

From Fr Nik

What is the Church? In last Sunday's sermon, I made the claim that in and through the Church, God both gives us a history and tradition that grounds us *and* He calls us into His new creation. In and through the Church, God calls us to be prophets of and participants in His saving work in the world. But the question remains, just what is this thing called Church, which seems to play such a crucial role in mediating God's grace?

The answer to that question may seem too obvious to be interesting or even require articulation. But I disagree. I believe that the answer to the question, like a well-crafted poem or piece of art, only appears obvious. However, the more time you spend with it, the more it opens into unfathomable depths. So, from this Sunday, Sept 7 through Sunday, Nov 23, I'd like us to explore as *a church* this question: *What is the Church?*

To that end, Don Schubert and I will make this question the theme of the Adult Forum, meeting each Sunday at 9am. I will also find ways of addressing the question in my sermons during this season. That doesn't mean that this question will be the topic of each sermon, but it will be something like the refrain we return to in light of the different passages of scripture we encounter every Sunday.

With that in mind, you may want to keep up with the sermons even when you have to be away. So, I will be posting my sermons as podcasts on the website so you can listen to them on your computer, mp3 player, or smart phone. Just go to website (www.forkchurch.org), click on "About Us" in the sidebar, and then "Sermons."

Christian Education

Adult Forum: 9-9:35am – The Adult Forum resumes this Sunday (9/7) at 9am. Don Schubert and Fr Nik will be co-leading a study of the Church – combining historical, theological, and spiritual perspectives. We will explore the question, “What is the Church?” for the next 12 Sundays, from Sept 7 to Nov 23. Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

Godly Play

Godly Play will begin this Sunday with a performance by the children of the stories and songs they learned this summer. This will be followed by "Sundaes on Sunday" ice cream on the lawn served by some of the youth group. Our first Sunday of Sunday school will be Sept. 14th.

J2A Youth Group will hold their first meeting at Mt. Olympus Farm on Sept. 14th at 5:00 pm. We will swim, kayak, enjoy a cookout and get acquainted with Nik. We will also review our meeting schedule for the fall and have Fun, Fellowship and Food.

COOKBOOK AVAILABLE FOR PRESALES

The new Fork Church cookbook is in the final stages at the publisher. We hope to have it here around Oct. 1.

You can reserve your copies now by purchasing a presales ticket from any cookbook committee member. A committee representative will be available each Sunday to take your order. The book is hard bound and beautiful.

It is brimming with wonderful recipes and history, selling for only \$21.95.

Dessert and Coffee Evenings with Nik

We are having a series of Dessert and Coffee gathers so that Nik and get to meet members of the congregation on a more one on one basis. All of the events will start at 7PM. Below is a list of the dates and who will be hosting.

September 18 - Tony & Melanie Droppleman

September 22 - Jim & Boo Smythe

October 2 - Jennifer & Howard Smith

October 8 - Scott & Lindsey Smythe

October 15 - Michael & Angela Woods

October 27 - John & Anne Rickman

Please select a date and let the office know. We will also be calling to confirm.

Note from Vestry – The loose plate offering will be going to the Rector's discretionary fund. Thank You

Nik's Calendar

Thursday, Sept 4 – RMC Campus Ministries Luncheon, 12pm

Monday, Sept 8 – Tour Peter Paul Development Center, 10:30am

Monday, Sept 8 – RMC Student Activities Fair, 5-7PM

Thursday, Sept 11 – RMC Student Eucharist & Lunch, Noon-2pm

Wednesday, Sept 24 – Clericus

Thursday, Sept 25 – RMC Student Eucharist & Lunch, Noon-2pm

Looking Ahead

September 14 - J2A Youth Group @ Mt. Olympus Farm - 5PM

September 16 - Vestry Meeting - 7PM

September 28 - J2A Youth Group – 5PM

October 5th – Blessing of the animals – 4PM

J2A Youth Group – 5PM

October 17, 18th - Wellness “event” @ St. James the Less

October 26th - Halloween Service , – 5PM

Outreach Dinner @ St. James the Less