

From Father Nik

With the beginning of Lent, we who follow Jesus on the journey of faith now turn with him to face Jerusalem, truthfully acknowledging the power of sin and death over our lives but pressing on with that glimmer of hope he revealed to us on the mount of transfiguration. At this time, we are invited, in the words of the Prayer Book, “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy word” (BCP 265). To this end, the Adult Forum will turn its attention to a six Sunday study of the Biblical book of Galatians, and our common prayer during the weekly celebration of the Eucharist will change slightly from its usual form and tone.

Up to this point in the 2014/15 Sunday school year, the Adult Forum has studied topics & themes in theology and church history. However, we will now spend the six Sundays of Lent *reading and meditating on* St Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians. This New Testament book was a letter sent by the Apostle Paul to the church he established in Galatia (in modern-day Turkey). If you haven’t come to the Adult Forum (at 9am in the Parish House each Sunday) before, you may want to consider joining us for this study as part of your Lenten discipline. For those who have been coming to the Adult Forum, this study will flow nicely from our Epiphany study of the Reformation, since Martin Luther found the Epistle to the Galatians to be the most clear and succinct witness to the Gospel of salvation by Grace through Faith in the Bible.

And that central Reformation teaching of justification by Grace alone through Faith alone will find its way into our Lenten prayers. It has been said that the Prayer of Humble Access (BCP 337) is the best expression of that Reformation doctrine of justification in liturgical prayer. So, during Lent we will say this slightly updated version of the prayer right before receiving communion: **We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.** And, in addition to this prayer, we will begin our worship with the Penitential Order (BCP 351-353), followed by the *Kyrie* (Lord, have mercy). In these ways, we will try, by God’s grace, to keep a holy Lent.

Nik+

What is Lent?

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

—BCP 264-265

Parish Directory

On the table in the narthex of the Church is a draft of the parish directory. Please check your information & make additions or corrections as needed. The final version will soon be available.

Fork Cookbook

Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

Birthdays

Jim Smythe 2/23; Jenny Smith 2/24; Michael Neri 2/26;
John Rickman 2/26; Richard P. Turner III 2/28

Please keep the following in your prayers

Carter Flippo, Lucky Chenault, Bob Partlow, Phyllis Bagby, Beryl Choi, Edna Duggins, Mary Franklin Fulghum *and* James Palmer, Lelia Hoge Smith, Katherine Cauthorne, Barbara Oates, Lucy Oliver, Betty Gary Redding, Greg Sleeman, Virginia Turner, Jim Blanton, Glenn Schleede, *and* Megan, Patrick & Lillian Sawyer Phelan

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 today, Sunday, February 22 @ 5pm in the parish house.**

Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings at 9am. **During the season of Lent we're doing a six (6) week study of 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 March 5, the book is *Unglued* by Lysa TerKeurst. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: boysthree@embarqmail.com

The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, Feb 26 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 93-103). Please join us!

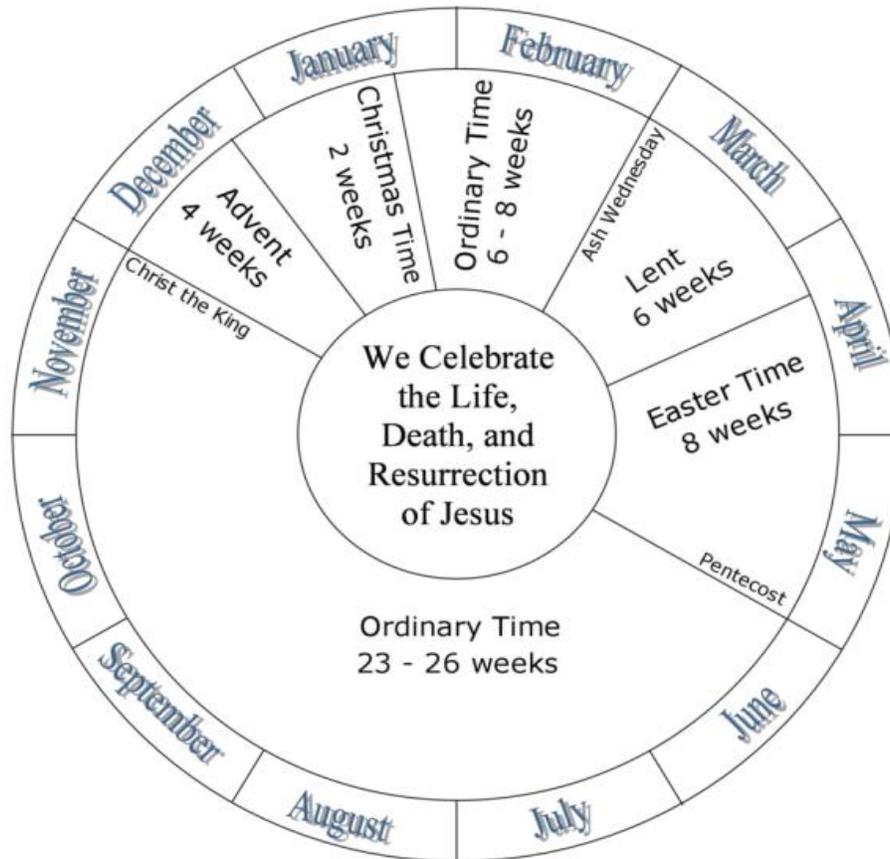
Christian Formation

A Christian Formation class for those seeking Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception begins on
Wednesday, Feb 25 at 6pm

& will meet weekly during the seasons of Lent & Easter.

If you're interested in being Baptized, Confirmed, or Received into this church, or if you would like to reaffirm your baptismal covenant, please contact Fr Nik – KNicholasForti@gmail.com

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

Saturday, Feb 21 – Premarital Preparation Meeting, 10:30am-noon

Monday, Feb 23 – Seminary Forum at VTS in Alexandria, 1-2pm
– Region XI Meeting, 6:30pm

Monday, Mar 2 – Meeting with the Rev Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

Wednesday, Mar 4 – Rev Nadia Bolz-Weber talk at St Paul's, 12:30-1pm

Thursday, Mar 5 – Fresh Start at Trinity, Fredericksburg, 9:30am-3:30pm

Tuesday, Mar 10 – Clericus, 9-11am

Looking Ahead

Sunday, Feb 22 – Vestry Commissioning during Eucharist
– Youth Group, 5-7pm

Tuesday, Feb 24 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm

Thursday, Feb 26 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Thursday, Mar 5 – Woman's Book Group, 10am-noon

Thursday, Mar 12 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Thursday, Mar 19 – Woman's Book group, 10am-noon