

## From Father Nik

All Christians have a share in Christ's sacramental priesthood; therefore, all Christians can baptize in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Within that priesthood of all believers, some have been set apart for the proclamation of the Word in liturgy; some for presiding over the Eucharist and pronouncing absolution; and some for exercising oversight of the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church as spiritual descendants of the Apostles. These members of the Church who have been set apart to equip the saints are deacons, priests, and bishops—respectively.

What is important to remember is that those who are set apart for Holy Orders—bishops, priests, deacons—are not set apart *from* the laity but *for* the laity. The laity are the λαός (laos), or “people” of God—the baptized. The primary order of ministry in the Church is that of a layperson. But for there to be laity, there must be those set apart to sustain the laity in their faith, their Christian life, and their ministry to the world. As the Episcopal lay-theologian, William Stringfellow wrote: “There is no priesthood without a laity serving the world; there is no laity without a priesthood serving the laity. There is not one without the other.” When we forget this truth, as Stringfellow believed that much of Protestantism in America (including the Episcopal Church) has, then we are in danger of producing clergy who are really professional laity, and laity who are only ceremonial spectators.

One of the buzzwords or phrases thrown around in seminaries and church conventions is that *we* must “empower the laity.” This phrase, as well meaning as it may be, is a good indication that Stringfellow's diagnosis is basically correct. An ordained friend of mine once mentioned this phrase to his wife, a layperson. Her response was, “I don't need *you* to empower *me*!” She's right, of course. The clergy don't empower the laity, and the laity don't empower the clergy. Both laity and clergy are empowered by Christ for distinct and complementary ministries. As St Paul reminded the church in Corinth, no member of the Body of Christ can say that they have no need of another. “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Cor 12:4-7). Nik+

## *Coffee Hour*

Thanks to the Droppleman family for today's refreshments!

Volunteers are needed for next Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

To sign up, please go to

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040449A5AA2FA57-coffee/25614452](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040449A5AA2FA57-coffee/25614452)

## **Godly Play Children**

will be performing on Sunday November 8th for the Feast of All Saints.

## *Heavenly Creations Arts & Crafts Show*

St. James the Less, Ashland

Friday, November 20 – 6-8:30pm

Saturday, November 21 – 9am-4pm

## *Thanksgiving Day*

Eucharist at 10am on Thursday, November 26.

The Liturgy will be from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer,  
in keeping with the historic origin of Fork Church.

## **Interested in Serving on Vestry?**

Contact Fr Nik – [KnicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KnicholasForti@gmail.com); 804-291-6124

## 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 morning worship; after which, they join their parents in church for Communion.

**J2A Youth Group** will meet on Sunday November 8, at 5:30pm, in the parish hall.

**The Adult Sunday School** meets Sunday mornings at 9am, in the parish hall, to explore the Sacraments.

## Small Groups

**The Women's Book Group** will discuss the third section of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, "Holy Orders" on Thursday, November 5, at 10am. Please contact Kathy for directions:

[boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

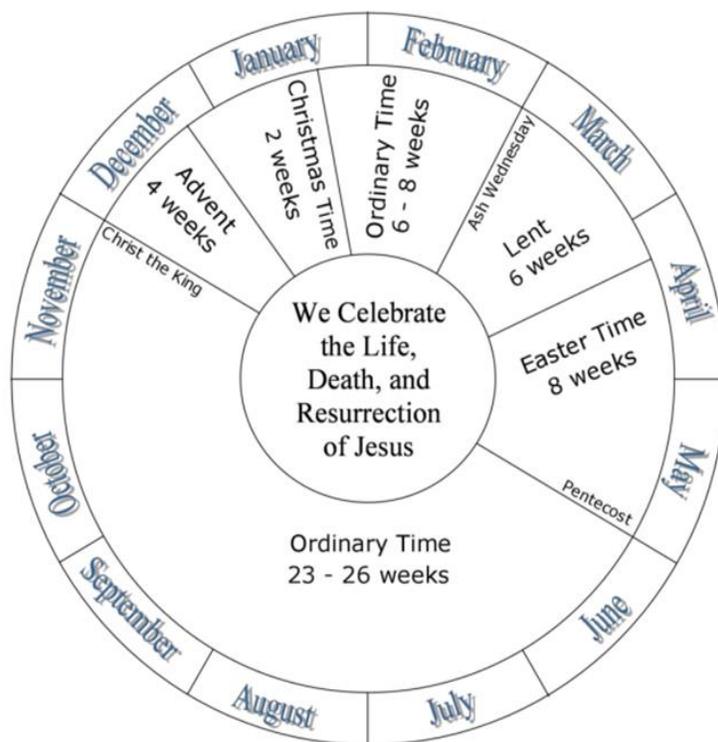
**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, November 5, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the third section of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, "Holy Orders" (pp 95-117).

## Christian Formation

The *Way of Discipleship* class for Confirmation & Reception meets on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

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)

# The Liturgical Year



## Nik's Calendar

- Monday, Nov 2 – Coffee w/ Fr. Bushong, 10:30-12:30pm
  - PPDC Chapel, 5:30-6:30pm
- Tuesday, Nov 3 – Clergy Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30am
  - Lunch w/ Rev. Charles Joy, 12:30pm
- Tuesday, Nov 10 – Lunch w/ Brian Turner, 12-1pm
- Thursday, Nov 12 – Fresh Start, 9:30am-3pm

## Looking Ahead

- Wednesday, Nov 4 – Confirmation/Reception class, 6:30pm
  - Choir Rehearsal, 7pm
- Thursday, Nov 5 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
  - Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
  - **Parish Hall Use:** GS Troop 429 Leaders Meeting, 6:30-8:30pm
- Friday-Sunday, Nov 6-8 – Fork Church Parish Retreat, Shrine Mont
- Wednesday, Nov 11 – Confirmation/Reception class, 6:30pm
  - Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

**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.