

From Father Nik

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money. Do not bring a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not receive you, as you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the good news and healing everywhere.

~Luke 9:1-6

In this passage, Jesus' prophetic pronouncement of the Twelve as apostles is fulfilled. "Apostle" means "one who is sent." Jesus called forth the Twelve from among his disciples and named them "apostles" in Luke 6:13. However, these apostles were not sent anywhere at the time. So, there was a hint of prophecy in their name. That prophecy reaches fulfillment in Luke 9:2—*and he sent them out*. Up to this point, Jesus has been training and preparing them through parable and example. Now, he sends them out, giving them his *power and authority*. Yet, this is still a part of their training. They will return and report back to Christ in Luke 9:10. This mission is for a limited period of time, restricted to Galilee and *the lost sheep of the house of Israel* (Mt 10:5-6). Only later, in the book of Acts, will the apostles receive the Holy Spirit and be sent forth to every nation in a mission that will extend beyond their own days, ongoing until Christ returns.

This mission is a part of the apostles' formation and preparation for that greater mission. And the preparation includes clear instructions from Christ. First, they are told *to take nothing for their journey*. This isn't a vacation or a business trip. It's a mission. After that general exhortation, Jesus gets more specific. *No staff*—staves were used on journeys primarily as a means of protection. Jesus isn't telling his apostles that they shouldn't have a walking stick to help ease the burden of the hike; he's telling them that they cannot make recourse to weapons or violence. "If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also" (Lk 6:28). *No bag*—the apostles are not to bring extra provisions with them. They aren't to be self-sufficient, but rather dependent on God, the households that welcome them, and the community of disciples (Lk 8:1-3, 12:22-34, & Acts 4:32-37). *No bread, nor money*—The apostles shall not live by bread alone but by the Word of God (Mt 4:4). They will bring healing and the gospel. Those who receive the apostles, their message, and the healing they bring will provide for them their daily bread. "For the laborer deserves his food" (Mt 10:10). This is the kingdom of God, when two or three gather in the name of the Lord to proclaim the gospel and to share in the breaking of the bread of life.

Thank You

To all who came out for Parish clean-up day last Saturday.

The yard is raked, the flower beds are weeded and freshly planted, the driveway is patched with new stone, parish hall floor was vacuumed, cleaned & polished, and the walkway to the parish house has a new drain.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Thanks to Miles family for this morning's refreshments!

Please consider volunteering for a Sunday.

Learn about St. Augustine

A small group of parishioners from Fork & SJtL are meeting at

10am every other Thursday at St. James the Less

to listen to and discuss the Teaching Company Course,

“Augustine: Philosopher & Saint” by Phillip Cary.

If you are interested in joining the discussion,

they will meet again at

10am on Thursday, June 16.

Parish Picnic

The Parish Picnic will be

next Sunday, June 12 at 10am

Mount Olympus Farm, Ruther Glen

CARITAS

We will be assisting with CARITAS

at St James the Less, Ashland on July 9.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church.

See Howard Anderson for more info.

The loose offering collected on the first Sunday of each month goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

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 worship.

J2A Youth Group will meet **Sunday, June 5**, at 5pm in the parish hall.

The Adult Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to study the Gospel according to Luke.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will meet next on Thursday, June 9, at 10am to discuss chapters 12 & 13 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press). Please contact Kathy for directions: boysthree@embarqmail.com

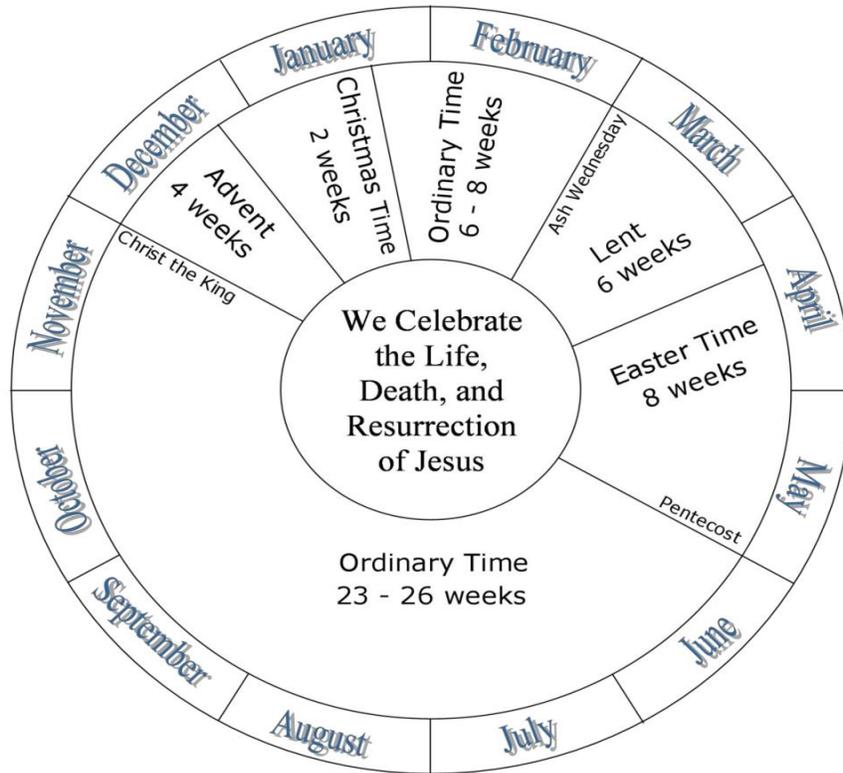
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, June 9, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss chapter 11 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

Christian Formation

If you have never been Baptized or Confirmed, and are interested in receiving these sacraments, please contact Fr Nik – KnicholasForti@gmail.com

These classes are also for those considering Reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant.

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Monday, June 6 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
- Monday, June 13 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
- Wednesday, June 22 – Cluster Meeting at Fork Church, 11:00am-1:30pm
- Thursday, June 23 – Meeting with Fr Phil & Fr Ben, 9:30-10:30am

Looking Ahead

- Sunday, June 5 – Youth Group, 5pm
- Thursday, June 9 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
- Sunday, June 12 – Parish Picnic at Mt. Olympus Farm, 10am
- Thursday, June 16 – St Augustine Study at SJtL, 10am
- Thursday, June 23 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
- Saturday, July 9 – CARITAS, St. James the Less, Ashland

Office hours: Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, works Tuesdays, Thursday afternoons, and Fridays. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.