

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

“Boilers, Buildings, and Budgets”

Every seminary needs to have a course with this title, although I’m not sure if any do. I certainly didn’t find any sort of educational offering like this at my seminary.

Fortunately, my legal experience has served me well when it comes to church administration, and I’m grateful for staff and Vestry members who help me a great deal in this arena. You can rest assured that our parish is in good (collective) hands when it comes to our boilers, buildings, and budgets!

Still, though, every now and again one of these things will keep me up at night. Recently, I lamented to my husband that figuring out how to handle a certain building issue was less straightforward than I’d hoped. I was frustrated at the complexity and confusion and lack of a clear approach.

“Of course,” I quickly noted, “when was Jesus ever straightforward?” Very rarely, to be sure. My husband said that being with Jesus would have been so annoying for that reason. “Give me a break, Jesus! I have to say ‘goodbye’ to my dad!” he quipped. (See Luke 9:61-62).<sup>1</sup> I got a kick out of that one.

Life is always throwing us curveballs, from the monumental (a lost job) to the minute (a flat tire). Sometimes the way forward is obvious and sometimes it’s not. But God’s promises always hold true. One I know quite well from my childhood Bible memorization days is this: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I used to read this as an if-then statement. IF I trust in God and not in my own limited logic or desire for control, THEN God will set the path before me. This is a fair interpretation, but it’s also an incomplete truth. It can lead us to conclude that we shouldn’t walk a path until God makes it straight.

Yet trusting, depending on, and acknowledging God only happens in the process of walking by faith. Therefore, the path is made straight *as we walk*, just as God promised all along.

Jesus has gone before us, is with us now, and will be there through it all. We may never fully grasp his teachings; not even his disciples who learned at his feet could do that. And he may only reveal his plans for us a little at a time. Perhaps this is exactly as it should be, for it keeps us leaning on him every step of the way.

Adrian+

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### **20s/30s DINNER**

**Friday, August 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser is hosting the 20s/30s Group for dinner at her place. We will be bidding farewell to Group members Diana and Celso Mendoza, who are relocating to California. Email Adrian at [adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org) if you can join the celebration and wish them Godspeed.

### **MOVIE NIGHT**

**Wednesday, August 31, 6:30 p.m.** Join us for a combined fellowship and learning opportunity. The subject of our gathering will be the film *Father Stu*. *Father Stu* is the true story of a boxer turned Catholic priest who inspired countless people during his journey from self-destruction to redemption.

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<sup>1</sup> “Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to my family.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

We'll gather in the Parish House for some refreshments and a viewing of the film. Afterwards, we'll stick around for a discussion of its key themes and message. Contact the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee at [nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org) with any questions.

### BACKPACK DRIVE

With school opening soon, our community partner Hour Children is again in need of backpacks for kids from pre-K to high school - and welcomes any and all designs and colors. Here are three easy ways to donate a backpack:

1. Purchase a backpack from the "Incarnation Hour Children Donations" Amazon gift list, and it will be delivered directly to Hour Children. (The link can be found in the weekly e-minder. Consider adding a free gift note to let them know the backpack comes from our parish.)
2. Select an online shop of your choosing and use this delivery address: Hour Children, ATTN: Kellie Phelan, 3611 12th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106
3. Purchase a backpack to bring to church or drop off at the Parish House.

If you are hand delivering a backpack, please drop it off by **Sunday, September 4.**

### HOMECOMING SUNDAY – SAVE THE DATE!

Our 2022-2023 program year begins with **Homecoming Sunday, September 11.** Homecoming marks the return of the Incarnation Choir and various fellowship and formation offerings.

We are pleased to bring back our Homecoming Bagel Brunch, which will take place in the Assembly Hall after the 11:00 a.m. service.

**We will also welcome new members during worship!** If you are interested in becoming a member of Incarnation, please contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser.

### WEEKDAY WORSHIP AT INCARNATION

**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, organ music, and healing prayer with holy oil.

**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](https://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](https://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.*