

## From Father Nik

The Adult Sunday School has begun a five-month study of the Gospel according to Luke. The study will take us from this Ordinary Time after Epiphany through the seasons of Lent and Easter and into the Ordinary Time after Pentecost, ending in early June. We've chosen Luke's Gospel because the lectionary cycle has us reading it in worship throughout this year. Although Luke is the longest of the four gospels, we should be able to cover it in its entirety between my sermons and the weekly "From Fr Nik" blurbs in the Announcements through November, and this Adult Sunday School study. In other words, I hope y'all are looking forward to learning about Luke and his witness to Jesus Christ, because this year we're diving deep into the third gospel with *all Luke, all the time!*

That said, let me now introduce you to Luke and his Gospel. Luke probably wrote his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles around AD 85, somewhere in the Greek-speaking Roman Empire. He probably didn't write in the holy land, and he wasn't addressing Jewish Christians but Gentiles who had converted to Christianity. Like so much history, the details have been lost in the mists of time. In fact, we're not entirely sure that Luke wrote the Gospel attributed to him (by 2<sup>nd</sup> century Christians); though, it's certainly possible that he was the author.

If Luke was the author of the third gospel, then there are a few things we can know about him. Luke was a Gentile convert to Christianity at a time when Jewish Christians were still the majority in the Church. St Paul lists him as a "fellow worker" in his letter to Philemon (v24), and the Apostle identifies Luke as "the beloved physician" in Colossians 4:14. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, St Jerome wrote that Luke was from Syrian Antioch, where "the disciples [of Jesus] were for the first time called Christians" (Acts 11:26). St Irenaeus of Lyon wrote in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century that Luke, a traveling companion of St Paul, composed his Gospel after Paul's martyrdom. According to St Irenaeus, the four gospels correspond to the four angelic beasts of the biblical books of Ezekiel and Revelation, with Luke's Gospel identified with the Ox.



## *The Feast of the Epiphany*

Known as the Theophany in Eastern Orthodoxy, Epiphany is the Feast on Jan 6, after the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the Christmas season, when we remember the visitation of the Wise Men who brought the child gifts of gold, frankincense, & myrrh. The Godly Play children are helping us observe the Feast this year with an Epiphany Pageant during our worship.

## **Diocesan Annual Council**

From Thursday, January 21 through Saturday, January 23 the Diocese of Virginia is holding its 221<sup>st</sup> Annual Council. Our Lay Delegate is Paul Newell & our Alternate Delegate is Scott Smythe.

## **Parish Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 24. The Vestry and Treasurer will report to the congregation, and three new vestry members will be elected.

## LENT

Lent begins with *Ash Wednesday* on February 10 – we'll observe with a Eucharist with imposition of ashes in the evening.

Before the Lenten fasting begins, we'll indulge in a **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, February 9 – (*more details to come*).

It's also traditional to prepare catechumens for Baptism or the reaffirmation of baptismal vows during Lent— as well as preparing confirmands for Confirmation and new members for Reception into the Episcopal Church. These classes will begin on Wednesday, Feb 17 at 6:30pm.

## *Coffee Hour*

Thanks to Ruth & Ned May for today's refreshments!  
Next Sunday will be hosted by the Aderhold family

## 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 again on Sunday, January 17.

**The Adult Sunday School** meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to explore the Sacraments.

### Small Groups

**The Women's Book Group** will meet next on Thursday, February 21, at 10am to discuss the first two chapters 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, January 21, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the Preface to Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* and the context of its writing and publication.

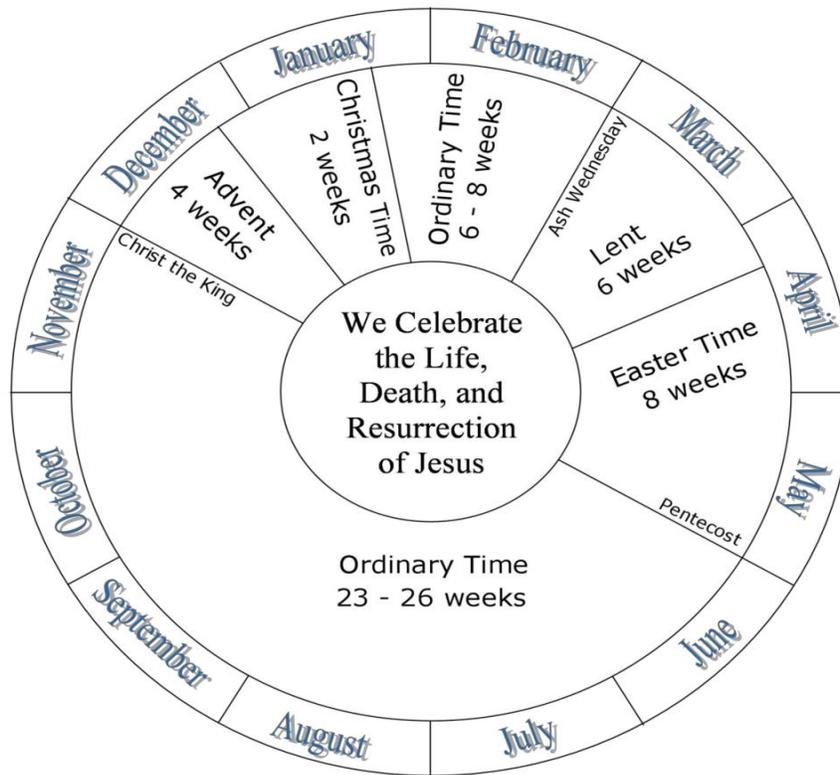
### Christian Formation

Catechism Classes will begin in Lent on Wednesday, Feb 17 at 6:30pm. These classes are for those who wish to be baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church.

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, Jan 11 – Meeting with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

Thursday, Jan 14 – Fresh Start, 9:30am-3:30pm

Friday, Jan 15 – New Rector Boot Camp, 9:30am-4:30pm

Wednesday, Jan 20 – Diocesan Meeting, 7-8pm

Thurs, Jan 21-Sat, Jan 23 – Diocesan Annual Council; Reston, VA

## Looking Ahead

Tuesday, Jan 12 - Vestry Meeting, 7-9pm

Sunday, Jan 17 – Youth Group

Thursday, Jan 21 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Sunday, Jan 24 – Parish Annual Meeting, 11:30am

Saturday, Feb 6 – Vestry Retreat

Tuesday, Feb 9 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, Feb 10 – Ash Wednesday: Eucharist

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