

in June's issue >>>

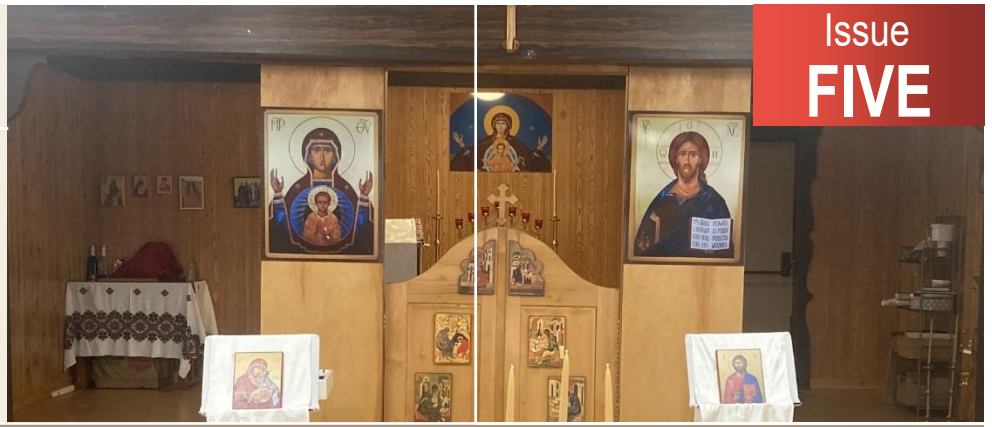
Father's Desk

Kootenay Spotlight

Upcoming Events

Church School Updates

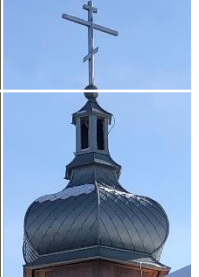
Outreach Ministry Updates



Issue
FIVE

St. Aidan Orthodox Church

Faith/Family



Kootenay Spotlight >>>

Father's Day at the Fort



Train rides, BBQ, wagon rides and more are on tap this Father's Day at Fort Steele Heritage Town!

Dad Rides Free!

June 18, 2023

Father's Desk

Pentecost

June 4th is the great feast of Pentecost! We once again invoke the Holy Spirit by praying "O Heavenly King...". We stopped this prayer at Pascha (except for when we forgot) and have hungered in anticipation. We begin every Liturgy – apart from from this 50-day period – with this prayer and we specifically pray to the Holy Spirit in every Liturgy. Including the 25 times we pray in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray to Him a total of 45 times in each Liturgy.

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 today's 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 hear at Pentecost Vespers three Old Testament readings, one of them being **Ezekiel**: "...I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I shall take the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I shall put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in My requirements. You will be My people and I will be your God."

St. Seraphim of Sarov famously said, "the acquisition of the Holy Spirit is the goal of the Christian life."

These Old Testament books are the "scriptures" Christ and His apostles used; the New Testament wasn't yet written. Christ fulfilled all things and completed our creation as children of God, began in Adam. And Christ sent us the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and is everywhere present and filling all things. May God bless, and may we be found to be a welcome home for the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Andrew, from his 2022 homily

This Month >>>

Sunday of Celtic Saints

On June 25th, we venerate the hundreds of first millennium British and Irish Saints, mostly the Celtic saints; one of the best known of course being our own St. Aidan of Lindisfarne. This 3rd saint's day was instituted by the Orthodox Church very recently, in 2007. [Click on the icon to the right to go to the Celtic Saint page on our website to read more about them.](#)

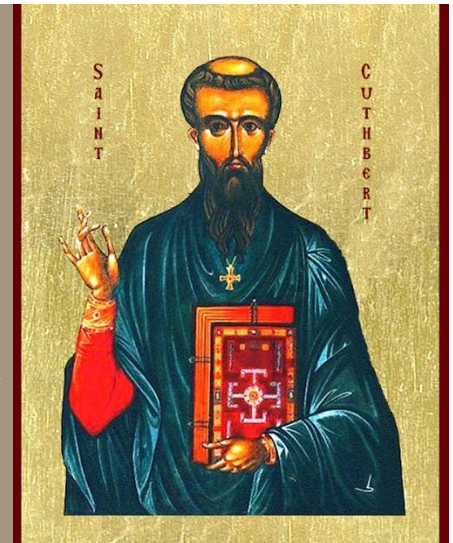
Britain, Ireland, and Scotland have a very impressive list of saints. Aristobulus, one of the 70 and brother of the Apostle Barnabas was sent to be the first bishop, bringing the Christian faith to Britain very early in the 1st century. St. Joseph of Arimathea, after taking down the crucified body of Christ from the tree, wrapping it in fine linen, anointing it with spices, and laying it in his new tomb, ended up also bringing the gospel to England and is buried in Glastonbury. St. Constantine was there before becoming emperor. Sts. Patrick, Brendan, David, Kevin, Aidan, Columba, Columbanus, Cuthbert, Bede, Brigit, Hilda, Ida, Martyr Kings Edward, Edwin, Oswald, Oswin, and many more.

One of our great 7th century Celtic saints, Bishop Cuthbert taught his flock with great love and gentleness. His advice was "You need to learn and put into practise the teachings of the Fathers and avoid heretics." He comes with good credentials. When just a 17-year old lad while he was out tending his flock of sheep, he had a vision of the angels bearing the soul of St. Aidan to heaven in a fiery trail of light. Several days later news of St. Aidan's repose on Aug. 31,

651 reached his area and St. Cuthbert learned it was at the very hour of his vision. St. Cuthbert's relics were found to be incorrupt and streaming myrrh when they were moved to Durham and opened more than 300 years later. You can trust that these Celtic saints we celebrate today were real and serious about following Christ. You can trust that all of the saints we are reflecting on during the month of June that have been glorified and given to us for emulation by the Church are well worth not just leaning from, but as there are no dead in Christ, they can be of great help interceding for us before the very throne of God, once we take the time to get to know them and ask for their help.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Fr. Andrew, 2016 homily



Upcoming Events >>>

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

June 3 – Great Vespers, 5:30pm

June 4 – Holy Pentecost, 10:30am

June 4 – 10: Trinity Week, Fast free.

June 10 – Great Vespers, 5:30pm

June 11 – First Sunday of Pentecost, Sunday of All Saints, 10:30am

June 12 – 28: Apostles Fast

June 17 – Great Vespers, 5:30pm

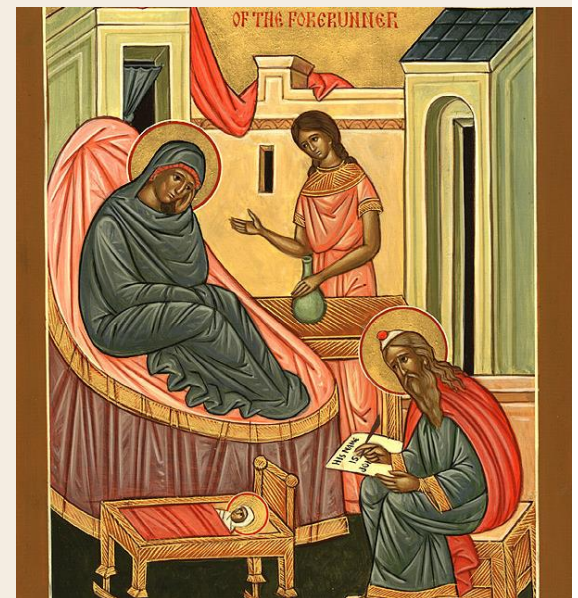
June 18 – Second Sunday, Sunday of the North American Saints, 10:30am

June 24 – No service, The Feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner and Baptist, John

June 24 – Great Vespers, 5:30pm

June 25 – Third Sunday, Sunday of the Celtic Saints, 10:30am

June 29 – no service, Feast Day of the Leaders of the Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, end of Apostles Fast



Church School

Sunday of the North American Saints, June 18

On June 18 the more than 250 million worldwide members of the Holy Orthodox Church that we are part of, are celebrating the saints on their home soil. Russia, Greece, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Romania, Serbia, Georgia...are celebrating thousands of their local saints today. Saints that have lived over the last 2000 years, as compared to our 200-year saint history. Here in North America, we have 18 officially glorified, with only 2 born here. We are truly a toddler Orthodox mission church.

Today we get closer to home, and honor some of the saints that have walked among us here. These would be saints that perhaps our parents or grandparents, or even we ourselves, could have met and known. Our North American Icon only had one saint until recently – St. Herman was the first glorified and this was in 1970. We have made some progress in the last 40 years or so – there are now 16 on our new icon of the Saints of North America. You will also find Blessed Olga and a couple others on the icon that haven't yet been officially glorified but whom are pretty much accepted as saints among the Orthodox faithful.

This is how saints become recognized in the Orthodox Church. Those who knew the saint start the process by simply recognizing that this person was exceptional in how their lives witnessed and manifested the grace of God while alive, and they faithfully lived their lives in the fullness of the Orthodox Church. The local community naturally starts to venerate and ask for the prayers of their very special departed saint. This starts to spread beyond the local region to the rest of the Church. There are often stories of miracles associated with the saint while they were alive, and miracles and visions of them helping others after their departure. Their memory and reputation grow as these stories are shared. Finally, the Church officially recognizes what is self-evident. The Church does not create a saint but simply recognizes what they already are.

Fr. Andrew, homily

To read about the lives of these saints, locate where each saint lived on a map, explore and learn about the many connections to these saints in relation to places and history we have visited or studied, and discuss ways we could emulate these saints in our daily lives as we continually strive to grow closer to God, head to:

[A Study of North American Saints](#)

Ask Father >>>

Q: *Fr. Andrew, were you born Orthodox?*

A: Although my mother Dorothy (Tkachuk) was born into a Ukrainian Orthodox family, when she married my father Barry, he couldn't understand Ukrainian and so they went to the United church (on occasion) and sent me to a Baptist Sunday School (on occasion). When I was a teenager in high school I checked out a number of New Age and eastern offerings, pop Hinduism, Buddhism, Zen, yoga... did a stint with the Maharishi and Transcendental Meditation, and explored a number of other paths that were most unhelpful to my well-being. I finally came back to Christianity, and Matushka Sonia and I became very involved with many different Protestant/ Evangelical denominations for 6 or 7 years. I was brought into the Orthodox Church in 1983 and have been home ever since! I was Ordained a Deacon in 2012 and a Priest in 2013.



Church Youth

Sunday of All Saints, June 11

“We often tend to look at the saints in awe, like we are spectators in the stands watching professional athletes who have trained and performed and are at the top of their game. But notice that we have this completely reversed.

We are the ones in the arena.

The saints are the spectators, cheering **us** on. **We** are running the race – they have finished their race. Now is **our** time! It is up to us to take seriously this race we run in front of God and all of heaven, with the huge crowd of angels and saints cheering us on, doing all they can to help and encourage us! We run our race. No-one else can run it for us. The effort we put in now will pay eternal rewards.

The saints are greatly varied in their talents and giftings, but they all have one thing in common: they follow Christ with all their heart mind and soul. There are as many paths to sainthood as there are saints, and there are millions of these saints – a great cloud of witnesses, as Paul says in his epistle today.

On June 11 we remember and ask for help from those saints gone before us, those who have successfully travelled the road leading to Christ and the kingdom of God and are calling out for us to join them. Through the prayers of all the saints, Lord Jesus Christ have mercy and save us.”

Fr Andrew homily

Elevator Addition Build Update



We have started a gofundme fundraiser, click on the photo above to donate!

We are in the final stages of the major church building addition and renovation we began in 2021 here at St. Aidan Orthodox Church in Cranbrook, BC. Our budget estimate to complete our project, adjusted in the summer of 2022 was +/- \$700,000. Despite our small size, God blessed us, and we raised the funds for this budgeted amount.

However, there has been a dramatic 40% inflationary increase in costs throughout the construction industry since we began, and we are experiencing this difference first-hand. We have a cost increase of \$250,000 to complete our building project above our \$700,000 budget (now: \$950,000 total), and have exhausted all our building funds. The need is urgent as we are in the final stage and are scheduled to finish construction this June, but will be out of funds to pay bills by April.

We are therefore reaching out to you, our friends and family, and brothers and sisters in Christ for help!

If you are willing and able to help, we would be most grateful! Our contact information is below. Please give me a call to discuss if you are able to contribute so we can plan accordingly. In Canada, all donations are tax deductible, and can be carried forward for 5 years.

Thank you for your prayers and donations, they are most appreciated! May God bless you, and may your contributions accrue directly into your heavenly investment account!

Check out our building project progress at:

<http://www.saintaidan.ca/about-us/projects/elevator-building-addition/> or

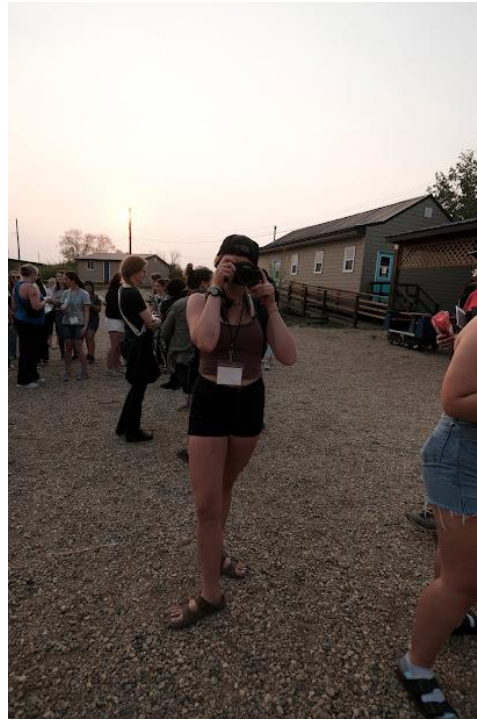
<https://staidando-a-thon2022.blogspot.com/2022/06/may-2022-build-begins.html>

Outreach Ministry Updates ...

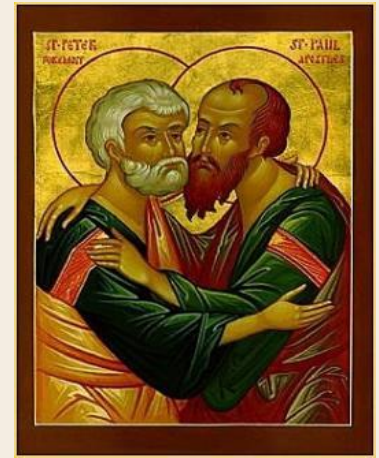
2nd annual Pan-Orthodox Youth Retreat

The retreat was amazing!

Two kids from the St. Aidan parish went to Saskatoon on the May long weekend.



Faith and friendships were strengthened as they spent the four days together with 65 other youth in Gr.7-12 from across Western Canada, with kids from the lower mainland all the way to Winnipeg.



Apostles fasting guidelines

June 12 – 28, 2023

The fast of the Holy Apostles starts on the second Monday after Pentecost and ends on June 29, on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul.

The Fast of the Holy Apostles is not as strict as the Fasts of Pascha and the Nativity of Christ; rather it is more lenient in its duration and rules. The current rules of fasting, during the Apostles' Fast, with minor variations depending on the jurisdiction, are:

1- *Red meat, poultry, and dairy products are not allowed during the entire fasting period in all weekdays.*

2- *Fish, wine, and oil are allowed on all days except on Wednesdays and Fridays.*

Contact Fr. Andrew for more specific information and a possible blessing to personalize the fasting requirements for your situation.



For lots of delicious fasting recipe ideas, head on over to:

[St. Aidan Church Fasting Recipes](#)

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

Saint Aidan Orthodox Church (NEW temporary location)
120 7 Ave S
Cranbrook, BC V1C 2J4

Saint Aidan Orthodox Church (Under
201 7 Ave S
Cranbrook, BC V1C 2J6