



O Holy Father Yakov whose children number more than the stars in the northern sky, whose life and teachings have become a ladder reaching from earth to heaven: Having wrestled with temptation and fought the good fight, you have become our valiant intercessor before the Lord our God. – from the First Kontakion of St. Jacob of Alaska

## ST. AIDAN ORTHODOX CHURCH - JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER (Issue #36)

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

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

**Sun, July 5:** *10:30am – Divine Liturgy, followed by a potluck lunch.*

**Sat, July 11:** *6pm – Great Vespers*

**Sun, July 12:** *10:30am – Divine Liturgy, followed by a potluck lunch*

**Tues, July 14 – Fri, July 17:** *Calgary Archdiocese Assembly*

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

*:6pm – Great Vespers*

**Sun, July 19:** *10:30am – Divine Liturgy, followed by a potluck lunch.*

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

*: 6pm – Great Vespers*

**Sun, July 26:** *10:30am – Divine Liturgy, followed by a potluck lunch*

*: 5pm – Fr Andrew and Matushka Sonia's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

### St John of Shanghai and San Francisco, July 2

*"Sanctity is not just a virtue. It is an attainment of such spiritual heights, that the abundance of God's grace which fills the saint overflows on all who associate with him. Great is the saint's state of bliss in which they dwell contemplating the Glory of God. Being filled with love for God and man, they are responsive to man's needs, interceding before God and helping those who turn to them."*

Thus describing the ancient Saints, Vladyka John simultaneously summarized his own spiritual attitude which made him one of the greatest Saints of our time.

Read 'The Life and Miracles of St. John (Maximovich) of Shanghai and San Francisco—One of the Greatest Saints of the 20th Century' by Bishop Alexander (Mileant) by [clicking this link](#).

## FATHER'S DESK: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, July 26

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost is when we hear the story of the feeding of the 5000 with only 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread.

This miracle of the feeding of the thousands is told by all 4 of the Gospel writers, and in the gospel of John Chapter 6, Christ explains the Eucharist in very clear and unambiguous terms. St. John starts with the feeding of the 5000, but ends with Christ scandalizing the Jews by saying, (John 6:48,51- 56) *"I am the bread of life...I am the living bread which comes down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves saying, 'How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?' Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in You. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him."*

Is that clear enough for you? I don't find a lot of wiggle room in this passage, but just to be completely clear, Christ then finishes with (John 6:57,58) *"As the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever,"* and (John 6:66) *"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."*

The prayers we pray during Divine Liturgy assume that we are here to be communicants, to partake, not to be spectators. We are being united with the entire Church, the Bride of Christ, both those here, and with the millions who have completed their earthly journey and are cheering us on from heaven. Millions more, all around the world share in the cup with us. We join in communion with the entire Church, both the visible and the invisible bodiless powers and saints. This is life, this is what is of eternal and ultimate importance and dwarfs all other activities in our lives. The holy fathers and mothers of the Church throughout all the ages have valued the receiving of the body and blood of Christ as the most important and life changing activity we can participate in. – Fr Andrew

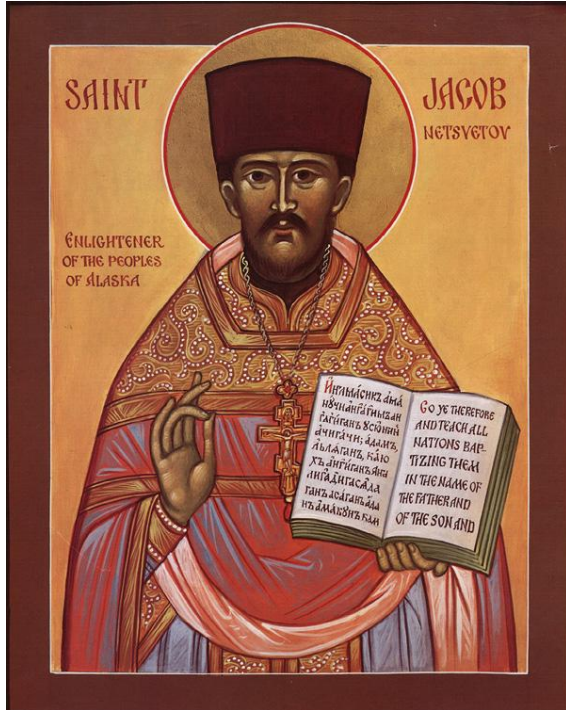
## Q and A Time:

**QUESTION** – Why go to the Archdiocese Assembly in Calgary, July 14 – 17?

**ANSWER** – In addition to its work of assisting the Archbishop with his governance, the Assembly is a unique opportunity for clergy and laity to grow in faith and knowledge through the many liturgical services and the teaching of our bishops and guest speakers. It is also a joyous occasion to establish and grow relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ from across the country, leading to the increase of cooperation, love, and unity in the Church. They have even put together a program of youth events for Assembly, open to youth in grades 7-12.

Find out more information, [click on this link](#). Hope to see you there!

## Church School: St Jacob of Alaska, July 26



In March 1994, the Orthodox Church in America proclaimed Father Jacob a saint – the first to have been born in America.

He and his family moved to Siberia when Jacob was 20 years old. He spent the next 10 years at seminary and serving churches in Siberia. He was 30 years old when he was ordained to the priesthood.

Father Jacob's deepest desire was to serve in Alaska. In the spring of 1828, his wife and father joined him on the arduous 13-month journey back to his island birthplace.

[Click this link](#) to have the icon of his life explained (an oca.org resource)

## Church Youth: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, July 12

'The Gospel Lesson for the Sixth Sunday of Matthew 9:1-8 recounts the story of the healing of the Paralytic whose friends could not get through the crowds to bring him to Jesus so they made a hole into the roof of Jesus's home to lower the sick man down. Of course, astounded by their persistence and faith, Jesus forgave the paralytic of his sins and healed him.

This lesson exhorts us to be resourceful in our service to the Lord and the Church. There are countless opportunities to do God's work not just for ourselves but for our Church, our Community and the world in general. We cannot sit back idly without pitching in and doing God's work whether it be through worship, teaching, caring, or serving. We should not expect that someone else will do it for us and we just sit back and reap the benefits without making a personal effort on our part.

We need to be more attentive in our adherence to the tenets of the Church and use our God given initiative to help, edify and grow the community in which we live. Many of you have talents that you have not tapped into for a variety of reasons but that doesn't mean you can't start now seizing this opportunity to aid in the life of the parish.

The second point of this gospel lesson is that with our eagerness and resourcefulness it shows our faith and the possible results of a strong faith in Jesus. Just as Christ healed the paralytic, He also transferred the power of forgiving and healing to His disciples and to the Church today which continues through the Holy Sacraments.

Millions of suffering souls are around us, enduring both physical as well as spiritual illness. There is no reason we cannot as His servants endeavor through ingenious and resourceful ways to help them in their suffering. Let us strive to share our faith with those around us by inviting them to see what we see, to experience what we experience, to know the truth of the redeeming love of Our lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

## Outreach Ministry Updates:

### **Family Vespers: Saturday, July 4 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: Saturday, July 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, July 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.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebration: Sunday, July 26 at 5pm**

Join us at the church to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Fr Andrew and Matushka Sonia!

RSVP by text or phone to 719-355-4130 so we know how much food to buy.

### **Annual Summer Camp: August 21 - 24:**

Saint Aidan's Church Camp has once again been booked at the Harbour in Riondel for August 21–24, 2026!

Just a short 2.5-hour drive from Cranbrook, The Harbour at Riondel has 7 lodge rooms, 4 renovated cabins, 2 dog friendly cabins and Tent/trailer camping! All meals included, children attend for free. Contact us soon if you are not already booked in!

The annual summer camp just gets better every year. God's presence is of course always with us, but slowing down and enjoying time with our brothers and sisters makes it very much more tangible!

Campfire visiting, beach wandering and hiking, paddleboarding and canoeing, swimming and games, and much fellowship strengthening old friendships and discovering new friends are the fruits of the blessing of just getting together for 3 days and hanging out together.

Contact us at (250) 420-1582 or at [frandrewapplegate@gmail.com](mailto:frandrewapplegate@gmail.com)

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

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