

## From Father Nik

It's often tempting to skip the genealogical lists in the Bible. Even the most careful readers of Scripture will sometimes only skim through all of those "begats." It's hard to believe that there's anything instructive, edifying, or inspirational in that list of unknown or vaguely familiar names repetitively linked together. Still, the unexpected placement of Jesus' genealogy in Luke's Gospel should give us pause. Remember, Luke told Theophilus that he would provide "an orderly account" of the story (1:3). So, why does this "orderly account" give us Jesus' genealogy after his baptism?

Matthew's Gospel provides a chronological "order" by placing his version of Jesus' genealogy at the very beginning of his gospel. However, given the genealogy's placement in Luke's story, we must look for an ordering reason other than time. First, we should examine where the genealogy shows up in Luke's story. It comes just after the Holy Spirit has descended upon Jesus & he's heard God, the Father proclaim, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased" (3:22), and it directly precedes Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, whereby he proves that he's "the Son of God" (4:3, 9). Second, the genealogy is introduced from Jesus' present to the past, through the lineage of Joseph, his father, "as was supposed" (3:23). This little phrase reminds us that Jesus was conceived when *the Holy Spirit had come upon Mary and the power of the Most High had overshadowed her*, before she'd known Joseph (1:34-35). Finally, in Luke's genealogy, unlike in Matthew's version, Jesus' lineage is taken all the way back to Adam, "the son of God" (3:38).

According to Luke, Jesus is proved to be the Son of God because 1) he was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the Spirit and power of God; 2) he was proclaimed as such by God, the Father and the Holy Spirit after his baptism (which was then tested by the adversary); and 3) the lineage of his human nature stretches back to God through the first human, who was God's created son. Of course, everyone's lineage traces back to God through Adam, so it's the contrast between Adam, the created son and Jesus, the only-begotten son, that reveals Jesus' divinity. "For as by a man came death, by a man has also come the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Thus it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being;' the last Adam became life-giving spirit. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven" (1 Cor 15:21-22, 45, 47-49). *Nik+*

## *Coffee Hour*

Volunteers are needed. To sign up please go to:  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040449a5aa2fa57-coffee1/25858757>

### **The Cost of Discipleship**

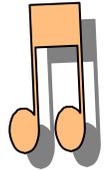
The Men's & Women's Book Groups are reading  
*Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

### **Bonhoeffer Documentary**

“Hanged on a twisted Cross” will be shown again  
in the Parish Hall on a date to be determined.

### *Choir Rehearsal*

In preparation for Holy Week and Easter Sunday  
The choir will be rehearsing every Wednesday at 7pm



## Holy Week & Easter

March 20<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday, 10am Eucharist

### Triduum

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday, 7pm Agape Meal

March 25<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday, 7pm Liturgy

March 26<sup>th</sup> – Holy Saturday, 10am Liturgy

### Easter

March 26<sup>th</sup> – Easter Vigil, 7:45pm Eucharist

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday, 10am Eucharist

### **Please keep the following in your prayers**

Henry Vaughn, William K. Glave, Cierra Ryan, Marie Alexander,  
Susan Russo, Phyllis Bagby, Beryl Choi, Mary Franklin Fulghum *and*  
James Palmer, Katherine Cauthorne, Barbara Oates, Lucy Oliver,  
Virginia Turner, Carter Flippo *and* Glenn Schleede

## **Christian Education**

**Godly Play** Children are invited to hear the Word in a fun, learning environment in the Parish House during the first half of our Sunday morning worship; after which, they join their parents in church for Communion.

**J2A Youth Group** will meet on Sunday, February 28 together with the Youth Group from Church of Our Savior, Montpelier, at 5:30pm.

**The Adult Sunday School** meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to study the Gospel according to Luke.

## **Small Groups**

**The Women's Book Group** will meet next on Thursday, March 3, at 10am to discuss the first part of chapter 6 (pp 69-90) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press). Please contact Kathy for directions: [boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

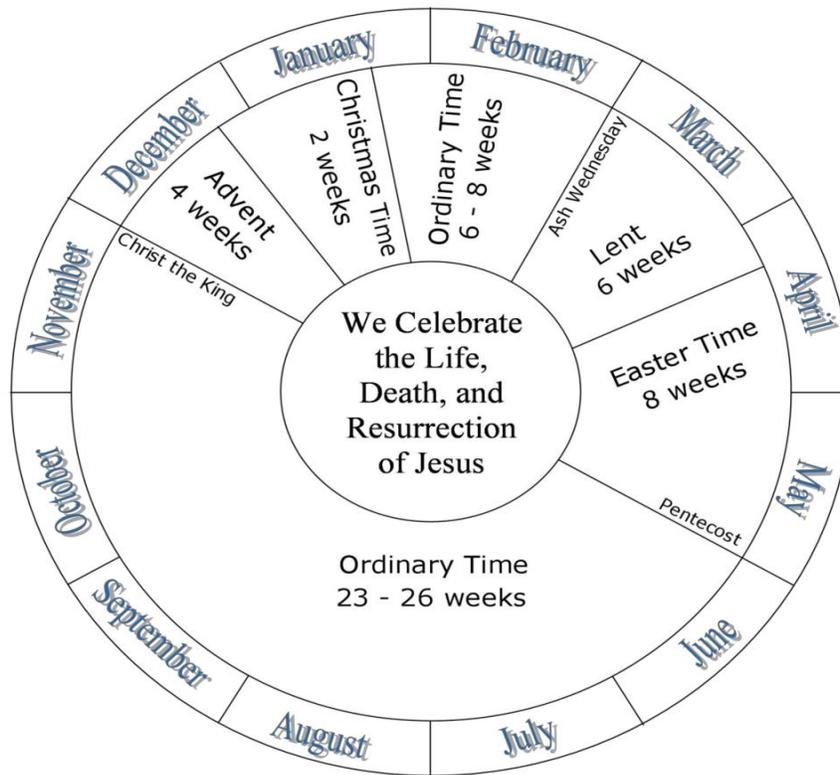
**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, March 3, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the first part of chapter 6 (pp 69-90) of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

## **Christian Formation**

If you have never been Baptized or Confirmed, and are interested in receiving these sacraments, please contact Fr Nik – [KnicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KnicholasForti@gmail.com)

**These classes are also for those considering  
Reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant.**

# The Liturgical Year



## Nik's Calendar

- Monday, Feb 29 – Coffee with The Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm  
– Meeting with Fr Ben & Fr Phil, 3:30-4:30pm  
– Peter Paul Development Center Chapel, 5:30-6:25pm  
– Region XI Meeting at St Philip's, Richmond, 6:30-7:30pm
- Wednesday, Mar 2 – RMC Episcopal-Methodist Campus Ministry, 9:30pm
- Saturday, Mar 5 – Diocesan Annual Council Meeting, 10am-4pm
- Wednesday, Mar 9 – RMC Episcopal-Methodist Campus Ministry, 9:30pm

## Looking Ahead

- Wednesday, Mar 2 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Thursday, Mar 3 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am  
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
- Wednesday, Mar 9 – Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Thursday, Mar 17 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am  
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon

**Office hours:** Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, works Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.