On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser…

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I'm reminded of the familiar refrain I hear when hosting a dinner party – "What can I bring?"

"What can I bring?" is a wonderful question because it assumes two things: that we have something to offer, and that what we want to offer is welcome. What if we approached our life with God in much the same way? What if we understood that God welcomes not just our presence, but also our gifts, talents, time, and resources?

Each week, we bring bread, wine, and money to the altar. The bread and wine are blessed and become Christ's real presence among us. The money we offer is also placed on the altar as a sign of our lives and labor. It is blessed too—not so that the money itself will be changed, but so that we may be changed through the act of offering it. And during the Eucharistic Prayer, we offer and present our entire selves, "our souls and bodies" for God to bless and conform to Christ's likeness.

I love that our liturgy invites us to consider what it means to offer all that we have and all that we are for God's holy purposes. Today—Commitment Sunday—we'll add another element to our worship in this same spirit of self-offering. Rather than hearing the familiar dismissal that sends us out into the world, we'll be invited to walk forward in love to place our 2027 Commitment Cards at the foot of the chancel steps (i.e., at God's feet). In so doing, our financial commitments become an act of worship and a tangible expression of our gratitude and our participation in the life of this parish.

Commitment Sunday is a day of celebration, as we give thanks for the blessings we have received and reflect on what we are called to offer in return. As you consider making a financial pledge to Incarnation for 2027, remember that familiar dinner-party question: "What can I bring?" We come to God with the same desire to be generous, knowing that what we have to offer is welcome and worthy of blessing.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Commitment Sunday is the culmination of our stewardship season and the day that all individuals, couples, and families are invited to make a financial pledge for next year. Here are a few things to consider as you discern how God is calling you to support Incarnation in 2027.

- The biblical standard of giving is the **tithe**, which means **10 percent** of one's income.
- Nationwide, Christians give around **2.5 percent** of their income to churches.
- The average pledge made in the Episcopal Diocese of New York in 2025 was **$3,427**.
- No matter the size, each pledge makes a difference in the life of the church and the life of the giver.

Good stewardship also includes commitments in service to Incarnation's ministries in the parish and surrounding community. We welcome volunteers on Sunday mornings (e.g., ushering, lay reading, altar guild, bearing the chalice, hospitality at Coffee Hour) as well as help with mission and outreach initiatives and one-off events (including the Christmas Fair!). Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser at adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org to deepen your involvement in service at Incarnation or have a personalized conversation about financial stewardship.

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Come to the Parish Dining Room during Coffee Hour to help make sandwiches for delivery to a nearby homeless shelter.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, November 22, 10:00 to 10:40 a.m. Join us in the Parish Dining Room for the seventh session in an eight-part series on the biblical meaning of redemption: "Jesus-Style Redemption in Paul's Letters."

FAMILY FRIDAY – ADVENT WREATHS & PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Friday, December 4, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Children and families are invited to the Assembly Hall for Advent Wreath crafts AND to rehearse for the Christmas Pageant! Alongside a pizza dinner, we'll also talk with Rev. Adrian about how the four weeks of Advent help us prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

20s/30s ST. NICK'S PARTY

Friday, December 4, 8:00 p.m. The biggest party of the year for 20s/30s in the Episcopal Diocese of New is the annual St. Nick's Party. This year, the celebration will take place at Cathedral House on the grounds of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (1047 Amsterdam Avenue between West 110th and 113th Streets). It's sure to be a festive night, full of all that the season holds. All young adults are welcome! Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser to RSVP.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 6. Meet at 10:30 a.m. / Service at 11:00 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to participate in a short and simple pageant, held in place of the sermon, during the 11:00 a.m. service. There will be one rehearsal on Friday, December 4. (See above). Contact Amanda Bell (abell@churchoftheincarnation.org) if your child would like to participate so we can plan for parts and costumes.

SAVE THE DATE FOR LESSONS AND CAROLS!
Sunday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.

An Incarnation tradition, Lessons and Carols is one of Incarnation's most beloved services we present each year. Based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, it consists of readings from Scripture interspersed with music and a brief homily. The lessons, which cover the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus, are read by representatives of the parish.

Followed by Incarnation's Christmas Party from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The party will be in the church, and volunteers are needed. Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser if you can help!