

From Father Nik

Church as the Eucharistic Assembly was the theme of last Sunday's sermon. For whenever we gather at the table to share in the Lord's Supper, we remember the many meals that made up the days of Christ's ministry in Galilee—from the wedding feast at Cana to the Feeding of Multitude. And especially we remember that last supper Jesus had with his friends on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a meal shared in the shadow of the cross. But we also anticipate—and even touch and taste—the future Marriage Feast of the Lamb in God's Kingdom.

This language of Eucharist as a “foretaste,” brings to mind, for me, the image of someone preparing a dinner for friends and family. And, from time to time, taking a break from preparation to take a sip of the soup with the stirring spoon, or to cut off a small piece of the main course to confirm that it conforms to the intended deliciousness. Moreover, sticking with this metaphor for a moment, those of us who have found our way into the weekly worship and life of the Church have been drawn in by the aroma of that great banquet being prepared from the foundation of the world. And any time we invite friends, family, or neighbors to come to church with us, we are—in a sense—saying, “Look what's cooking!”

This is, I think, an apt image for the Fork Church. We've really been cooking lately—from the renovation of the Kitchen and Parish Hall to the increase in children at the Godly Play Sunday School and youth at Youth Group events. That's not to mention all the folks preparing to be Confirmed at the Bishop's visit; the revival of Fork Church traditions like the St Francis Day Blessing of Animals and the Liturgy for All Hallow's Eve; and the excitement gathering around small group book studies, outreach and mission possibilities, and campus ministry at Randolph Macon. There's a lot cooking at the Fork Church. But, of course, this isn't some master chef show on the food network that we're to sit & watch as passive spectators. Rather, we are invited and encouraged to participate in the preparation, to add our own ingredients, to take a taste and jump right into the cooking. So, if you like what you see, and if you're enticed by what you taste, then invite others to “Look what's cooking,” and pledge your time, your talent, and your gifts as ingredients in the great meal that is a foretaste of the Marriage feast of the Lamb.

Nik+

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. Hot dogs & Chips will be available for those who come early and hungry. Costumes welcome!

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 at 5 PM on 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

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

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 YE, HEAR YE

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 forestated 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 said refreshments shall decide what food and drink are appropriate.

The Vestry has only received volunteers for the 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 with Father Nik

The final Dessert & Coffee with Nik will be at 7pm this Monday, October 27 at John & Anne Rickman's house. Please RSVP to the Church Office if you would like to attend.

Nik's Calendar

Tuesday, Oct 14 – New Clergy Orientation, Mayo House, 10am-3pm

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

– RMC Student Eucharist, 1-2pm

Monday, Oct 20 – Peter Paul Dev Center's Rise & Shine Breakfast, 7:30am

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

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

– WHEAT meeting, 7:30pm

Saturday, Oct 25 – Committal Liturgy for George Oliver, 2pm

Looking Ahead

Saturday, Oct 18 – Godly Play Cider & Pumpkins @ Mt Olympus Farm, 2-4PM

Sunday, Oct 26 – Halloween Service, 5PM

Sunday, Oct 26 – Outreach Dinner @ St. James the Less

Tuesday, Oct 28 – Vestry Meeting, 7PM

Sunday, Nov 2 – All Saints Day (observed)

Sunday, Nov 9 – Bishop's visit