

## From Father Nik

*One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a storm of wind came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in danger. And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; and they ceased, and there was calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even wind and water, and they obey him?"*

~Luke 8:22-25

Stories of Jesus' miracles can't help but strain the credulity of the modern, skeptical mind. Therefore, when we read of Jesus calming a squall on the Sea of Galilee as his disciples despair in their waterlogged fishing boat, we wonder whether the story could actually, factually be true. Our inclination is to question whether such miraculous events can occur and to offer rationalistic explanations for what might have really happened. We say, 'Perhaps the wind had already blown the storm past their area by the time Jesus woke up from his nap, and his disciples then turned a passing rain storm into a tempest as they told this fish tale again and again.' This approach to the text might satisfy our skepticism, but it doesn't help us to understand the story or the witness of scripture.

The Church Fathers and Mothers, who were more attuned to the question of witness, might direct our attention to the fact that the boat of disciples can be understood as an image of the Church. St John Chrysostom wrote, "We are also sailing on a voyage, not from one land to another but from earth to heaven. Christ will not permit our ship to be overwhelmed, even if countless winds blow." The Reformers of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century pointed out that Christ's presence, through the proclamation of his Word, is bound to bring about a tempest, even in the Church. And this tempest can only be calmed by hearing Christ's Word and accepting it in faith.

We read that *even the wind and water* hears the Word spoken by Christ and obeys. That is to say, even nature itself is faithful to Christ her Lord. Yet, if nature is faithful to the Word, then how come we, who are made in the image of God, do not always hear the Word in faith? *Jesus said to the disciples, 'Where is your faith?'* By word and deed, in parables and signs, Jesus has revealed to his disciples who He is—the King of the Kingdom of God, who speaks the Word that once opened the lips of the prophets. Still, they whisper to one another, '*Who then is this?*' as their faith gets blown away by the wind. This is why our faith must be anchored in no less than the Word of God given to us by Christ in his Body, the Church; *so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine* (Eph 4:14) but may remain an island of calm in the tempest of the world by being rooted in Christ to whom we are witnesses.

# *Thank You*

To all who came out for Parish clean-up day.

The yard is raked, the flower beds are cleaned out and freshly planted, the driveway is patched with new stone, parish hall floor was vacuumed, cleaned & polished, and the walkway to the parish house has a new drain.

Thank you all!!

## *Coffee Hour - Lemonade on the Lawn*

Thanks to Jennifer Smith for this morning's refreshments!

*Volunteers are still needed*

## **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 16.

## **Parish Picnic**

The Parish Picnic will be  
Sunday, June 12 at 10am  
Mount Olympus Farm

## **Reminder from the Vestry**

The loose offering collected on the first Sunday of every month  
goes to the Rector's discretionary fund,  
by which he helps those in our community in need.

## **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** will meet **Sunday, June 5**, at 5pm in the parish hall.

**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, June 9, at 10am to discuss chapters 12 & 13 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press). Please contact Kathy for directions: [boysthreee@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthreee@embarqmail.com)

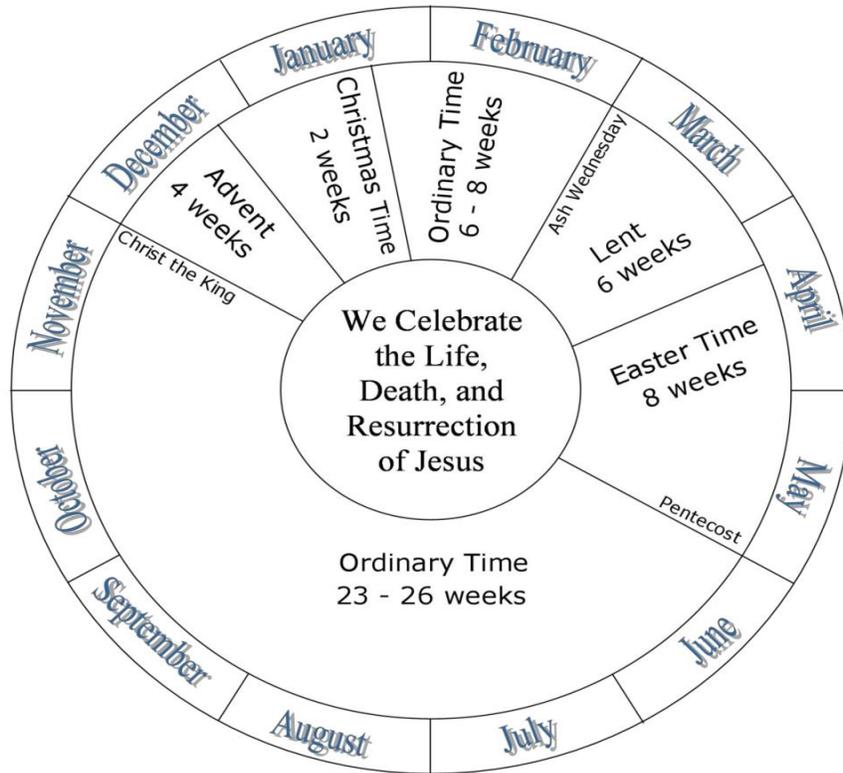
**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, June 9, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss chapter 11 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

## **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

- Thursday, May 25 – Cluster Meeting, Church of Our Savior, 11:30am  
Thursday, May 26 – Meeting with Fr Phil & Fr Ben, 9:30-10:30am  
– Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 11am-1pm  
– Region XI meeting, 6:30pm

## Looking Ahead

- Monday, May 30 – MEMORIAL DAY  
Thursday, June 9 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am  
Women's Book Group, 10am-noon

**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.