



Let us awake in the deep dawn, and instead of myrrh offer a hymn to the Master, and we shall see Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, Who causes life to dawn for all. Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. - Canon of the Pascha, Ode V, tone 1.

ST. AIDAN ORTHODOX CHURCH - April 2026 NEWSLETTER (Issue #33)

UPCOMING EVENTS: *Check website for Updates!*

Wed, April 1: 6pm to 9pm – *Presanctified Liturgy, followed by a potluck Soup Supper and the reading of the life of St Mary of Egypt.*

Sat, April 4: 9am – *Divine Liturgy of St Lazarus*

: 1pm to 5pm - *Church Cleaning Bee*

: 6pm – *Great Vespers with Litya*

Sun, April 5: 10:30am – *Divine Liturgy: Palm Sunday, followed by a potluck lunch*

: 6pm to 9pm – *Holy Week begins with Bridegroom Matins*

Mon, April 6: 6pm to 9pm – *Bridegroom Matins*

Tues, April 7: 6pm to 9pm – *Bridegroom Matins*

Wed, April 8: 6pm to 9pm – *Presanctified Liturgy, followed by a potluck Soup Supper*

Th, April 9: 10:30am – *St Basil Vespersal Divine Liturgy*

: 5:30pm to 7:30pm – *Matins with 12 Gospel Readings*

Fri, April 10: 9am to 11am: *Royal Hours*

: 4pm to 5pm: *Vespers with Shroud Veneration*

: 5:30pm to 7:30pm – *Matins with Shroud Procession*

Sat, April 11: 9am to 11am – *St Basil Vespersal Divine Liturgy*

: 10:30pm to 2am – *Paschal Divine Liturgy and Basket Blessing*

Sun, April 12: 2pm to 6pm – *Agape Vespers and Paschal Feast*

Wed, April 15: 9am – *Bright Week Divine Liturgy*

Sat, April 18: 9:30am to 12noon – *Men's Coffee Morning*

: 6pm – *Great Vespers*

Sun, April 19: 10:30am – *Divine Liturgy: St Thomas Sunday*

Sat, April 25: 9:30am to 12noon – *Women's Coffee Morning*

: 6pm – *Great Vespers*

Sun, April 26: 10:30am – *Divine Liturgy: Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women*

FATHER'S DESK: Holy Week Guide

Holy Week and Pascha are the highlight of the Church year and filled with Kingdom reality in joy and illumination of life in Christ! I hope this little guide will encourage you all to make an extra effort to come to as many services as you can manage. You will be most blessedly rewarded for your efforts! Call anytime if you have questions or to sign up for an Agape Vespers non-English language reading of John 20: 19-25! The guide below and on our website includes information about Holy Week services such as:

Fri. April 10 - Royal Hours - We build the tomb after the Royal hours are finished and before the 4:00pm Vespers begins. To that end we need an abundance of cut and potted flowers, primarily red and white intermixed with fragrant hyacinths. It is appropriate to bring flowers, particularly red and white to decorate the tomb with.

Fri. April 10 - Matins with Praises & Procession with the Shroud - As many as can take a 1 hr. shift before the Tomb of Christ and read the Psalms throughout the night until Saturday's St. Basil Liturgy. We take turns reading the Psalms in 1 hr. shifts from the end of this Great and Holy Friday service (around 10:00pm) until the Great and Holy Saturday morning liturgy and baptismal service (around 10:00am). Then after that service, The Book of Acts is read until the Saturday night (10:00pm) Paschal service. A sign-up sheet will be put out during Holy Week so that during the vigil, individuals and families that have signed up for an hour or two can go to the church and read the psalms at the tomb. Anyone can sign up to read over the tomb, it is a great blessing!

Sat. April 11 - Pascha!!! The Paschal service begins at 10:30 pm Saturday night and continues until the early hours Sunday morning. (2:00am ish) Children frequently end up sleeping on the floor, under benches or in the loft. Make sure everyone is dressed warmly since around midnight, the light of Christ comes from the Altar to all, and bearing our candles we do the triple victorious procession around the church as our shouts ring out, CHRIST IS RISEN!!! At the end of the service, red eggs are handed to everyone for the breaking of our fast. If anyone wants to dye the traditional red eggs, dye is available in the bookstore.

[A Brief Guide to the Holy Week Services at St. Aidan's Orthodox Church 2026 - Saint Aidan Orthodox Church](#)

Q and A Time:

QUESTION – WHAT DO WE PUT IN THE BASKETS TO BE BLESSED AFTER PASCHA?

ANSWER – After the midnight services, we share our Paschal baskets. These contain the food that we've all been craving during Lent, primarily finger food; cheese, crackers, sausage, jerky, fried chicken, yogurt, chocolate, alcohol etc. This is not the feast, that happens on Sunday afternoon. The baskets are a taste of what is to come. Each family creates and fills their own decorative basket or box. Those without family can make their own or get together with others. The baskets are placed on the tables in the hall with a candle and blessed after the Paschal service. After the blessing, we eat our blessed food and then go home to sleep!

Church School: The Myrrhbearing Women, April 26

The Myrrhbearing women – those who had faithfully followed Jesus right to the foot of the cross, even when the other apostles had scattered and were hiding out – were on their way to properly anoint their beloved Lord's precious body, according to the Jewish customs. This was an act of great love and courage, given that they expected Roman soldiers to be guarding the sealed Tomb.

Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb? We struggle with the same question. What is this stone guarding our heart? The holy fathers describe this heart of stone as a deadness and insensitivity to spiritual things, to God and His kingdom, to His ever-present love. What are the danger signs? Our blind dedication and pursuit to building ourselves an earthly kingdom. We act as if our material accomplishments and wealth gathered here on this earth during our short journey here is permanent, and therefore all of our thoughts, plans, and energies are focused on this earthly life.

Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb of our heart? The Lord Himself fights this battle for us. (2 Cor. 12:9,10) "...My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness..." The Lord sends His angels to disperse the obstacles and they are immediately scattered. When we are sorrowful, confused and wounded and think that nothing can help, we would do well to imitate the Myrrhbearing women and run to Christ. Don't focus on the obstacles, focus on Christ! May we, even when nothing makes sense, may we too, simply turn to Christ and find that He is always right there with us until the end of the ages. Read the full homily on our website here:

[Myrrhbearing Women - Who Will Roll Away the Stone? - Saint Aidan Orthodox Church](#)

Church Youth: Veneration of the Shroud, April 10

Fr Jeremy from Orthodox Road had a friend ask him, "What does it mean to contemplate the face of Christ?" He replies "First of all, contemplation (as I have come to understand it in Orthodoxy) has nothing to do with the imagination. So, we do not picture Christ in our minds in order to contemplate Him and His face. Thousands of years of experience in prayerful guidance with the Holy Spirit has shown us that the imagination is a dangerous place to dwell during prayer.

Secondly, contemplation is participation. True contemplation of Christ our God is not something that is possible without participating in the divine energies of Christ Himself. We cannot intimately know Christ intellectually, only through union and communion with Him.

We were all made to contemplate the face of Christ, and we do so through the path of salvation, which generally happens in three stages. The first stage, purification, is where we spend most of our lives. In this stage, we receive the grace of Christ to struggle with and overcome the passions that have ensnared us our whole lives. Illumination is the second stage of salvation, and those who are being purified through the grace of God, combined with their own efforts, see a gradual transition into this stage. All who continue along this path with faithfulness will, by the grace of God, enter the third stage called theosis, or deification, which (from my understanding) is a perpetual, uninterrupted contemplation of God and participation in His energies. This is what happens in Heaven in the age to come and is the place many saints dwell."

Read the full article here: [Contemplating the Face of Christ - Orthodox Road](#)

Outreach Ministry Updates:

Family Vespers: Cancelled this month due to Pascha services.

Everyone is welcome to join us at Family Vespers, usually the first Saturday of each month, followed by a pizza dinner and boardgames. All are welcome, and please invite friends and family to come with you to Family Vespers!

Cleaning Bee: April 4 from 11am to 4pm

We are organizing a Spring Clean of the church, inside and out, after the 9:00am April 4 Lazarus Saturday Liturgy and meal on Saturday, April 4, from about 11:00am to 4:00ish - Vespers will be at 6pm. If you can help, please call or just come on down with your favorite cleaning rag. The St. Aidan young people are pitching in by cleaning up weeds/debris from the church yard and gardens. If any adults would like to help, the more the merrier. Bring gloves.

Men's Coffee Morning: Saturday, April 18 from 9:30am to 12 noon.

Come on out to the church on the third Saturday of each month and bring any of your bros that may wish to partake in a time of who knows what conversations??? May it be blessed!

Women's Coffee Morning: Saturday, April 25 from 9:30am to 12 noon.

Always the 4th Saturday of every month. Ladies only, no children except for nursing mothers as we have no childcare available.

St Mary of Egypt Readers Needed for April 1st

Come and help us with the reading of St Mary of Egypt at the Soup Supper after the 6pm Presanctified Liturgy, April 1.

Annual Summer Camp:

Saint Aidan's Church Camp has once again been booked at the Harbour in Riondel for August 21–24, 2026! Be sure to book your vacation time soon!

Contact us at (250) 420-1582 or at frandrewapplegate@gmail.com

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Donations to our church can be made with an e-transfer to: saintaidan201@gmail.com or with a [credit card](#)

Social Media Links: Website: saintaidan.ca, [Facebook](#), [Facebook Group](#), and [Instagram](#)