

From Father Nik

Last Sunday—the first Sunday of Lent—we heard about how God established a Covenant between Noah & his descendants & all the living creatures on his ark. And in the sermon, we said that covenant describes the relationship God establishes with his creatures—that is, with *us*. This special relationship always begins with a gift (from God) and is directed by a promise (from God). We have seen how God first established a covenant with all people (indeed, all creatures!) through Noah, when he saved them through the waters of the flood (gift) and said He would henceforth cherish all of life despite the corruption of sin (promise). We will come to see how God loved the world so much that He established yet another covenant with a people whom He blessed (gift) and through whom He would bless all peoples (promise)—namely, the Jews. As Christians, we believe that promise God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, a promise reiterated and renewed with Moses, Elijah, and David, came to its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who is God's greatest gift & promise.

Of course, the coming of Christ—his life, death, and resurrection—did not end the covenant God established with His chosen people, Israel. Rather, it is in Jesus Christ, the descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that we who are not of God's chosen people are, nevertheless, given a share in His covenant with them. This is the theme and argument of Saint Paul's letter to the churches of Galatia (which we are studying this Lent in the Adult Forum). Through the waters of baptism, we are saved by being made members of Christ's Body (gift) and thereby gaining entrance into God's covenant with Israel (promise). It is for this reason that the Book of Common Prayer refers to the Faith we received at baptism as our Baptismal Covenant (304-305).

This Lent, we—the parish community of Fork Church—have the privilege of supporting one of our own as he prepares to pass through the waters of Baptism into the Body of Christ. In the language of the church, he is a *catechumen*—one preparing for baptism. Moreover, we also have the honor of supporting yet others from our community who will be reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant in Confirmation or formal Reception into the Episcopal Church when the Bishop visits next fall. By supporting them in their journey and preparation, we too will find our faith renewed and reaffirm our own Baptismal Covenant.

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

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29 – 10am Eucharist
Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 7pm Eucharist
Good Friday, April 3 – 7pm Liturgy
Holy Saturday, April 4 – 10am Liturgy
Saturday, April 4 – 7:45pm Great Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday, April 5 – 10am Eucharist

Fork Cookbook

Buy yours today from any cookbook committee member.

Birthdays

Ian Murphy 3/3; Hoge Smith 3/4; Boo Blackwell 3/5; Amy Blanton 3/7

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, March 8 @ 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

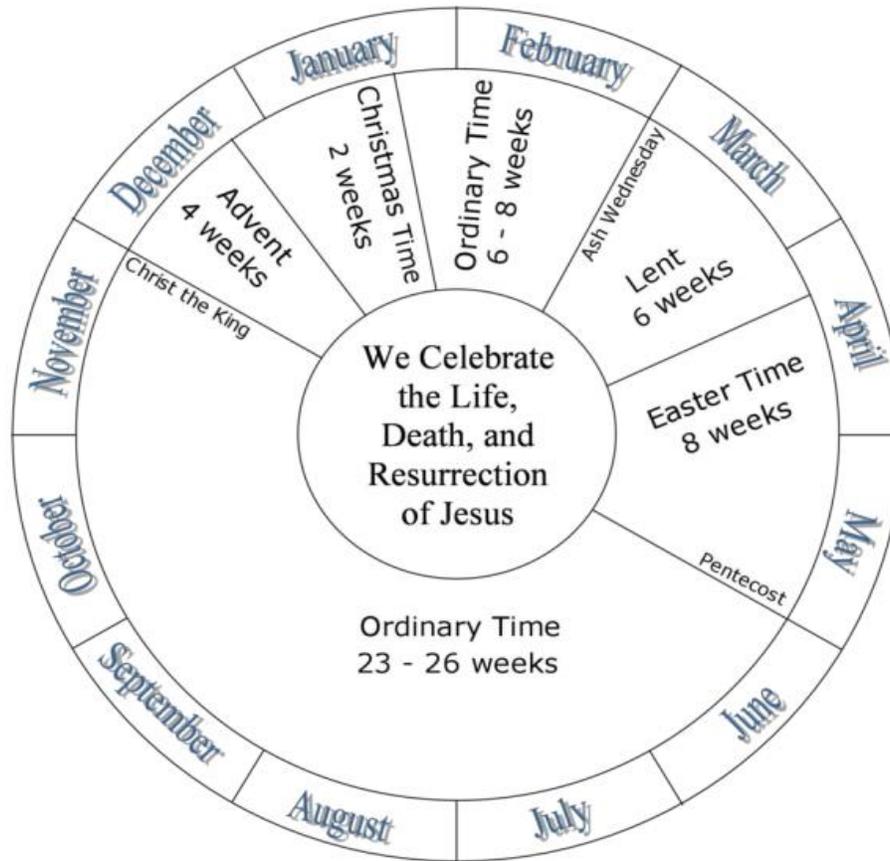
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, March 5 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 93-103). Please join us!

Christian Formation

A Christian Formation class for those seeking Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception is meeting 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

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

Wednesday, Mar 4 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6pm

Wednesday, Mar 4 – Choir rehearsal, 7pm

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

Thursday, Mar 5 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

Wednesday, Mar 11 – Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30pm

Wednesday, Mar 11 – Choir rehearsal, 7pm