

From Father Nik

In Christ, God has fulfilled His promise to establish a new covenant. This is the covenant He promised through the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34), the law of which would be written on the heart. This new commandment of the new covenant in Christ is written on the heart because the new commandment is for us to love one another as He has loved us (Jn 13:34). And God chose to show His love by not clinging to the status of His deity but emptying Himself to live among us, as one of us—limited by space and time and the needs of a body, dependent on others as we all are, and living in the shadow of death (Phil 2:5-8). In other words, to save us from sin and death and to write the law of love on our hearts, God took on a human heart, fleshy and pumping blood through a body like yours and mine. But in this world dominated by death, beating hearts eventually stop—even when it is the heart of the Lord of Life.

In this fallen world, twisted by violence and distorted by sin, death has become the great enemy of love, undermining the law of love with each heart it stops. Death separates us from those we love. Death brings to ruin the great projects of our love and passion. Death dashes hope and drives away faith. Death tempts us to turn our love inwards, transgressing the commandment that we love one another—which Death makes too painful—and seducing us to love ourselves only. We know deep down that Death will get the final word, so we assume that there aren't enough beats left in our hearts to waste our love on others. And secretly we hope that by insulating ourselves in a cocoon of self-love, shutting out others on whose lives we see the signs of Death's shadow, we might just get out of life alive.

After the Flood, God acknowledged that sin and Death had distorted the desires of our hearts so that “the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth” (Gen 8:21). With each covenant, He bestowed His love to redirect our hearts to Him, and through Him, to others. At Sinai, he established the rituals of sacrifice to teach us that His *love is strong as death* (Song of Songs 8:6). But we would not know the depths of His love until He had a heart that beat in rhythm with ours, a heart that could and would also be stopped by death. We would not know the depths of his love until his love for us led him, while still a young man, to face death head on. We would not know the depths of His love for us until he loved us to the end (Jn 13:1), establishing a new covenant with us in His blood, forgetting our sin forever (Jer 31:34), and writing the law of love upon our hearts.

Palms

Please keep your palms to bring back on Shrove Tuesday next year.
Or return them in the narthex after Eucharist.
We will burn them and use the ashes for Ash Wednesday next year

Holy Week Schedule

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

Easter Breakfast

All are welcome to a pancake breakfast at 9am in the Parish House
before Easter Sunday Eucharist
(*donations appreciated*)

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.

Birthdays: Paul Newell 3/30; Bev Smith 3/31; Ann Comfort 4/2;
Anne Rickman 4/3; Cynthia Van Riper 4/3

African Team Ministries

Fork again is participating in the African Team Ministries sale of jewelry and
artifacts. Items are scheduled to be displayed on Sunday, April 12. The African
Team Ministries is a Christian Ministry that provides funding for orphan and
refugee missions and evangelism in East Africa. They have experienced the worst
drought in 60 years which has caused a severe food crisis in East Africa. The profits
from this year will be used to purchase irrigation pumps and dig wells for the
villages. The people are working especially hard on the items they will be sending.
For more information on African Team Ministries, their website is
Africanteamministries.org

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, March 29 @ 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

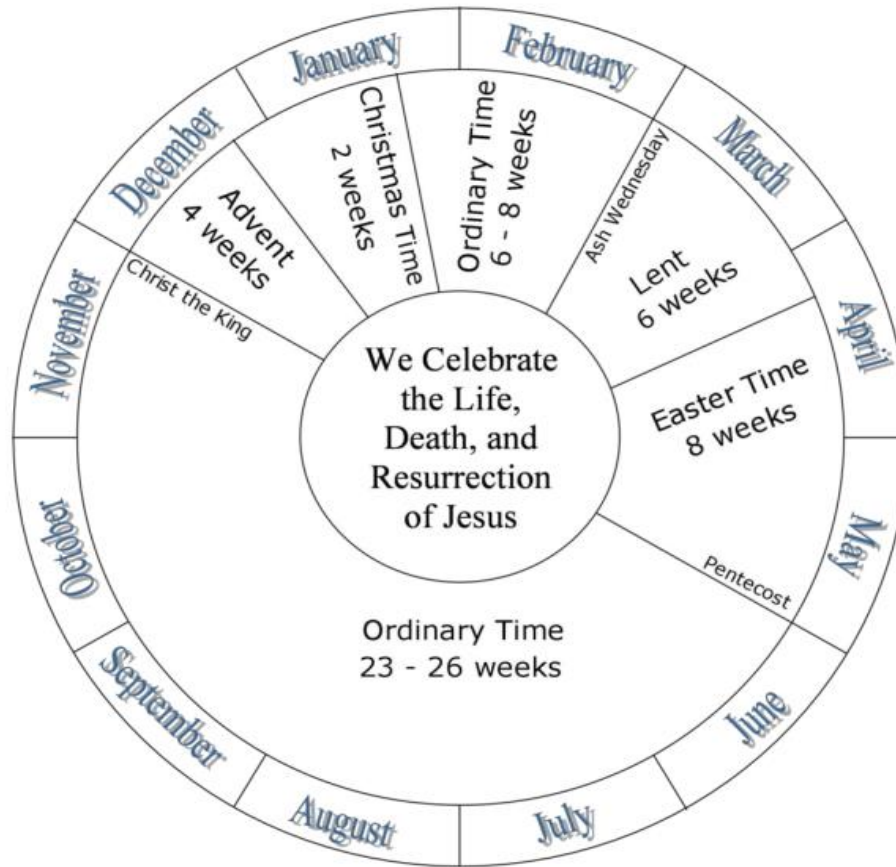
The Women's Book Group meets every other Thursday at Kathy Thomas' house from 10am-noon. The next meeting is Thursday April 2, the book is *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown. Please contact Kathy for directions or more info: boysthree@embarqmail.com

The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, April 2 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea. They are reading *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* by Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon – (pages 112-127). 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

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

Thursday, Mar 26 – RMC Campus Ministry Council, noon-1pm
Tuesday, Mar 31 – Clergy Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30am

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, Apr 1 - Catechism & Confirmation class, 6:30-7:30pm
Thursday, Apr 2 - Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
- Women's Book Group, 10am-Noon
- **Maundy Thursday** Agape Meal & Eucharist, 7pm
- Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Apr 3 - **Good Friday** Liturgy, 7pm
Saturday, Apr 4 - **Holy Saturday** Liturgy, 10am
- **The Great Easter Vigil** (with Baptism) 7:45pm
Sunday, Apr 5 - **Easter Sunday Eucharist** (10am) & Breakfast (9am)
Wednesday, Apr 8 - Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
Sunday, Apr 12 - Youth Group, 5-7pm