

## From Father Nik

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Because we are rightly focused on Christ and *his* glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday, we are tempted to forget that his resurrection was not for his sake alone, nor is resurrection a gift and promise meant only for him. In other words, God the Father did not raise Jesus Christ as a unique gift to His Son for having suffered so much (as when He restored to Job his wealth and a new family). Christ's resurrection was not a reward for obedience or an award bestowed on Jesus for having faithfully run the race to the end. Rather, Jesus was "raised for our justification" (Rom 4:25) and "we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Rom 6:5). For in his resurrection, Christ is "the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:20). That is to say, Jesus' resurrection is a sign that God has begun a new creation, reconciling all things in Christ, and working our sanctification. Put differently, Jesus' resurrection is a gift of the new creation bursting into the old dispensation and a promise that we too will be raised from the dead with a resurrection *like his*.

Easter is not simply about Jesus' resurrection two-thousand years ago, it's a foretaste of the promised resurrection of all of us, when God's great work of the justification and sanctification of all creation—begun in Christ's life, death, and resurrection—is complete. As the angel asks, "Why do you look for the living among the dead" (Lk 24:5)? Jesus' resurrection means that a new people have been called together, made members of his resurrected Body, to live as a witness to this good news, this Easter proclamation, and this new creation. Our lectionary texts during Eastertide reflect this outworking of Christ's resurrection by replacing the Old Testament lessons with the story of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles. Similarly, during this season the Adult Forum will continue to study St Paul's letter to a church he founded in Galatia as a way of exploring how the Good News of the Easter proclamation was transforming lives and creating a community that would bear witness to God's unconquerable love in Christ.

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom 6:4).

## **Godly Play**

On Sunday, May 3 the Godly Play children will perform a program in church. This will be a program highlighting the life of Jesus. We will assign roles and practice during the regular Godly Play time for the next 3 Sundays. Please bring your children to church so they can help us tell the story of Jesus' life.

## **Celebration of a New Marriage**

Emily Gill & Aaron Lazar invite you to celebrate their new marriage with a reception in the Parish House after the Eucharist on Sunday, April 19. They are having a small, family only wedding on Saturday, April 18.

## **Parish Dinner & 2014 Opera Viewing**

Saturday, April 25 we will celebrate our new kitchen with a parish dinner and viewing of the 2014 opera in the parish hall.  
*(Donations encouraged: \$5 per person, \$20 per family)*

## **African Team Ministries**

The African Team Ministries' artifacts and jewelry will be available on Sunday April 12 and Sunday, April 26, after church in the Parish House.

## **Episcopal Art Series**

Magnificat, live in concert at St. James's, Richmond on Wednesday, April 15 @ 7pm. (\$25 Tickets available at [thediocese.net](http://thediocese.net))

## **Hand-in-Hand Listening Session**

The Diocese is holding a listening session on the issue of Racism & Reconciliation in the Diocese at the Church of the Epiphany, Richmond; Thursday, April 16, 7-8:30pm. Please consider coming.

Fr. Nik will be away from Monday, April 27 through Saturday, May 2. And he will be at the Spring Clergy Retreat at Shrine Mont Monday, May 4 through Wednesday, May 6.

**Office hours:** Jacquie Alleva, our parish secretary, works Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.

## 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 our Sunday worship, then join their parents for Communion.

**J2A Youth Group** meets twice a month for fun, fellowship, food, & formation. **The next meeting is Sunday, April 19 @ 5pm in the parish house.**

**Adult Forum** meets Sunday mornings at 9am. **During the seasons of Lent and Easter we're studying St Paul's Letter to the Galatians.** Come join us for coffee and good conversation.

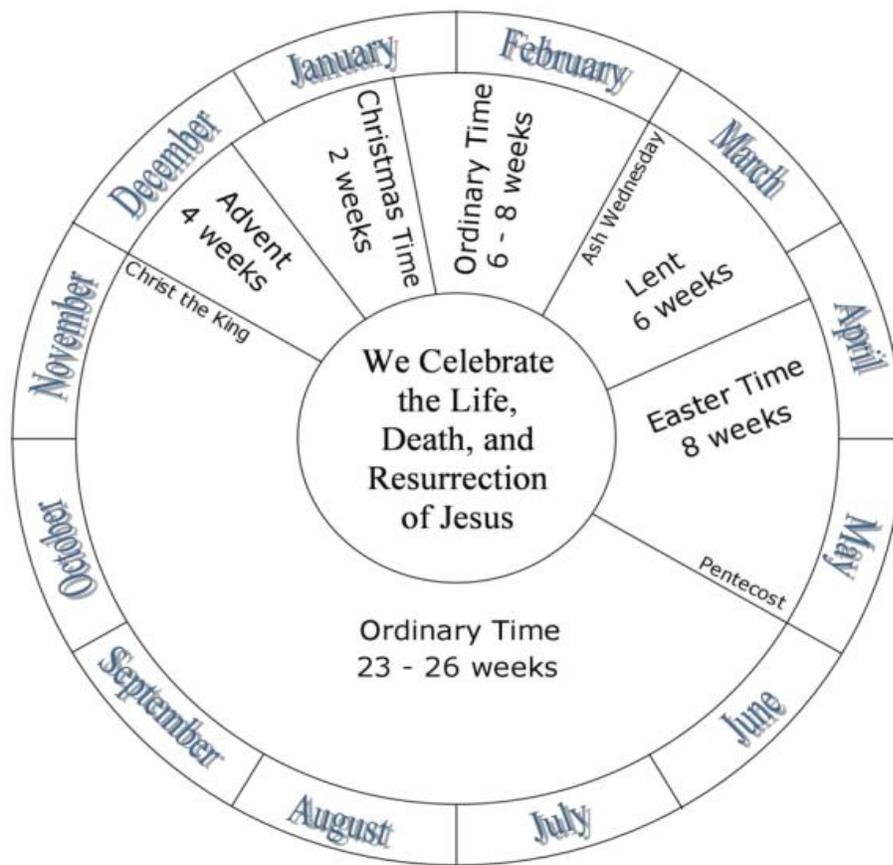
## Small Groups

**The Women's Book Group** meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. The next meeting is Thursday April 16, the book is *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: [boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, April 16 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 127 - 143). Please join us!

## Christian Formation

If you're interested in being Baptized or would like to become a member of this Church, please contact Fr Nik – [KNicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)



### Nik's Calendar

- Monday, Apr 13 – ECW Luncheon, 11am  
 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 1pm
- Tuesday, Apr 14 – Clericus, 9-10:30am
- Thursday, Apr 16 – Fresh Start, 9:30am-3:30pm  
 – Racism Listening Session, 7-8:30pm
- Friday, Apr 17 – Young Rector's Group, 10am-12:30pm

### Looking Ahead

- Sunday, Apr 12 – African Team Ministries art & jewelry sale, 11:30am
- Wednesday, Apr 15 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30-7:30pm
- Thursday, Apr 16 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am  
 – Women's Book Group, 10am-Noon
- Saturday, Apr 18 – Gill/Lazar wedding, 11am
- Sunday, Apr 19 – Gill/Lazar reception for the parish after Eucharist, 11:30am
- Sunday, Apr 19 – Youth Group, 5pm
- Tuesday, Apr 21 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm
- Wednesday, Apr 22 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30-7:30pm
- Saturday, Apr 25 – Parish Dinner, 6pm
- Sunday, April 26 - African Team Ministries art & jewelry sale, 11:30am
- Monday, Apr 27-Saturday, May 2 – Fr Nik is Away