

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

I have great news! Dr. Thomas M. Reefer is being promoted from Interim Music Director to Music Director effective today, October 1.

For nearly four years I have had the privilege of working closely with Thomas in his role as Parish Administrator and, since last November, Interim Music Director. Thomas' energy and enthusiasm are truly boundless, matched only by his dedication and desire to serve God through the work of the church. From building out our online streaming capabilities during the pandemic, to introducing a bagpiper for Homecoming Sunday, Thomas simply makes everything better.

I remember at a Vestry retreat earlier this year, Thomas volunteered to prepare brunch. He went from cooking in the kitchen, to giving the Vestry a presentation on Incarnate Jazz, returning to the kitchen, and then coming back to discuss proposals he had solicited from organ builders. "Is there anything he can't do?" a Vestry member remarked. Thomas returned to the meeting a short while later to answer questions about upgrading our church management software.

Thomas is also one of the funniest people you will ever meet, and I encourage you to chat him up for a good laugh. I once overheard him on the phone saying he would ride down Park Avenue on a donkey and shout Hosannas in praise of the person he was talking to. I guess they had made his day!

I hope you will join me in congratulating Thomas and giving thanks to God for his many gifts. His music lifts our hearts, fills our souls with gladness, and transports us to the very throne of God. Thomas has also brought on an Assistant Music Director, our new bass, Bert Johnson. Perhaps you've already seen Bert conducting the choir. Add to that Thomas' introduction of piano music during the 11:00 a.m. service and, of course, his oversight of the upcoming organ restoration. These are all signs that our music program is going from strength to strength.

Praise God we are in such good and capable hands. May today's worship be especially joyful in celebration of Jesus Christ and his faithful servant Thomas!

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

Visitors are invited to pick up a welcome bag at the back of the church following the service. All are welcome to Coffee Hour in the Parish House.

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. "Our Beliefs, Our Practices, Our Parish". All are welcome to session two of this three-part series aimed primarily at helping newcomers and new members integrate into the parish. Join us in the Assembly Hall for a discussion about Christian practices that ground our lives in the faith. The final session will take place at the same time on **October 8.**

FACES OF INCARNATION

Are you ready for your "close-up"? Deacon Denise is asking everyone to email her a headshot at dlavetty@churchoftheincarnation.org (or she can take one at Coffee Hour!). You can choose to have your picture (1) used for internal purposes only (i.e., uploaded to the church database viewable by Incarnation staff) or also (2) displayed with others in the Parish House, captioned with names.

This will help us all get to know each other better and more quickly – putting faces to names and names to faces. Thanks in advance for your participation and...don't forget to SMILE!

ORGAN CAMPAIGN



We are moving along with plans to restore and renew the organ. Scan the QR Code to watch a video about the specific restoration work needed. We are also engaging an independent feasibility study to formally assess support for a campaign in the parish and to determine a realistic and achievable campaign goal. Feasibility study survey materials were recently sent to those on our email distribution list (search for the subject line "Church of the Incarnation Feasibility Study"). Please respond by the **new survey deadline of October 5.** We welcome your feedback, which will allow us to make important decisions about how to move forward.

CELEBRATING ST. FRANCIS DAY

Thursday, October 5, 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. We'll be celebrating the Feast of St. Francis at Candlelight Communion on October 5th. We invite you to bring your pet, stuffed animal or picture of a pet (including departed pets) to the service to be blessed.

OUTING FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, October 14, 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. Parents and children of all ages are invited to St. Vartan Park (near 35th St. and 1st. Ave.). We'll gather at the picnic tables for donuts, coffee, and fun activities on the playground. Email the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee to RSVP (nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org) and feel free to invite friends.

ECCLESIA MINISTRIES

Sunday, October 15, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Come to the Parish House Dining Room to help make sandwiches and pack lunches for Ecclesia Ministries of New York, which serves those who are food and housing insecure.

The Rev. Deacon Denise LaVetty serves an Ecclesia congregation that currently worships in the courtyard of Church of the Transfiguration (29th Street, between 5th and Madison) every Sunday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Parishioners are also invited to attend this 2:00 p.m. service of Holy Eucharist and then distribute the lunches.

WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING?

Thursday, October 19, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Join us for a "Third Thursday" program to kick off our Fall book study on Miroslav Volf's *Life Worth Living*. That evening, your priests will host a panel called: "What Makes Life Worth Living?" All of us struggle with the question of how to live a good life, and what gives life meaning and purpose. To help us all think through those questions, Adrian and Nate will open up about their struggles, and the work they have done (or are doing) to try to get from where they are to where they feel called to be.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JAMES BALDWIN

Sunday, October 22, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The Twentieth century author and activist James Baldwin offered a variety of critiques of religion, culture, and discrimination. In all his works, Baldwin holds up hope and the primacy of love despite the difficulties of the present moment. In *The Gospel According to James Baldwin*, author Greg Garrett explores how the life and work of Baldwin can deepen our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus—especially as it relates to themes of equity, justice, and reconciliation. Greg will guest preach at the 11:00 a.m. service and then lead a forum on his new book.

EVERY WEEK AT INCARNATION

Sunday Bible Study: Bible Study is held in the Parish House from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Nursery Care for Children: During the 11:00 a.m. service, children ages 3 to 9 (pre-K through 4th grade) depart the service with their teacher for Sunday School in the Parish House. Nursery care is provided in the Parish House from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Learn more about Family Ministries at Incarnation, including offerings for older children, on the church website.

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.

Daily Office: Services of Morning Prayer and Compline are held via Zoom. To view the weekly schedule, go to churchoftheincarnation.org/worship. To receive Zoom access, join our email distribution list by filling out the yellow Connect Card found in your pew or signing up through our website.