



"...no soul can exist without God, without His Son, without His Spirit. God is my being, my breath, my light, my strength, my drink, my food. He carries me as a mother carries her infant in her arms. More than this. Carrying me, my soul and body, He dwells in me, and is united to me."
St. John of Kronstadt

ST. AIDAN ORTHODOX CHURCH - MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER (Issue #34)

UPCOMING EVENTS: **Check website for Updates!**

Sat, May 2: *4pm – Family Vespers, followed by Pizza and games*

Sun, May 3: *10:30am – Divine Liturgy: Sunday of the Paralytic, followed by a potluck lunch.*

Sat, May 9: *6pm – Great Vespers*

Sun, May 10: *10:30am – Divine Liturgy: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, followed by a potluck lunch*

Sat, May 16: *9:30am to 12noon – Men’s Coffee Morning*

6pm – Great Vespers

Sun, May 17: *10:30am – Divine Liturgy: Sunday of the Blind Man, followed by a potluck lunch.*

Wed, May 20: *6pm – Great Vespers with Litya*

Thur, May 21: *9am – Divine Liturgy: Ascension of Our Lord*

Sat, May 23: *9:30am to 12noon – Women’s Coffee Morning*

: 6pm – Great Vespers

Sun, May 24: *10:30am – Divine Liturgy: Commemoration of the 1st Ecumenical Council, followed by a potluck lunch*

Sat, May 30: *6pm – Great Vespers*

Sun, May 31: *Divine Liturgy: Holy Pentecost, followed by a potluck lunch, then Kneeling Vespers at 2pm*

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, May 10

The story of St. Photini, the Samaritan Woman, serves as a powerful example of resilience and faith as she is transformed into a spiritual mother, sharing her faith with her family and spreading the Gospel. Read the sermon below, as Fr Luke A Veronis talks about “motherhood, as an ideal, represent[ing] a spirit of selfless, sacrificial and unconditional love, of boundless and generous giving, of never-ending hope and belief in the goodness of others, and in a deep-rooted and eternal joy celebrating the lives of others.”

[Sunday of the Samaritan Woman](#)

FATHER'S DESK: Holy Pentecost, May 31

This month ends the Paschal season, begun with Christ's resurrection, His trampling down death by death! After His resurrection, for 40 days Christ opens the eyes of His apostles and disciples that they might understand the scriptures. After 40 days, Christ ascends, seating our humanity in heaven at the right hand of God, and tells His disciples to wait for Him to send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth. They wait until Pentecost – the 50th day. The Paschal season is then complete, and we count future weeks as the (1st, 2nd, 3rd ...) week after Pentecost.

During the Pentecost Vigil we sing: "The Holy Spirit provides all; Overflows with Prophecy; Fulfills the Priesthood; Has taught wisdom to the illiterates; Has revealed fishermen as theologians; He brings together the whole council of the Church." He is close and connected intimately with each of us in a continuous and everlasting way. The Holy Spirit is God, worshiped and glorified together with the Father and the Son, and we are called to create a wonderful dwelling place within our hearts where He will be pleased to dwell!

Since Pascha we have not knelt – we will soon make up for this a little when we pray the kneeling prayers for Pentecost at the end of the Pentecost Liturgy. These 3 long kneeling prayers come to us from St. Basil the great, in the fourth century, and we only get to say them at this Pentecost service once a year. We will once again invoke the Holy Spirit by praying "O Heavenly King..." We stopped this prayer at Pascha and have hungered in anticipation to again begin every Liturgy – apart from this 50-day period – with this prayer.

Q and A Time:

QUESTION – What is the theme of this month's Sundays of Paschaltide?

ANSWER – Baptism! Fr George Gray writes in The Season of Paschaltide:

The Sunday of the Paralytic - There was an underground spring that fed the Sheep Pool with water. Every now and then the spring would percolate and the surface of the pool would ripple. The idea came to be held that at the time of the rippling, the Archangel Raphael (the patron of healing) had actually descended and stirred the water with his wings as a signal for all the sick to enter into the pool — and that the very first person to touch the water would be healed of whatever disease he or she possessed. On the deck of this pool, Christ found a man who had been unable to move his limbs for 38 years. "Do you want to be healed?" "I have nobody to place me in the water..." And Jesus tells him to pick up his mat and walk — which he does. Baptism heals the infirmities of our body and soul and frees us from paralyzing sin and self-absorption.

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman - The Savior broke with rabbinical tradition and not only publicly spoke with a woman, but He conversed with (and drank from the hands of) this Gentile. And in the Presence of the Lord it finally dawns on her that she is living a lie. She runs to the village to tell her people. She takes the Good News to them — the illuminating Water of Life is another baptismal theme we encounter at this season.

The Sunday of the Blind Man - Taking up the baptismal theme once again, we close the Paschal season with the story of the man who was born blind. Darkness can be physical (outward) or spiritual (inner) darkness. Blindness can be a visual disability. It can also be a spiritual disability. In the passage for this Sunday both types of sightedness are granted to the man born blind. [READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

Church School: The Ascension of Christ, May 21

Did you know that 40 days after Pascha, Jesus went to Heaven for the first time? Did you know that we were able to go to Heaven for the first time after Jesus went there?

This [Lesson for Children on the Ascension](#) from the Saint Kosmas Orthodox Christian Education Association will use icons to tell the story of His Ascension to Heaven. You will see angels and apostles and talk about the Creed. You will even learn which saint was the first to see Jesus in Heaven.

Church Youth: Sunday of the Blind Man, May 17

In Fr Deacon Gregory's homily on the Blind Man, he writes about faith:

"[Jesus] left the temple grounds. As He left His attention was drawn to a man born blind from birth. His disciples saw His interest in the man and asked who's sin caused his blindness, his own or his parents. Jesus replies neither the man or the parents sinned. Jesus harkens back to chapter 8 and says; We must do the works of the Father. He includes His followers, and by implication, the Church, in His ministry. After explaining this, He spits on the ground, makes clay and applies it the man's eyes and tells him to go wash in the pool of Siloam.

This passage is interesting because throughout the conversation with His disciples, Jesus never talks to the blind man, nor does the blind man say a word to Jesus.

Jesus spoke to the paralytic when healing Him. His conversation with the Samaritan woman is the longest recorded conversation in the Gospel's, but with the blind man Jesus says just one sentence. The man obeys and is given both physical and spiritual sight.

I see the blind man as an illustration of the life of faith.

The blind man was a passive recipient of God's grace. We too are recipients of God's grace. In some ways it is like Jesus is having a conversation about each one of us. Then He reaches down to touch us and tells to go wash in the pool of Siloam and our eyes are opened to faith. We see Him in a different way. For some of us our washing was our baptism. For others, who were baptized at birth Jesus touches our life in some way and we respond in faith and follow Him in obedience.

The blind man obeyed Jesus' command to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. It seems like a simple command, but in fact the pool was quite far from the temple. It would not be easy for the blind man to travel that distance without sight, but he obeyed and was given his sight. In the same way when Jesus touches our life and asks us to do difficult tasks, we need to be obedient. Some of His commands will be hard, it may be giving up a habit, or reconciling with some one with whom we've had a falling out. The Lord will direct us in what we need to do.

When we are obedient to His commands a blessing will come, we will see Jesus more clearly and draw nearer to Him." [Read the full homily here.](#)

Outreach Ministry Updates:

Fort Steele Cemetary Clean Up: Saturday, May 2 from 9am to 12 noon.

Come and join us for the morning as we clean up the winter leaves etc, and ready the cemetery for burial services.

Ask Fr Andrew or Ellen for forms for cemetery plot reservations at the Fort Steele Cemetery. If you have any questions please email or text them.

Family Vespers: Saturday, May 2 at 4pm.

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

Men's Coffee Morning: May 16 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: May 23 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.

Music Lessons

Birgitte is newly arrived, very accomplished and setting up right at St. Aidan's! She is holding Music and Movement Classes for Babies and for Toddlers, as well as fiddle lessons.

Register at birgitemusic.ca

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!

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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](#)