

## **Devotion Week of May 29, 2022 – Seventh Week of Eastertide, 2022**

### **Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

I received a “Litany in the Wake of a Mass Shooting” that a group of bishops began writing after the November, 2018 mass shooting in Thousand Oaks, California, where 13 victims died. They went back to 2012 and have kept the list updated ever since. There have been 64 major events since that time. Six were in churches and 9 were in schools. Almost all of the shooters were young men, often with behaviors and media communications that indicated that they were dangerous. We are seriously broken as a society when it comes to mental health services and monitoring of violent media postings. We need to have serious conversations in schools, churches, and homes about how to spot and intervene before threats become reality.

I list here the mass shootings that have occurred in the last four years:

Seventeen dead at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Five dead at the Veterans Home in Yountville, California.

Four dead at a Nashville, Tennessee Waffle House.

Ten dead at Santa Fe High School, Texas.

Five dead at the Capital Gazette Newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland.

Four dead at the Fifth Third Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Four dead at a Rite Aid distribution center in Aberdeen, Maryland.

Eleven dead at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Thirteen dead at a bar in Thousand Oaks, California.

Five dead at a bank in Sebring, Florida.

Five dead at their homes in Ascension and Livingston parishes, Louisiana.

Six dead at an industrial park in Aurora, Illinois.

Four dead at a home in Clinton, Mississippi.

Four dead in Solon Township, Michigan.

Thirteen dead at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Four dead at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Gilroy, California.

Twenty-two dead at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas.

Ten dead at the Oregon District of downtown Dayton, Ohio.

Eight dead on the road between the cities of Odessa and Midland, Texas.

Five dead in their home in Elkmont, Alabama.

Four dead at a bar in Kansas City, Kansas.

Four dead at a backyard football watch party in Fresno, California

Six dead at a cemetery and kosher market in Jersey City, New Jersey.

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Six dead at the Molson Coors complex in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
Five dead at a convenience store in Springfield, Missouri.  
Five dead in the northeast side of Indianapolis, Indiana.  
Eight dead at three spas in Atlanta, Georgia.  
Ten dead at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado.  
Four dead at an office complex in Orange, California.  
Six dead at a home in Rock Hill, South Carolina.  
Nine dead at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Indiana.  
Seven dead at a birthday party in Colorado Springs, Colorado.  
Ten dead at a rail yard in San Jose, California.  
Four dead at Oxford High School in Oxford Township, Michigan.  
Five dead in Lakewood and Denver, Colorado.  
Five dead at The Church in Sacramento, California.  
Six dead in downtown Sacramento, California.  
Ten dead at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.  
One dead and five critically injured at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods, California.  
Twenty-one dead at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

Let us pray for these victims this week, and for a way out of this culture of violence.

For victims of gun violence, give to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.

For survivors of gun violence, grant them comfort and healing. Hear us, Lord.

For those who have lost loved ones to gun violence, grant them peace. Hear us, Lord.

For those first responders who care for victims of gun violence, protect and strengthen them. Hear us, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Amen.

*Jeanne*