

From your Deacon...

Numb. Numb is quite a word. And it's quite a feeling, well, really, it's not a feeling. It's more a lack of feeling, it's frozen, it's dead.

Before medical and dental procedures, we may get a shot near the offending area to "numb" the pain. If you've ever experienced this, you may remember, and not fondly, that once the sweet numbness wears off, oh wow, now *that* hurts! Numb is a temporary holding pattern.

Many years ago, a friend suddenly lost her son. She lived alone and when the police called they asked if she was alone and learning that she was, instructed her to go to the emergency room of a nearby hospital where she was given the news of her son's death. I always remember her telling me that the doctor tried to give her tranquilizers and she refused, stating "If you think I want to wake up in two years and feel this pain..." Yes, numb is a temporary thing.

People in the United States have been bombarded by news and experiences of mass shootings for many years, too many. Just recently, after the horrific shooting in a Buffalo supermarket, we then learned of a deadly shooting in our subway. And on Tuesday, the ultimate horror at the Robb Elementary School in Texas, where innocent little children and wonderful teachers were slain.

And what about the 18-year old who did this? We will no doubt hear details of his life which may or may not explain what circumstances led him to this, what possible horrors in his own life could only be alleviated by this bloody slaughter. Perhaps his numbness wore off and all that was left was pain.

We've all had our own personal reactions to these events. If you felt numb, as I did, almost disconnected from it, that's okay. We've had just too much of this kind of news. You're still a compassionate human being but your body, your mind, your psyche, is protecting you.

A few years ago, orange emerged as the "anti-gun violence" color and that color was worn to demonstrations, churches, and other events. At that time, I acquired an orange deacon's stole. Then, I barely got to wear it (happily) as mass shootings were suddenly way down. But, of course, that was Covid related as no one was inside schools and other public venues for quite some time.

Today, I'll be wearing my orange stole, in prayer for an end to the carnage, and as a sign of empathy for all affected by gun violence. So, what does this mean? Is such a gesture going to make a difference? No, it's not that simple nor am I that naïve. It's simply a sign, like our sacraments, an outward sign of an inward grace. In this case, the grace I pray for us all, as the numbness wears off.

The worst thing we can do in moments like this is to isolate. The words "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20), have an agenda behind them. They're a clarion call beckoning us to be in community. That's where we find our strength, our comfort, our mighty prayer power.

Please be with us this Sunday, and during the week, in person and via our many on-line offerings. Reach out to Adrian, Nate, and me. Don't be alone in this, let's pray together.

Deacon Denise

COME, HOLY SPIRIT – Thursday, June 2

7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us in the Parish House on Zoom for "Holiness: Life in the Spirit" – the last session of our Christian formation series focused the Holy Spirit, the most mysterious and seemingly elusive person of the Trinity. 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.

SHOP TO SUPPORT “EARNING HANDS” – Tuesday, May 31

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 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.

Earning Hands is a program of Women Development Services, 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 generational prostitution.

NEWCOMERS RECEPTION – Friday, June 3

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Those who have recently begun worshipping at Incarnation are invited to a reception in the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser’s apartment, located on the upper floors of the Parish House. RSVP by emailing Adrian at adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org. Please note that in light of Covid, we use the term “recent” loosely! If you started coming to Incarnation at any time during the pandemic, you are more than welcome.

COMMISSIONING CELEBRATION – Friday, June 10

6:30 p.m. All are invited to a special service for the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser: “Celebration of New Ministry with Commissioning as Priest in Charge.” Followed by a reception in the Assembly Hall. Please RSVP through Paperless Post (an invitation was delivered to all on our email distribution list on May 6) or by contacting Thomas Reefer, Parish Administrator, at treefer@churchoftheincarnation.org. We hope you can join the celebration!

20s/30s GROUP END OF YEAR GATHERING – Wednesday, June 15

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. All young adults in their 20s/30s are invited to the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee’s home for a party as we close out the program year. Hors d’oeuvres and a variety of beverages will be served. We’ll also play some games that may or may not have some sort of spiritual component (it’s still church after all!). Most importantly, it will be a great time for connecting and building deeper relationships. RSVP to Nate at nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org.

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.