

On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser...

Mother's Day is a source of joy for many people, a blip on the radar for some, and a point of pain for others. I once learned of a woman struggling with infertility who said that when she went to church on Mother's Day, she thought to herself, "Please don't make the moms stand up. Please don't hand out flowers to moms. Please, no one wish me a Happy Mother's Day." This day can also be difficult for those who are estranged from their mother or child, as well as those who have lost a mother or child. Throw in all the Mother's Day messaging that doesn't acknowledge this reality, and it can feel even worse.

I always find it helpful to recall the history of Mother's Day, which can shift our focus to the celebration of all women who seek to nurture, protect, and promote peace. In 1858, Ann Reeves Jarvis organized Mother's Day Work Clubs to improve sanitary conditions and stem her community's appalling infant mortality rates in West Virginia. In the wake of the Civil War, she coordinated a Mothers' Friendship Day to bring former foes on the battlefield back together again. Around the same time in Boston, American abolitionist and author, Julia Ward Howe (who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic") called for a Mother's Day dedicated to peace. She wrote a Mother's Day Proclamation appealing to mothers around the world to band together to work for peace "in the name of womanhood and humanity."

Ann Reeves Jarvis died in 1905 on the second Sunday in May, and her daughter, Anna Jarvis, began a campaign to make Mother's Day a recognized holiday. She held the first formal Mother's Day two years later at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia in memory of her mother. The holiday stuck owing to Anna Jarvis' advocacy efforts. By 1911, all states were celebrating Mother's Day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared Mother's Day a national holiday.

Mother's Day continues to be sentimental for me, especially with a school-aged child and mother I adore. In addition to these familial connections, I celebrate the roots of Mother's Day and the many women who serve in the image of our Mothering God at all levels of society and in all types of families, including church community.

Finally, while I don't particularly love the priestly title, "Mother Dannhauser," I love what it represents. And I'm always seeking to live up to the name – for you, for Incarnation, and for the legacy of our foremothers in activism and peace.

With motherly love,
Adrian +

HELP YOURSELF TO FLOWERS

We've had beautiful Easter flowers adorning our church for the past several Sundays. Today you are welcome to take these flowers home. Grab a lily, a hydrangea from the altar, or even an azalea tree!

THE CONTEMPLATIVE GAZE

Be sure to join us next **Sunday, May 15, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**, as the Rev. Posey Krakowsky leads a workshop to help participants see and reflect on the visual bounty present within our sanctuary. How does the art and architecture of our sacred space inform and enhance our liturgies? What concepts are we internalizing about God and the human condition through what our eyes encounter?

We'll spend some time learning the technique of contemplative group observation of art, which is then used as a catalyst for dialogue. Go to contemplativegaze.org to learn more about Posey and "The Contemplative Gaze."

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

Save the dates for a new Christian formation series focusing on the Holy Spirit, the most mysterious and seemingly elusive person of the Trinity. We'll gather in the Parish House and also on Zoom for the following sessions held on **Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

- **May 19** – Introduction: How the Holy Spirit Works
- **May 26** – Charism: The Gifts of the Spirit
- **June 2** – Holiness: Life in the Spirit

At the start of each session, a clergy member will share about their own understanding and personal experience of the Holy Spirit to kick off our time together. All are welcome.

SUPPORTING “EARNING HANDS”

Earning Hands is a program of the Women Development & Service Society, a ministry of the Diocese of Raiwind, Church of Pakistan. Through this program, women who have been exploited in the sex trade develop skills that enable them to earn an income, raise their families out of poverty, and break the cycle of exploitation.

Items created by Pakistani women in the Earning Hands sewing and embroidery workshop – including clothing, scarves, handbags and jewelry – will be on display and available for purchase in the Parish House on **Tuesday, May 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, and again on **Sunday, June 5, during Coffee Hour.**

EVERY WEEK AT INCARNATION

Sunday Bible Study: Bible Study is held in the Parish House (and via Zoom) on Sundays from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. We generally follow the Yale Bible Study program, which offers course materials on select books of the Bible, deepened by insights from Yale Divinity School professors.

Sunday School for Children: During the 11:00 a.m. service, children ages 3 to 10 depart the service with their teachers for Sunday School in the Parish House. (All teachers have been vaccinated.) They return before the end of worship. See our website, churchoftheincarnation.org, for more information on Children and Family Ministries.

Wednesday Holy Eucharist: Join us each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. for this Rite I spoken service of Holy Eucharist, which includes a brief homily and organ music.

Thursday Candlelight Communion: Join us each Thursday at 6:15 p.m. for Candlelight Communion, a service of Holy Eucharist that incorporates chant and silence as well as elements of contemporary worship. This service is informal and contemplative, with music led by a Cantor and a brief reflection by one of the clergy. You can also stream this service at youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation.

Daily Office: Services of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer and Compline are held via Zoom. To view the weekly schedule, go to churchoftheincarnation.org/worship.

To receive access information for offerings held via Zoom, join our email distribution list by filling out the yellow Connect Card found in your pew or signing up through our website.

COVID SAFETY

The following offerings are mask-optional for children and for those who are vaccinated:

- The Sunday 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday 12:15 p.m. spoken services of Holy Eucharist
- Classes and meetings held in the Parish House
- Sunday Coffee Hour and other programming held in the church

For now, we continue to require masks at all services that include singing – an activity that increases the risk of Covid-19 transmission.