

April 3, 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.
Office is closed on Mondays.

Mass Intentions:

April 3 – Fifth Sunday of Lent – Barbara Sandhage
April 10 – Palm Sunday – Omer Fry
April 14 – Holy Thursday – Alvin & Gertrude Mehring - 6:00 pm
April 15 – Good Friday – Passion of the Lord, Adoration of the Cross, (no Mass) - 6:00 pm
April 17 – Easter Sunday – Cathy Witkamper
April 24 – Second Sunday of Easter – Sy Kohrman

Liturgical Ministers: April 3

Cross Bearer: Steve Stone
Servers: Michael Stier, Trevor Stone
Ushers: Jerry Fry, Don Fry, Tim Scheidler
Lector: Mary Jo Wenning
Offertory Bread: Stephanie Hoeing
Musicians: Men’s Choir
Counters: Josh Hornberger, Ann Stier

April 10, Palm Sunday

Oliver Hamilton
Caaden Gault, Brynkli Ortman
Mark Hermes, Mitch & Lori Nobbe
Mary Jo Wenning
LaDonna Hoeing
Women’s Choir
Steve AmRhein, Alvin Hoeing
Passion Narrator: Jerry Fry
Passion Voice & crowd: Ben Stier

Church Cleaning April: Chairperson Kate Fry, Cynthia Roberts, Mary Jane Roberts, Kristen Stier, Patti Witkemper, Karen Hardebeck.

Stewardship of Treasure: Our Sunday Collection: **March 27**
*Needed **each** weekend to meet budget: \$2,000 .00
Sunday Envelopes (and loose): \$1,572.50
Catholic Relief Services: \$218.00
Total Collections: \$1,790.50
****A Special Collection Today for the Maintenance Fund.**

Remember in Prayer: Ruth Atchley, Stephanie Harrison, Alvin Pfeifer; Bernice Diekhoff, Benji Ortman, Dennis DiGiusto, Rylie Bennett, Amy Hermes, Drew Holzbauer. In addition, please remember all those who grieve.

Dates to Remember: Either stations of the cross, or one hour of adoration, **each Friday** evening, at 6:00 pm. Each Friday afternoon during Lent, the Church will be open from **Noon until 6:00** for private, quiet prayer and reflection.

- April 10 – Palm Sunday
- April 14 – Holy Thursday, we receive the Holy Oils, 6:30 pm
- April 15 - Good Friday, veneration of the cross, 6:30 pm
- April 17 – Easter Sunday

United Catholic Appeal Update: We have done a tremendous job with this campaign this year! Actually, this is the best response that we have seen in a long while. The goals are set high, and usually we fall short. However, our pledges this year are higher than usual. For the first time in many years, **we are less than \$500 within reach of our goal!!** Please help push us over the top! Thank you for your generosity in serving the needs of the poor in our Archdiocese, through Catholic Charities, and the needs of our retired and aging priests.

2022 Lenten Lecture Series – presented by Fr. Mahan, exploring key events from the Last Supper to the Resurrection. **All Saints Parish, April 3rd**. St. John Hall at 6:00 pm with Stations prior in the Church at 5:30 pm. See Bulletin Board for more detail.

Knights of St. John – All-You-Can-Eat **Fish Fry**, April 15th, 5:00 – 7:30 pm Dinners - \$15. Discounted prices for children. Please see flyer on the bulletin board.

“Sacrifice Jars” - Our Christian tradition of nonviolence, and prayers for peace, coupled with our empathy for the people of Ukraine suffering from unjust acts of aggression, and our Christian responsibility to **not** be “indifferent onlookers” as Pope Francis phrased it, creates quite a conundrum. The enormous evil of the world forces us into difficult, complicated, and ambivalent moral consideration. Two non-violent, peaceful, compassionate responses before us are prayer and almsgiving. Combining this effort with our usual Lenten “sacrifice jars” will serve to concretize our united efforts. As you empty your pockets each evening during these 40 days, sharing your abundance, remember how blessed we are to be living in freedom and safety. Praise and thank our generous God for all that we might take for granted. And then, pray for our suffering neighbors in Ukraine. We cannot be **“indifferent onlookers.”** Funds will be sent to the **“Catholic Relief Services,”** our Catholic arm of outreach to those in crisis states.

As most of you already know, all COVID precautions have been eliminated by the Archdiocese. Except that we may still not distribute the precious blood. Many of the new practices were put into place for our safety, or the safety of others. And many of the practices are still encouraged, just not mandated any longer. We are to continue minimizing our physical contact with one another, but not mandating any specific distance, or space. The hope is that, while not mandated, we will still utilize the hand sanitizer, and keep our extra doors wide open to circulate air, and minimize touching of items and furniture. More importantly, it is time for us to **increase** our participation in the liturgical ministries.

When COVID began, we were forced to reduce our volunteer lists, to retrain everyone, and to work hard at changing our old habits. Now, those involved have developed healthier habits and we are ready to retrain a few more people. To begin this stage, we need a few **more volunteers** to come forward. Many of our adults have joined the line of folks ready and willing to **be cross bearers**. We need more. We are always in need of clear, **articulate lectors**. The new sound system will amplify your voice, but each one needs to learn to **project, slow down, and articulate**. We don't just read, we **proclaim** the good news. We need **sacristans**. We need someone to do the **sacristy laundry**. We need someone to clean up the **bathroom** each Sunday after Mass. We have a whole new crew doing Funeral Meals, and they welcome new comers. We could use someone to wheel out, and bring back in, the **trash** can for pick up on Monday morning. We need more **choir members**, ladies and men. And we could use a few more **ushers**. Though the role has changed since pre-COVID days, it is not hard to learn. Another team of three, or a few new subs would make a big difference. Our **Offertory Procession** could expand from one person to two. We have had a wonderful list of volunteers for this service, but can accommodate more. **Counting** our donations each Sunday has been going very smoothly with just two people each week. A few new subs, who are willing to be retrained, would be very helpful. We must follow the **designated procedure** or

the auditor will catch up with us, but this too is not hard to learn. If you are available to sub once a month, give us a call. Yes, of course we have guidelines to follow for all ministries. And those guidelines may change on occasion but will not go away. But there is indeed something for everyone. When COVID took us by surprise, and doors closed, volunteers evaporated. Understandably! The doors have been back open for a very long time now, but the same people are called upon over and over, because the same people are open and willing and say yes to the invitation. Please step forward and get involved. Let LaDonna's phone ring all weekend long as you step forward to assume new responsibility and give just a wee bit of your time.

Holy Week is a time when we need a vast variety of additional help. Please raise your hand and say yes when called upon!

Sound system: Many were getting frustrated with the buzz, the static in our new sound system. **It is now gone.** You recall that following the painting project, as we moved back into the church, several components of the system that we originally ordered, had not yet been shipped. So, to get us going in time for Christmas, so that we wouldn't need to begin in silence, components that were "on the shelf" were used to fill the space until everything arrived. The static that we heard was caused by some of that temporary equipment, specifically, the black mic set up on the altar while we awaited the new headsets for our wireless component. That has been removed. The static is gone. We now are using a headset that was also on the shelf, as our original order is still not shipped, and currently the date of delivery has pushed back to June. If you are in business you well understand this delayed response time, and labor shortage. If you do not understand, I just ask you to be patient, and to trust. Rumors spread quickly, and are hurtful, and damage the reputation of those involved. Contrary to the rumors spread, we are not being "ripped off" or "taken advantage of." The mixer, for instance, is the best quality, and most frequently sold product, though not the name brand. And it was on hand because it moves quickly and was guaranteed to be used. It is serving us well. One microphone had been inadvertently "turned down" since installation, and we have been reminded to please not touch, or adjust any buttons. All are set for optimal balance and volume. All are working. This past week, some new interference was determined, electrical in nature. Brad has been here twice again, and is eliminating the possibilities. One component that is working very well is the wireless headset. No static, no interference and it amplifies well. Problem solving will continue. We won't be left in a lurch. It will all get ironed out. When St. Mary's initiated their new sound system it took months to work out the bugs. And that was a whole new building. Ours too will work out with time.

Mowing contracts have been signed. As usual they will begin in about two weeks. But before mowers can begin, we need to get our property picked up and cleaned up. I asked for volunteers last week but none materialized. Our next step is a **Spring Workday**, scheduled for Saturday, April 9, with the largest task being the cemetery clean-up. We have a record number of winter-spring burials and many graves to level and fill. Jerry and Tim will head up that project, but all volunteers are welcome and needed. The gusty winds have blown flowers and wreaths in all directions and most are no longer on shepherd's crooks or on the actual monuments. Come prepared to collect a lot of debris. All parishioners can help by cleaning up the graves of relatives and loved ones so that the mowing can begin.

The two big **broadleaf trees** in our front yard have been **trimmed** this week, curtesy of REMC and crew. They were mandated to slice back all vegetation within 15 feet of all poles and lines. The two in front of school were tagged on the master plan to come down now. But we jumped the gun on that project by taking early action. The good news is that tree trimming won't be needed again for quite a long time!

The hole in the road way across from the convent drive is filled and much safer. God bless the road crew!

Each bulletin last weekend contained an insert, an **Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Russia and Ukraine.** It was written by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and circulated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Each household, and each individual was to receive a copy, and **ALL** are asked to pray this prayer each day, until the crisis subsides and peace is restored! If you were not in attendance last weekend, please pick up a copy today and use it until it is worn and frayed. More copies will be created as needed. May **peace** begin within each one of us!