

## From Father Nik

Last Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, was the end and completion of the church year, as I noted in the sermon. This Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of a new church year. Beginning this Sunday, we will work our way through a different Gospel witness than last year (Mark instead of Matthew), and we will recount again the history of God's gracious work, His economy of salvation—just as we do each liturgical year. Advent begins this retelling of the story by inviting us to look back to the time before Christ was born into this world and to identify with God's chosen, covenant people, the Jews, in their anticipation for the coming of God's Kingdom and Messiah.

There is, then, a two-fold focus in Advent. We remember the past expectation that preceded the birth of Christ, and we await his coming again in the fullness of His reign. These two acts are held together because there is only one Christ—one Messiah—who came and who will come again. Therefore, we are taught how to recognize his coming again by his first advent. This lesson is crucial, and it is one we must relearn again and again. When our God comes to us lowly and humble, as a poor, peasant baby, born in a stable, laid in a manger, homeless and with no crib for a bed; this is not a gag, or a trick, or a cover. This is not a matter of dramatic or divine irony. This is not a disguise He will triumphantly throw off when He comes again. Rather, this just *is* the revelation of God's glory. This just is what God looks like—*what God is*—in this world.

Over the next few weeks of Advent, we will explore this mystery in the Adult Forum and in my sermons. In the Adult Forum, the focus will be more on the question, “What were *they* waiting for?” In my sermons, I try to bring that question forward and reframe it as, “What are *we* waiting for?” In particular, we will use what theologians call the Threefold Office of Christ as our guide into this mystery. The Threefold Office is that of Prophet, Priest, and King. How can these titles possibly apply to a poor, uneducated, peasant child born in a backwater province of the Roman Empire two thousand years ago. Just what *were* they waiting for? For that matter, what are we waiting for?

## **The Vestry Needs You**

If you are a confirmed Episcopalian, a member of Fork Church,  
and feel called to serve on the Vestry,  
please be in contact with Paul Newell or Fr Nik.

### ***Look What's Cookin – 2015 Stewardship'***

The 2015 Stewardship Letter & Pledge Card have been mailed.  
If you have any questions or need a Pledge Card,  
please contact Scott Smythe ([scott@virginiaberryfarm.com](mailto:scott@virginiaberryfarm.com)).

## **Fork Cookbook**

The cookbook makes wonderful Christmas gift!  
Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

## **Advent Event!**

After church this Sunday, Nov 30, you're invited to come to the Parish  
Hall for Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Cookies, & Advent Wreath Making.  
Please let Boo Smythe ([boosmythe@gmail.com](mailto:boosmythe@gmail.com)) know if you plan to make  
a wreath so she'll have the right quantity of supplies.

*Suggested Donation – \$10 per Advent Wreath*

## **Heavenly Stew & Bake Sale**

Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> – 1pm until gone

Stewing starts at 5am – Please come visit or help!

To place an order, Contact Lisa Licata at [stileslicata@gmail.com](mailto:stileslicata@gmail.com) or 804-227-3268

\$8 a quart, \$1 a bowl

Cakes and Pies are also needed for the sale.

Please sign up in the Church or drop it off in the morning around 11:00.

## **Christmas Memorials**

Consider making your donation for Christmas Memorials soon.

*Please use the Sunday Bulletin Insert.*

## *Peter Paul Development Center*

### **Christmas Gifts**

I wish that all of you could experience the gratitude and joy that our gift to the Peter Paul Development Center generates. Fork Church is among the very few who give to the teenagers. Our financial contribution buys more gifts than if we did the shopping ourselves because the staff at PPDC can get discounts that we cannot.

**Make your check payable to Fork Church, put PPDC on the memo line, and place your gift in the collection plate on Sunday, Nov 23, Nov 30, or Dec 7.**

You can also place cash in an envelope with PPDC on the front or mail your check to Fork Church.

### **A Public Service Announcement**

In the best interest of the spiritual & mental health of Fork Church, it is necessary for volunteers from the congregation to sign-up to make coffee & provide snacks and refreshments for “coffee hour” after Sunday Eucharist. Failure to volunteer shall subject you to such medieval penalties as being required to do liturgical dancing during a service, play the role of Goliath for the Godly Play kids, or worse.

Such dire consequences can be avoided by contacting Mac Chenault via telephone, 804-730-7175 or email: [mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com](mailto:mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com).

### **Christian Education**

**Godly Play** is currently in session. 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** meets twice a month for fun, fellowship, food, & formation. **Our next meeting is Sunday, December 7th at 5:00 pm at the Parish House.** We'll also make cookies in our new kitchen on the 20<sup>th</sup> & deliver them after church on the 21st.

**Adult Forum** meets Sunday mornings at 9am. Through Advent, Don Schubert and Fr Nik are co-leading a study exploring the question: “What are we waiting for?” Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

## Small Groups

**The Women's Book Group** meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. They are currently reading *Immortal Diamond* by Richard Rohr. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: [boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 30-43).

## Christian Formation

If you are seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant, please contact Fr Nik – [KNicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)

## Nik's Calendar

Monday, Nov. 24 – Meeting with Fr. Ed Bushong, 10-noon  
– RMC Campus Thanksgiving Service, 7PM  
Tuesday, Nov 25 – Vestry Meeting, 7-9pm  
Thursday, Nov 27 – Thanksgiving Eucharist, 10am  
Tuesday, Dec 2 – Clergy Colleague Group, 9am-Noon  
Thursday, Dec 4 – Fresh Start @ trinity, Fredericksburg, 9:30am-4pm  
Tuesday, Dec 16 – Clericus

## Looking Ahead

Sunday, Nov 30 – Advent Wreath Making, 11:30am  
Saturday, Dec 6 – Heavenly Stew & Bake Sale  
Sunday, Dec 7 – RMC Lessons & Carols, 5pm  
Sunday, Dec 7 – Youth Group, 5pm  
Sunday, Dec 21 – Godly Play Advent/Christmas Pageant @ 10am Eucharist  
Sunday, Dec 21 – Advent Evensong @ St James the Less, Ashland