship in the Home.”

Pray it with us, and consecrate the minutes and months of your coming year to God.

Holy Creator, you who live outside of time, and reside in the imperishable moment, we ask you on the beginning of this New Year, your blessing upon your gift of time.

Bless our **clocks and watches**, (and cell-phones), you who kindly direct us to observe the passing of minutes and hours. May these markers of time make us aware of the miracle of each second of life we experience.

May these, our ticking servants, help us not to miss that which is important, while you keep us from machine-like routine.

May we be ever free from being clock watchers and instead become time lovers.

Bless our **calendars**, these ordered lists of days, weeks and months, of holidays, holydays, fasts and feasts – all our special days of remembering.

May these servants, our calendars, once reserved for the royal few, for magi and pyramid priests, now grace our homes and our lives.

May they remind us of birthdays and other gift-days as they teach us the secret that all life is meant for celebration and contemplation.

Bless, O Divine Marker of Time, this new year, each of its **365** days and nights.

Bless us with new moons and full moons: bless us with happy seasons and long life.

Grant to us, O God, this new year's gift of a year of love. Amen.