

From Father Nik

In last Sunday's sermon, we briefly touched on how Church is the means and medium of Sanctifying Grace. This is no more evident than in the sacraments—especially, Holy Eucharist. As the words of Eucharistic Prayer C have it, we don't come to the table for solace only, but also for strength; for pardon only, but also for renewal (BCP 372). This is because the celebration of Holy Eucharist is not only a remembrance and participation in Christ's sacrifice, it is also an anticipation of and participation in the Marriage Feast of the Lamb at the fullness of time when all things will be reconciled and restored in Christ (Rev 19:9).

At the Eucharistic table, we get a glimpse and a foretaste of the new creation that is God's Kingdom come. And this vision, this foretaste, of the fulfillment of God's providential plan and purposes for us and all things provides us—the Church—with our destination and goal, the end to which we are aimed and directed. In other words, when we come together in common prayer, to receive communion, we get to see a glimpse of what God's plan is for the whole world. We see a community bound together in love of God, receiving His good gifts of Himself, breaking down the pain and sin that divides us so that we can live in the fullness of His love and reconciliation.

Then, at the end of the liturgy, after we've shared communion, received the blessing, and sang our final hymn; we're sent back out into the world to take the blessings of Christ's atoning work in the past *and* its fulfillment in the future into the present of our daily lives. One way that we do this is through breaking our daily bread with others. Whenever we who have been fed with the *Body of Christ, the bread of heaven* share a meal in thanksgiving with family or friends or even strangers, whenever we help someone else eat who otherwise would not, whenever we give cans of food or money to WHEAT, we are providing a testimony to the Grace given to us in the Eucharist. Whenever we do these things, we are participating in the great marriage feast of the Lamb.

Cider & Pumpkins at Mt. Olympus Farm

Jim and I would like to invite all of the Godly Play families to Mt. Olympus Farm on Saturday, October 18th any time between 2:00 and 4:00 pm to come to the Pavilion and help press apples into cider, have cookies and if you choose take a hay ride and if you choose purchase a pumpkin. You can come anytime between 2 and 4 and bring friends if you wish. Peace, Boo

Liturgy for All Hallow's Eve

We will be observing the Eve of All Hallow's (or All Saints) with a short liturgy of evening prayer on Sunday, Oct 26 at 6pm. This liturgy combines both spiritual worship and Halloween fun!

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. The next meeting is Oct 26 to host the Liturgy of All Hallow's Eve & have some Halloween fun.

Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9am. Through Nov 23, Don Schubert and Fr Nik are co-leading a study exploring the question: "What is Church?" Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

Christian Formation

Baptism – If you are seeking baptism or would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant, please contact Fr Nik at KNicholasForti@gmail.com.

Confirmation & Reception – If you are interested in being Confirmed or if you have been Confirmed in another Christian tradition but would like to be officially Received as a member of the Episcopal Church, Fr Nik will be leading a Confirmation Class to begin soon. Please be in contact with Fr Nik (KNicholasForti@gmail.com) for more info.

Shrine Mont Parish Retreat

10/31–11/2

The Theme for this year's Shrine Mont Parish Retreat with Church of Our Savior will be

"El Camino de Shrine Mont: Walk the Pilgrim's Way".

Participants will be equipped with shells, passports, and opportunities to explore the mountain and encounter Holy Men and Holy Women along the way! Our program will include worship, labyrinth walk, small group discussions, as well as our usual bonfire. And of course, there will be ample time for porch sitting and connecting with friends old and new. If you plan to go, please let us know by signing up on the sheet in the back of the church or contacting Michael Woods (mwoods@luckcompanies.com).

HEAR YEAH, HEAR YEAH

The Vestry has decreed that it is in the best interest of the mental health of Fork Church for the congregation to partake of food and drink after each Sunday's service.

To fulfill the foretasted decree of the said Vestry it is necessary for volunteers from the congregation to take personal responsibility to abide by the decree. Volunteers accepting the duty of organizing such food and drink as such volunteer decides is appropriate.

The Vestry has only received volunteers for the 12th and 19th of October which leaves plenty of dates for you to fulfill your obligation to promote the well being of Fork Church. Failure to participate without just cause shall subject you to penalties such as being required to sing a solo during an upcoming service.

Such dire consequences can be avoided by contacting Mac Chenault via telephone, 804-730-7175 or email at mchenault@chenaultlawoffices.com .

Dessert and Coffee Evenings with Nik – *There's still time to sign up!*

All of the events will start at 7PM. Below are the remaining dates available.

October 15 – Scott & Lindsey Smythe

October 27 - John & Anne Rickman

Please select a date and let the office know.

Nik's Calendar

Monday, Oct 6 – Attend Dodson Dinner & Lecture @ St John's, Roanoke; 5-8pm

Tuesday, Oct 7 – Pastoral Visits

Thursday, Oct 9 – Fresh Start @ Trinity, Fredericksburg; 9am-5pm

Thursday, Oct 16 – RMC Campus Ministries Council, Noon-1pm

M-W, Oct 20-22 – Fall Clergy Retreat @ Shrine Mont

Thursday, Oct 23 – RMC Student Eucharist & Lunch, 1-3pm

Looking Ahead

October 17, 18th - Wellness “event” @ St. James the Less

October 26th - Halloween Service , – 5PM

- Outreach Dinner @ St. James the Less

Sunday, Nov 2 - All Saints Day (observed)

November 9th – Bishop's visit - Time - TBD