

Now the day began to wear away; and the twelve came and said to Jesus, "Send the crowd away, to go into the villages and country round about, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a lonely place." But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in companies, about fifty each." And they did so, and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

~Luke 9:12-17

Having returned from their mission, the Twelve are now rightly called “apostles.” They have been ‘sent out’ (ἀποστέλλω - *apostello*) by Jesus, but their training is not yet complete. So, they return to him to debrief. Jesus attempts to take them on retreat but the crowds find them. Soon the day has been spent feeding the crowd with the Word of God, but leaving the people hungry for bread to sustain their physical strength. *One does not live on bread alone* (Lk 4:4)—sure, but people still need to eat to live. Jesus uses this opportunity to continue the apostles’ training. Jesus tells the apostles, “*You give them something to eat.*” You all give them this day their daily bread. The disciples are dismayed by the daunting task. First, they are in *a lonely place*—that is, amid unpopulated and uncultivated land. Second, they only have five loaves of barley and two fish between them. And, third, Jesus expects them to feed five thousand men from these meager resources.

Now, a note about numbers. During Jesus’ life, his hometown of Nazareth probably only had a total population of about 300. Capernaum, his home base, may have been as large as 1,000 people. However, this story tells us that, just counting the men, this was a crowd of about 5,000. If there was just one woman or child per adult man in that crowd, then we are looking at total of 10,000 people. That’s about the size of either of the two largest cities in the Galilee—Sepphoris and Tiberias. If these numbers are accurate, then just about every village or hamlet of the Galilee had been emptied and left as ghost towns without anyone left to work the fields. In other words, these numbers are either hyperbole or symbolic or both. And that is just how the Church Fathers understood them.

So maybe there weren’t 5,000, but the number present were surely more than the apostles’ small meal could accommodate. Moreover, they’d just returned from their mission, during which they brought healing and preaching and, in return, received a meal. Now, they are being called on to serve the meal. This isn’t something they’ll be able to do without Jesus. When Jesus is given their bread, the Eucharistic verbs are used—take, bless, break, and give. And this is the lesson. Jesus is the bread, and their mission to serve will be made possible only when he is taken, blessed, broken, and given for the world. Through the ministry of the apostles, the Church is fed Christ himself, and the Church thereby will feed the world.

Parish Picnic

Thanks to Boo and Jim Smythe for hosting.
Thank you to all who brought a dish to share.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Please consider volunteering for a Sunday.

Learn about St. Augustine

A small group of parishioners from Fork & SJtL are meeting at
10am every other Thursday at St. James the Less
to listen to and discuss the Teaching Company Course,
“Augustine: Philosopher & Saint” by Phillip Cary.

If you are interested in joining the discussion,
they will meet again at
10am on Thursday, June 30.

CARITAS

We will be assisting with CARITAS
at St James the Less, Ashland on July 9.
There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church.
See Howard Anderson for more info.

Directory

Parish Directories are here!
Hard copies are available.
If you would rather have a digital copy
Please contact Kathy Thomas (boysthree@gmail.com)

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 worship.

J2A Youth Group – Stay tuned for summer events.

The Adult Sunday School is taking a summer break, we will resume Sunday, September 11th.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will be reading *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr over the summer. They will resume meeting in September.

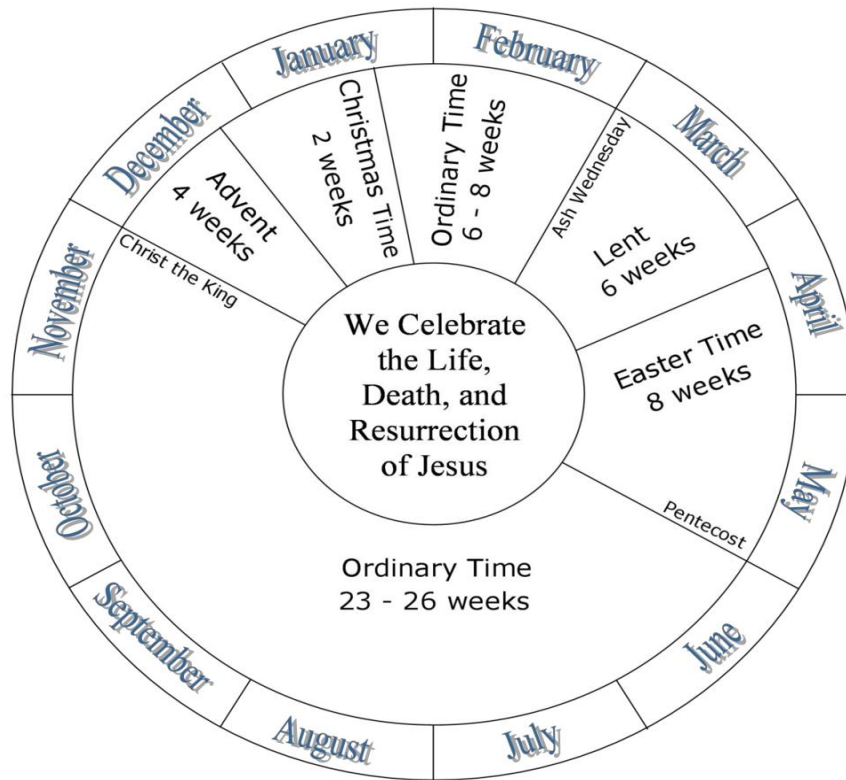
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, June 23, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss chapters 12 & 13 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

Christian Formation

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

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

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

Monday, June 20 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

Wednesday, June 22 – Cluster Meeting at Fork Church, 11:00am-1:30pm

Thursday, June 23 – Meeting with Fr Phil & Fr Ben, 9:30-10:30am

Monday, June 27 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, June 21 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Thursday, June 23 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Thursday, June 30 – St Augustine Study at SJtL, 10am

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

Saturday, July 9 – CARITAS, St. James the Less, Ashland

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