

The cross is the true compass that points toward the only essential cardinal point in our lives: Upwards! Sailing on the sea of life in the motherly ship of the Church, the Cross is the lighthouse that shows us the way home, to the Kingdom of heaven.

- Fr. Vasile Tudora



FAITH and FAMILY

St. Aidan Orthodox Church – April 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming Events >>>

April 2024

[Check website for updates!](#)

Tues, Apr. 2 – 6:30pm Akathist, 7pm Lenten Book Study
Wed, Apr. 3 – 6pm: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts,
followed by a soup supper at 7:30pm.

- 5:30pm: Youth Group

Sat, Apr. 6 – 4pm: Family Vespers
Sun, Apr. 7 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy: Sunday of the
Cross. Fasting Potluck Lunch to follow.

Tues, Apr. 9 – 6:30pm Akathist, 7pm Lenten Book Study
Wed, Apr. 10 – 6:30pm: 6pm: Liturgy of the
Presanctified Gifts, followed by a soup supper..

Sat, Apr. 13 – 6pm: Great Vespers
Sun, Apr. 14 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy: St. John
Climacus. Fasting Potluck Lunch to follow.

Tues, Apr. 16 – 6:30p Akathist, 7pm Lenten Book Study
Wed, Apr. 17 – 6pm: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts,
followed by a soup supper at 7:30pm.

Fri, Apr. 19 – 6pm: Akathist to the Theotokos

Sat, Apr. 20 – 10am to noon: Men's Coffee Hour
- 6pm: Great Vespers

Sun, Apr. 21 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy: St. Mary of
Egypt. Fasting potluck to follow.

Tues, Apr. 23 – 6:30pm Akathist, 7pm Lenten Book
Study.

Wed, Apr. 24 – 6pm – Holy Unction

Fri, Apr. 26 – 6pm: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts,
followed by a soup supper at 7:30pm.

Sat, Apr. 27 – 9am: St. Lazarus Liturgy
- 6pm: Great Vespers

Sun, Apr. 28 – Divine Liturgy: Palm Sunday. Fasting
potluck to follow.

- 6pm: Bridegroom Matins

Mon, Apr. 29 – 6pm: Bridegroom Matins

Tues, Apr. 30 – 6pm: Bridegroom Matins

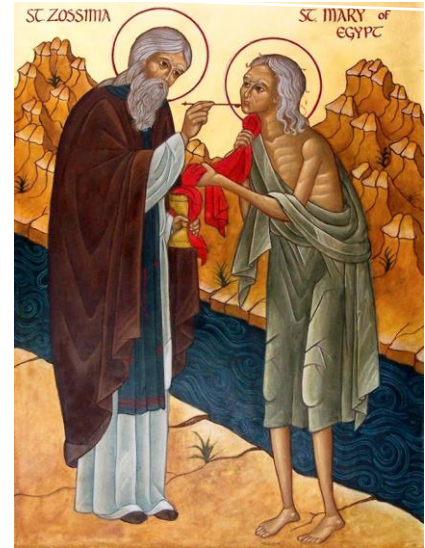
Father's Desk: St. Mary of Egypt

We are in the midst of our Lenten journey for this year. On the 5th Sunday of Great Lent is St. Mary of Egypt Sunday.

She is of course the model of repentance, demonstrating that no matter how dissolute and far from God's ways we find ourselves, while we have breath it is always possible to turn to God in repentance, and He will joyfully bring us into His loving embrace. As St. Mary puts it, "God was seeking my repentance for He does not desire the death of a sinner but magnanimously awaits his return to Him."

She spends 47 years of her life battling with her passions and the demons in the wilderness, completely without human companionship. The Most blessed Theotokos is her hope and rescuer, bringing her back always into the light and protection of Christ as St. Mary struggles with hunger, heat, cold, tormenting thoughts, . . .

But what is also of immense



value to consider is the complete and total commitment that St. Mary exhibits, putting her entire heart, soul and force of will towards seeking God, once she has seen the falseness and delusion of her previous life. There is nothing of, "trying to do a little better" no measured plan to improve, simply a radical and full about-turn, rejecting all that she now sees was false and harmful, and embracing without question a radical striving to seek God.

It is time to once again to renew our Lenten battle and throw away the "Later," and right NOW, re-commit to passionately uniting ourselves to Christ. Do something more, even St. Ephraim's prayer twice a day!

Kootenay Spotlight

B.C. Homes for People

The provincial government will be supporting non-profit groups to start housing projects in the Interior of B.C.



“This life-changing action for British Columbians wouldn’t be possible without the dedicated support and community leadership of the partners in these communities, so I’m grateful for what they do for so many. The homes help make sure our communities can live up to their full potential, unlocking more doors for workers, seniors, young families and more.”

B.C. officials said a total of 15 projects across the province will get provincial support through the Building BC: Community Housing Fund (CHF).

The local projects set to receive funding are:

- Creston: Creston Valley Housing Society: 18 homes for families, young adults, people living with disabilities and women and children.
- Sparwood: Elk Valley Family Society: 32 homes for individuals, single women with children and people living with disabilities.
- Castlegar – Lu’ma Native Housing Society: 68 homes for families, seniors and people living with disabilities.
- Trail – Trail and District Senior Citizens’ Villa Society: 41 homes for seniors.

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA SCHEDULE

Sat, April 27

- 9am – 10:30am: St. Lazarus Liturgy
- 6pm – 7pm: Great Vespers

Sun, April 28

- 10:30am Divine Liturgy: Palm Sunday. Fasting potluck to follow.
- 6pm: Bridegroom Matins

Mon, April 29

- 6pm – 8pm: Bridegroom Matins

Tues, April 30

- 6pm – 8pm: Bridegroom Matins

Wed. May 1

- 6pm – 8pm: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Soup Supper to follow.

Th, May 2

- 10:30am – 12:30pm: Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, Great and Holy Thursday
- 5:30pm – 8pm: Matins with 12 Passion Gospel Readings

Fri, May 3

- 9am – 10:30am: Royal Hours of Great and Holy Friday
- 4:00 pm – 5:30pm: Vespers with Shroud Veneration
- 6:30pm – 9pm: Matins with Praises & Shroud Procession

Sat, May 4

- 9am – 1pm: St. Basil Vespers Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday, with baptisms!
- 10:30pm – 12am midnight: Nocturns, Matins
- Midnight – 1:30am: Festal Divine Liturgy – PASCHA!
- 1:30am: Blessing of Baskets

Sun, May 5

- 2:00pm – 2:30pm: Paschal Vespers
- 2:00pm – 5:00pm: Pascal Feast

“Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching... Your Bridal Chamber I see adorned, O my Saviour, but I have no wedding garment that I may enter. “O Giver of Light, enlighten the vesture of my soul and save me.”

The theme of this beautiful service is the betrayal of Judas contrasted with the repentance of the woman. It follows the theme of the first three days of Holy Week where our Lord enters Jerusalem and voluntarily goes to His betrayal and to His death on the cross to redeem all of mankind from death.

CHURCH SCHOOL

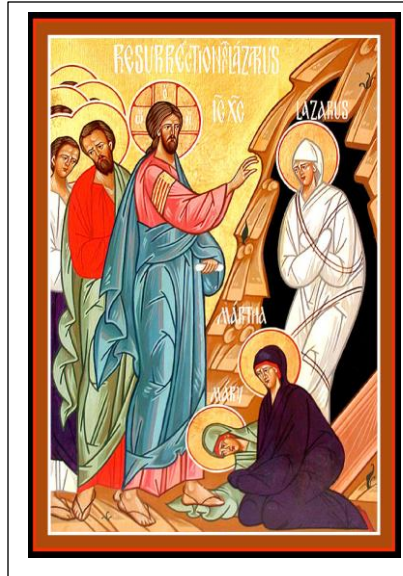
We always begin Holy Week with Lazarus because we are reminded that, at the end of all things, Christ Jesus will do for us what he does for His friend, Lazarus. He will call us forth from the tomb; our souls and our bodies will be reunited, and we will be resurrected.

Many of us are buried in tombs of resentment. There are people towards whom we are so bitter, we can't even think about them without grinding our teeth and clenching our fists. But on this day, Christ Jesus is calling us to come out of that darkness; He is giving us the power to forgive.

Many of us are entombed in a bad habit. We may tell lots and lots of lies. It could be that we spend way too much money or we invest way too much time in video games or sports or social media. But today, our Lord and Master is calling out to us. He's giving us the power to walk away from all that. And, of course, all of us know what it's like to be buried under trauma and anxiety—especially right now. We're wondering if the people that we love are going to get sick. We're wondering if we are going to be okay with all these floods and fires and earthquakes and war. But on this day, Christ Jesus is calling us out of all that. Our Lord and Master is extending His healing power to us.

Mothers and Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, each and every one of us have a bright and glorious future because each and every one of us will be resurrected by Christ Jesus. But that blessed future can start today, because our Lord and Master is calling to us even now. He's calling us by name; He's calling us from death to life. So when we offer this service together on the first day of Holy Week, let's do in response to Christ Jesus, as with one mouth and one heart, we praise and glorify the honorable and majestic Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

-[Fr. Aidan Wilcoxson](#)



Church Youth

“I Dream of You”

Excerpts of the message to youth on Orthodox Youth Day (March 16) from the Antiochian Archbishop of North America:

You are the dynamism of the Church, and how many dreams lie before you to become reality with your youthful capabilities. You are in the age of zeal and vitality, so may you use your energies in the service of your souls, not just your bodies and minds. You are the hope of the Church because you are its future, and how many great deeds have been achieved by individuals like you.

I dream of you as strong in grace and insightful in the matters of your lives. I dream of you as brave in facing evil, and enthusiastic in supporting what is good. I dream of you as rejectors of what is presented to you for imitation and examining everything before adopting it. . . I dream of you being successful and excelling in your lives, so that your church will be proud of you, and the name of your Lord may be glorified wherever you go. I dream of you seeking your salvation and placing Christ above everything else. I dream of you as saints, for your calling is nothing less than this.

I encourage you to delve deeper into your faith and examine the validity of things presented today as if they are necessary or not. I encourage you to find true and lasting joy in the embrace of your church and be assured that there is no joy or peace except in living in the sweet presence of your Christ. I encourage you to experience the sweetness and power of living with Christ that makes the mountains dance.

I know how much evil awaits you, and how many challenges you face. And I also know that you need courage to be true Christians. But I also know that your Christianity deserves this courage. . .

May God bless you and keep you.

Read the [full message here](#).

Questions Answered >>>

Q. Matins are normally sung in the morning. So why are the Bridegroom Matins in the evening?

A. It might be because the hymn “Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight...” was written in the monasteries, where Matins is a middle of the night service, sung in the dark leading up to dawn.

It does not make sense to sing that midnight hymn in the morning light. However, put Bridegroom Matins at 2 a.m. and many people would not attend...so for this Week, in parish use, Matins gets pushed back to the evening before.

- [Fr. Bill](#)

Outreach Ministry Updates ...

Family Vespers

April 6th at 4pm!

Everyone is welcome to join us at Family Vespers, always the first Saturday of each month.

After Great Vespers at 4pm, we will be eating potluck food together, and doing puzzles/activities.

Please invite friends and family to come with you to Family Vespers!

Perogy Pinching Nights

Cancelled during April

Our monthly perogy making sessions in our new Church kitchen to make the perogies for our fundraising dinners and to sell frozen in bags.

Fasting Recipes

Lenten fasts can make meal planning complicated – check out our recipes below and add your favorites so we can all try them!

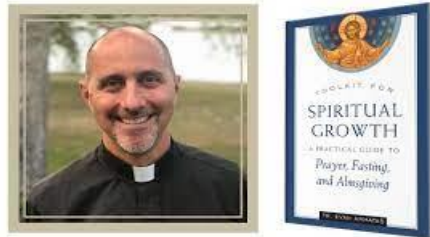
<https://staidanscookbook.blogspot.com/>

Men's Coffee Hour

April 20th at 10am – 12pm.

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

Lenten Book Study



Fr. Armatas's Book "A Practical Guide to Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving"

Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23.

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Join us on Tuesday evenings, beginning March 19.

Held at the Church in-person, with an option to join in online as well. We will be starting with an Akathist at 6:30pm and the book study will begin at 7pm.

Open to all. Invite your friends!

KNOCK-KNOCK!

(Who's there?) Fish. (Fish who?)

"We Fish you a happy Lenten season filled with blessings and peace!"



The Lighter side of Orthodoxy

Lent is the time to practice some self-denial when it comes to snacking.

What's a cat's favorite Lenten food? Mewsl!

I was planning to give up sandwich meat for Lent but just couldn't give up cold turkey.

KNOCK-KNOCK!

(Who's there?) Muffin. (Muffin who?)

"There's muffin the matter with me. I'm fasting for Lent!"



Social Media Links

Website: saintaidan.ca

[Facebook](#)

[Facebook Group](#)

[Instagram](#)

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Donations to our church can be made with an e-transfer to:

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or with a [credit card](#)