

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

I have a confession to make. This Sunday, I'm ditching the Gospel lesson appointed for All Saints' Day and preaching on a different one altogether. Please don't out me to our Bishop. The Gospel I *should* be preaching on is Matthew's version of the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes paint a portrait of Christ and a portrait of saintliness, which is a state of being that aligns with the heart of God. I love them and have preached and written about them many times. Although I don't know that I've ever had something as powerful to say about the Beatitudes as Lutheran Pastor Nadia Bolz Weber. In her treatment of the Beatitudes, she imagines some new ones that Jesus might offer based on the simple fact that he lavishes his blessings on everyone, even and especially those who aren't feeling all that blessed.

What follows is Nadia's "Beatitude Benediction," which she has given in worship and at speaking events all over the world. I hope you are blessed by it as much as I am.

Blessed are the agnostics.

Blessed are they who doubt. Those who aren't sure, who can still be surprised.

Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished and therefore not so certain about everything that they no longer take in new information.

Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.

Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion.

Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill an ocean.

Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like.

Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.

Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for granted anymore.

Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else.

Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are those who no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The night-shift street sweepers.

Blessed are the forgotten.

Blessed are the closeted.

Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the underrepresented.

Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms.

Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard, for Jesus chose to surround himself with people like them.

Blessed are those without documentation.

Blessed are the ones without lobbyists.

Blessed are foster kids and special-ed kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved.

Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people.

Blessed are the burned-out social workers and the overworked teachers and the pro bono case takers.

Blessed are the kindhearted football players and the fundraising trophy wives.

Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak.

Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven.

Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me when I didn't deserve it.

Blessed are the merciful, for they totally get it.

Adrian+

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

We are pleased to celebrate Rohan Edrisinha's graduation from Education for Ministry (EfM), a four-year Christian formation program developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South and facilitated by the Rev. Greg Morgan at Incarnation. Rohan will speak at Coffee Hour about the ways EfM has benefitted his faith journey.

WALK IN LOVE STEWARDSHIP RECEPTION

Thursday, November 5, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Join us for this special reception that is part of our 2027 Stewardship Campaign: *Walk in Love*. We'll be joined by the Rev. Canon Claire Woodley, our guest preacher for Commitment Sunday, November 15. Claire will offer some remarks about spiritual gifts, faithful stewardship, and financial freedom. We'll also enjoy drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and musical entertainment. There is no cost to attend. Scan the QR code or call the church to RSVP.



In addition to attending the reception, we invite you to participate further by bringing an object that is associated with a vivid memory of your experience of giving or receiving love.

You can also volunteer! We're looking for people to contribute food, wine, decorations, and helping hands for set-up and clean-up. Email Anne Tong at aytonglius@gmail.com if you can assist.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, November 8, 10:00 to 10:40 a.m. The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser leads the fifth session in a seven-part series on the biblical meaning of redemption: "Redemption from Exile."

ALTAR GUILD LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 8, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser will host a special luncheon for members of the Altar Guild in her apartment. We give thanks for the Guild and their sacred work in caring for the altar, vessels, and linens for the Eucharist. Prospective members are also welcome! If you are interested in becoming part of the Altar Guild, please join us. Email Adrian at adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation to RSVP.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, November 15, marks the culmination of our stewardship season. It's Commitment Sunday and the day that all individuals, couples, and families are asked to make a financial pledge for 2027. Parishioners will be invited to place their 2027 Commitment Cards in the offering plate to be blessed. By doing so, we acknowledge before God and each other our intentions to set apart a percentage of our income to help build God's kingdom through the work of Incarnation.

BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Roll up your sleeves and live out our mission of love by joining us in the church for our upcoming community blood drive. Every single donation has the power to save up to three lives and provide vital support to patients in need. Please note that donating blood takes 45 minutes to 1 hour. The minimum age is 17, and donors aged 76 or above must provide a one-time doctor's note confirming they are in good health and eligible to donate. Scan the QR code or go to bit.ly/3W8M4JT to schedule your appointment.



VOLUNTEER FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR!

Saturday, December 5, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Incarnation's Christmas Fair dates back to 1942 and is one of Murray Hill's most anticipated events. The Fair includes a Silent Auction, a Christmas Boutique, and a Café and Bake Sale. Parishioners are essential to the Fair's success. Here are ways you can help:

- **Donate an item for the Silent Auction.** Examples include gift certificates to local restaurants, theater tickets, and items for gift baskets (nice wines, fancy mustards, gourmet coffee, etc.).
- **Donate gently used housewares and other saleable items.** (Please note we cannot accept clothing.)
- **Give an hour or two of your time for set-up.** We'll be setting up in the Parish House the week prior to the Fair.
- **Serve customers** and help with logistics during the Fair, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Speak to Laurie Mygatt or Monica Culoso if you can volunteer for the Fair and/or solicit items for the Silent Auction. Speak to Susan Ridgeway if you can volunteer for the Café or donate baked goods.

KEEP IT COOL CAMPAIGN

We reached our \$150,000 goal in the *Keep It Cool* capital campaign to replace the AC in the church. Now let's shoot for our \$175,000 "stretch" goal!

- Number of pledgers/donors: **35**
- Total amount pledged: **\$155,389**
- Total amount received: **\$40,346**

Will you help keep the momentum going? Use the pledge card in your pew by filling it out or scanning the QR code. Pick up a letter from the Rector and Wardens at the back of the church to learn more about this capital project.

EVERY WEEK AT INCARNATION

Sunday Bible Study: Bible Study is held in the Parish House from 10:00 to 10:40 a.m.

Sunday School 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. Learn more about Family Ministries at Incarnation, including offerings for older children, on the church website.

Tuesday Morning Prayer: Join us on Zoom each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. for Morning Prayer. Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser or sign up for our weekly email to access the Zoom link.

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.