

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012

Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee hour this morning after the Service.

RITE 13

RITE 13 - What is it? I can tell you what I know about it, but I have a very strong feeling that it needs to be **experienced** before any of us can begin to understand the full meaning of Rite 13. To begin, Rite 13 is a ceremony that is part of the Journey To Adulthood (J2A) curriculum we are using with our youth at Fork Church. It is a ceremony that takes place in church on a Sunday morning. It is a ceremony in which the youth, their parents, and you (members of Fork Church) participate.

Let's begin by taking a look at J2A's history. We go back 25 years to when a group of program developers discovered that many cultural and religious customs included a "Rite of Passage" for young people on or about their 13th birthday. Most of us are familiar with Bar/ Bat Mitzvahs celebrated in the Jewish faith. Getting ready for J2A's Rite 13 could be a process designed somewhat like the Bar Mitzvah preparation (study, discussion, and expectations).

Twenty-five years ago most children turned 13 while in the 8th grade at a Junior High School. Today Middle School has replaced Junior High and many youth turn 13 while in the 7th grade. It's all because of changing the month when a child turns 5 and is eligible for kindergarten. So much for background: at Fork Church our Youth will participate in Rite 13 to celebrate their completion of Middle School and, most importantly, for all of us to recognize the gift of womanhood or manhood that God bestows on each one of them.

Rite 13 takes place in the church during a Sunday Morning service. It involves our youth, who have celebrated their 13th birthday, their parents and **YOU**, members of the congregation at Fork Church. We are celebrating with these young people their transition from childhood to womanhood and manhood, which are gifts from God. These youth are on their way to becoming adults. Adulthood is something to be earned. It is the content of the J2A curriculum.

What are "*womanhood and manhood*"? Again, I can only answer this question from my own experience. You may come to other conclusions. To me, womanhood and manhood are gifts from God and they describe what makes each of us the wonderful children of God

that we are. Someone once said to me that the most our parents could have hoped for before we were born was a boy or a girl. But God had the unique person who is you or me in mind. That wonderful uniqueness, those wonderful inborn talents and abilities that make each of us children of God is what we are celebrating in the Rite 13 ceremony. We celebrate these young people as “God’s Beloved”.

I invite each of you to come **on April 22nd to the 10:00am service** to participate with our youth and their parents in this Rite 13 celebration. Bring an open mind, and open heart, and open arms to embrace something you may have already witnessed before in the life of Fork Church and the lives of our youth. By your presence you will also be fulfilling one of the promises that you make each time that we have a Baptism at Fork Church. At each baptism we (members of the congregation) answer “we will” to the following question: “Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?” By being present at this celebration we will all help support our Youth as they continue their Journey to Adulthood under the umbrella of Fork Church.

Boo and Jim Smythe

MISSION

Outreach Dinner: Mark your calendars for the next dinner – **April 29**. For more information contact McKenzie Licata.

http://theforkchurch.thediocese.net/Ministries/Outreach_Mission/Outreach_Dinners/

Caritas: Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 29th which is Fork Church's night for Caritas at St. James the Less. We will be looking for volunteers to help prepare food, serve food, clean up and set up for dinner, pack lunches for the following day, transport guests to laundry and showers that night, donate quarters for laundry, prepare breakfast for the following morning, and a male to stay overnight (all the guests will be male). Please begin thinking about how you can participate to make Caritas a success. If you have questions, please contact Howard Anderson, Court Warfield or Beth Schubert.
<http://theforkchurch.thediocese.net/Ministries/CARITAS/>

There will be a jar in the entryway of the church to collect quarters for laundry for Caritas beginning Sunday, April 1st.

Please find the sign-up sheet posted in the foyer of the church, Thank You.

VESTRY

Our Website has gotten a face-lift. Please take a look at www.theforkchurch.org and let us know what you think. Thank you. The Vestry

Parish Life

Shrine Mont Family Weekend - November 3 - 4. The sign up sheet is in the back of the Church. Alternatively you can email Alice Noland at anoland@centurylink.net.

