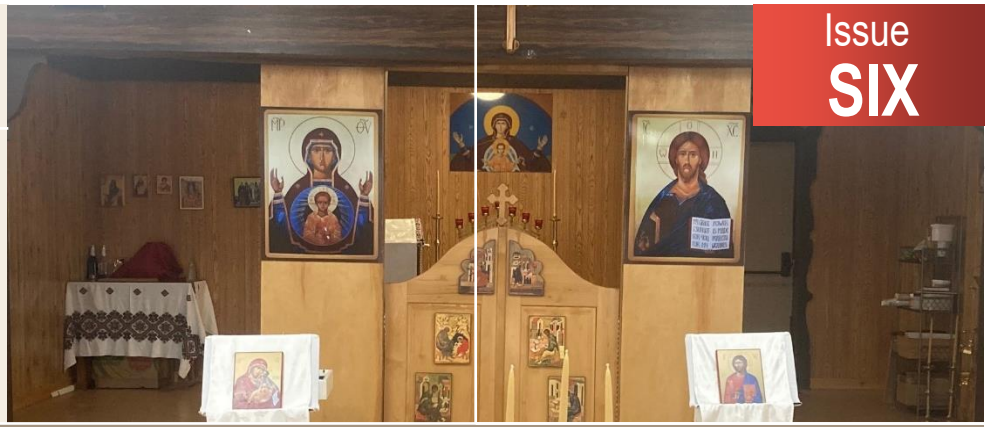


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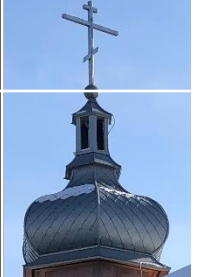
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Kootenay Spotlight >>>

Vahana Nature Rehabilitation



The Vahana goat herd keeps vegetation controlled in the Kootenays with targeted grazing, partnering with groups in [Cranbrook](#), Kimberley, Fernie, and ?AQ'AM (St. Mary's Indian Band).

The digestive system of goats breaks down the seeds of invasive plants so that they don't spread. The goats also improve the soil, allow native species to thrive, and can be used in place of herbicides – important in places like wetlands and water reservoirs.

Watch a [video](#) and head to their website to find more information on the goats of Vahana.

Upcoming Events

Times may change, please check the website calendar before services:

Aug. 1 – no service: Feast of the Life-Giving Cross of our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ.
- - - Dormition Fast begins.

Aug. 5 – 5:30pm: Great Vespers

Aug. 6 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy: The Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Aug. 9 – no service: Lesser Feast Day of St. Herman of Alaska

Aug. 12 – 5:30pm: Great Vespers

Aug. 13 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy: Lesser Feast Day of St. Tikhon

Aug. 14 – Dormition Fast ends.

Aug. 15 – no service: Last Great Feast Day of the Church Year: Dormition of the Theotokis.

Aug. 16 – no service: Lesser Feast of the Translation of the Image of our Savior Jesus Christ

Aug 19 – 5:30pm: Great Vespers

Aug. 20 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy

Aug. 26 – 5:30pm: Great Vespers held outdoors at our summer camp in Riondel

Aug 27 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy held outdoors at our summer camp in Riondel

Aug. 29 – no service: Lesser Feast Day and Fasting Day: The Beheading of John

Aug. 31 – no service: The Feast Day of our Church and of St. Aidan

Sept. 1 – no service: Lesser Feast Day: Orthodox Church New Year

Church School

Holy Transfiguration of Our Savior Jesus Christ



“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.” (Mathew 17:1-2)

‘Transfigured’ means to be transformed into something more, to ‘level up’. The Fathers of the Church stress that Jesus, when He was transfigured, did not add anything to His nature that He did not possess before, but revealed what He already was. This is much like a seed that already contains everything it needs to grow into a plant with flowers and fruit. A characteristic feature of the Transfiguration service is the blessing of fruits, especially grapes. If there are no grapes, apples may be substituted. The prayer of blessing stresses the goodness of God, who allowed this new fruit of the vine to come to maturity. As in the Eucharist, what God gives to us we offer to him. The Eucharist wine (made from grapes) becomes “spiritual”; it is transfigured into the blood of Christ and points to the eventual transfiguration of the whole cosmos. The human body and the cosmos are waiting for their final redemption. Yet the glory and the light of the Transfiguration is already present and is extended to the world. In the light of the feast the entire cosmos is potentially Christified.

If possible, it is wonderful to celebrate the Transfiguration with a summer picnic.
(dce.oca.org)

Ask Father >>>

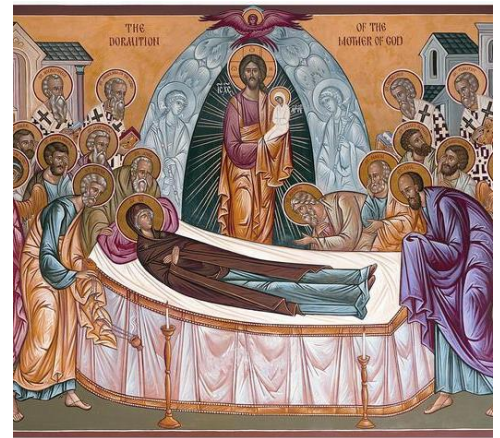
How old you should be to be able to start fasting?

A:

It varies and is something that when you are young your parents and your priest will help you decide.

Fasting is a great privilege that helps us grow closer to Christ, and a small amount of fasting can be started while still quite young but often you might be a teenager before you fast fully with your parents.

Fasting is a great help in developing spiritual discipline and learning to say no to temptations and cravings that can hurt you spiritually. God blesses and gives us strength to fight against bad habits and wrong choices and fasting is one of the main tools the Church gives us to strengthen us in living for Christ. When we sacrifice something we want for God, it shows we are choosing His ways before our ways and our hearts open up to receive more of His love. When Jesus was tempted by the devil to make stones into bread (Matt. 4:4) He said that: “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” So we see that fasting is a special gift that helps us to know and follow God better.



Church Youth

The Dormition of the Theotokos

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the
Theotokos,

Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in
her intercessions.

For being the Mother of Life, she was translated
to life

By the One who dwelt in her virginal womb!

(Kontakion of the Dormition)

Just as the word ‘translating’ can mean the changing a word from one language to another, in this case it means that the Theotokos was changed from one state of being into another, for after she died she was taken from death into life in the Kingdom of God.

The icon shows that Mary’s death is a special one - Jesus is shown taking His Mother’s most pure body and soul to the heavenly Kingdom with Him, rather than leaving her to lie in the grave.

Our dear precious and loving mother of God is there in the heavens at the right hand of her Son, constantly looking out for us and interceding on our behalf with Him. This is what we celebrate today, the completion and fulfillment of the new Eve taking her place in the throne room of God and present with her Son our Lord both spiritually, and in her transfigured human flesh.

The Apostles all came home from around the world to mourn her passing, but she was taken up to Heaven and they rejoiced, and we know that we, too, have been promised eternal life if we live according to God’s will as Mary did.

(dce.oca.org,saintaidan.ca)

Outreach Ministry Updates ...

Camp update

Aug. 25 – 28

The Harbour at Riondel



There are still some spaces available if you would like to be a part of this amazing lakeside weekend!

We also have some extra space to invite friends and extended family! Just message us and we can get it all sorted.

There are also some other alternative options available: join us for Saturday evening Vespers, spend the night, and then leave Sunday after Divine Liturgy and our lasagna luncheon.

Or just join us for Vespers or for Liturgy, all are welcome!

Keep checking the St. Aidan Orthodox Church website, Facebook pages, or Instagram for more information as we get closer to the weekend of our camp . . . there will undoubtedly be updates on what to bring, etc.

Breakfast Program



We have just received a \$14,000 Resident Directed Grant, which supports projects that benefit the broad community and public good through community-based decision-making and ensuring an opportunity for resident input on projects.

This program is funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and delivered in partnership with local governments and First Nations.

This grant, plus the \$900/month we receive from Community Connections, means that our Breakfast Program costs are covered for the next year.

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, both in the kitchen and at the tables, we will be able to continue offering a hot breakfast every Monday and the first two Wednesdays of each month.

Also a big thank you to Christchurch Anglican for allowing us to use their kitchen and eating area as a temporary location, seeing as our elevator renovations took place this last year!

We hope to be serving breakfasts in our own space again this Fall.

ELEVATOR UPDATE

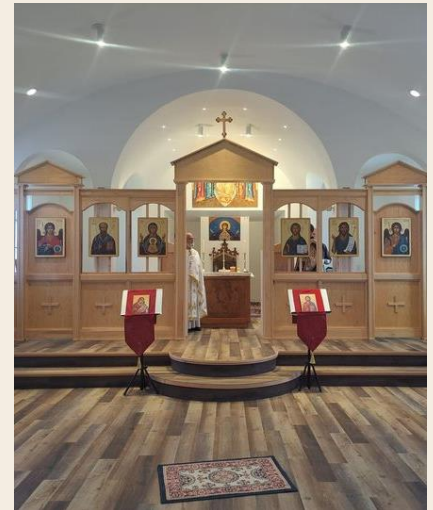
Save the Date!

Archbishop Irenee will be coming to consecrate our renovated church on September 23rd!

He will be serving Great Vespers Friday evening, then consecrating the church on Saturday Morning.

Many other clergy members will be coming for the big occasion as well, including Fr. Gregory from the States, and clergy from Calgary and Edmonton.

We expect to get occupancy of the church around Sept. 1st and start serving Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy a couple of weeks before Archbishop Irenee arrives in the third week of September.



We are of course trying to raise funds to pay for the last of the work on the church.

Please call if you can help with this last major push for funds!