

January 9, 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 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
February 6 – Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time – Arnold “Ink” Bokelman
February 13 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Ralph Bruns
February 20 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Charlotte Redelman
February 27 – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Albert Naderman

Liturgical Ministers: **January 9**, The Baptism of the Lord

Cross Bearer: Oliver Hamilton

Servers:

Ushers: Mark Stier, Aaron Gault, Tim Hoeing

Sacristan: LaDonna Hoeing

Lector: Jerry Fry

Offertory Bread: Stephany Hoeing

Musicians: Ryan Stone

Counters: Steve AmRhein, Alvin Hoeing

January 16

Trevor Stone

Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler

Sister Donna

Jeanne Fry

Lois Johannigman

Men’s Choir

Josh Hornberger, Randy Huff

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collections:

	January 2
*Needed each weekend to meet budget:	\$2,000.00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose):	\$1,707.00
Holy Day – Solemnity of Mary (New Year’s)	\$ 30.00

Total Collections: \$1,737 .00

Special Collection this weekend for Fuel (energy needs). The envelope is in our box.

Update from the Indiana Department of Health: COVID numbers, in the state of Indiana, are higher right now than they have been since the beginning of the pandemic. In fact, on January 6th, new positive test results topped 15,000 for just

one week. Our state positivity rate skyrocketed to 35.8 %, higher than it has been any time since the beginning of the COVID virus. Happily, Decatur County though elevated, remains in the orange range rather than red. But, if ever there was a time to be cautious, to social distance, to mask and sanitize, it is now! Please protect one another. Because many are vaccinated, we have no mandates for precautions. But the next 10 days are expected to be even higher. It has been highly recommended that we **mask until the end of January**.

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 with cancer and facing treatment. 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, Bernice Diekhoff who recently fell and is hospitalized. Norbert Hoeing 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, 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. It is not a good time to be working in health care. Please pray for all of our parish healthcare workers and their families. Please be cautious, especially when in public, or in groups where some are unvaccinated.

Dates to Remember:

- January 9 - Religious Ed. resumes.
- January 9 – End of Christmas season. Take down Christmas decorations, right after Mass
- January 18 – Finance Committee Meeting, 5:00 pm
- January 23 – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, please see insert.
- February 26 - The Annual Catholic Men’s Conference. See info on Bulletin Board, or go to www.facebook.com/E6Mensconference

The Baptism of Jesus:

If you listen carefully during the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord today, you’ll hear a subtle—but very powerful—interpretation of what happened when Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan. What the Gospel reading says is:

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased” (cf. Lk 3:21–22).

St. Luke’s account of this great miracle is straightforward, almost matter-of-fact. But this Sunday’s entrance antiphon and the Alleluia verse before the Gospel both say that the voice of the Father **thundered**: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Mt 3:17). In a **booming voice**, St. Matthew tells us, as the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, the Father proclaimed his **immense pride** in Jesus, his only Son.

This remarkable scene, the baptism of the Lord, is a manifestation of the Holy Trinity at work in our world. God appears as **the thunderous voice of the Father**, as **the humble, beloved Son** who did not need to be baptized, but who freely **chose** to do so as a sign of his oneness with us, and as **the gentle-but-powerful**

Spirit who hovered over Jesus in the form of a dove to support and encourage him. What a graced moment! Truly God **is with us here** in the fullness of his divinity and in his closeness to us, his people.

In the second reading for today (Acts 10:34-38), St. Peter tells us that God's love is **intended for everyone**. "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34-35). We dare not impose limits on God's mercy, or act as if we can predict who will be rewarded on the last day. Salvation is not limited to a few elite believers. It is open to all provided that they fear God and act justly. Quite a challenge!

Jesus was baptized with water by John the Baptist, but St. Peter tells us that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power" (Acts 10:38). Jesus received his power to heal the sick, comfort the afflicted, forgive sins and redeem us from the finality of death, not from any human power but from his Father and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the triune God is revealed in the sacramental sign of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. Following this graced moment, St. Peter says, Jesus "went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for **God was with him**" (Acts 10:38).

As we learn in today's first reading, all this was to fulfill what the prophet Isaiah foretold long before this dramatic scene in the Jordan River:

Thus, says the Lord. Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the Earth, the coastlands will wait for his teaching (Is 42:1-4).

The Father's voice may have been thunderous, but the Son **will not cry out, shout or make his voice heard in the street**. He will **quietly** do whatever is necessary to serve as "a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness" (Is 42:6-7). Anointed by the Holy Spirit and empowered by the Father's love and blessing, Jesus begins his ministry among us as a **man of peace** determined to establish **justice for all** nations and people everywhere.

As we begin a new calendar year and next week begin again what the Church calls "ordinary time," it's good to be reminded of Jesus' mission. His baptism by John was an inaugural event, the beginning of his public ministry, but it wasn't something he did all by himself. God was with him (and in him) in the fullness of the Holy Trinity. Because of this unique manifestation of Jesus' divinity and his closeness to us (his humanity), we can be confident that by following him patiently **we will one day share** in his justice and peace.

Let's pray for the grace to listen attentively to God's "thunderous voice" this weekend, and let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us follow Jesus on our journey as he leads us on the way of life. (Words of Archbishop Thompson.)

"This Feast of the Baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own Baptism. We too were reborn in Baptism. In Baptism the Holy Spirit came down to remain within us. This is why it is important to know the **date of our Baptism**. We know the date of our **birth**, but we do not always know the date of our **Baptism**. Certainly, it is just as important! Homework to do: when you return home today, ask: when was I baptized? **When was I baptized?** And celebrate the date of your Baptism in your heart, every year. Do it. This also does justice to the Lord who was so kind to us. (Selected from words of Pope Francis)

May God be with us as well!