

in this issue >>>

Father's Desk

Kootenay Spotlight

Upcoming Events

Church School Updates

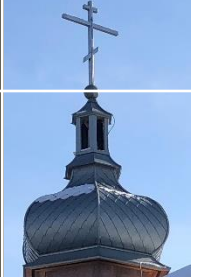
Outreach Ministry Updates



Issue
EIGHT

St. Aidan Orthodox Church – December Newsletter

Faith/Family



Kootenay Spotlight >>>

Christmas Tree Sale

You are invited to the Dearden's 2nd Annual Christmas Tree and Honey Sale.

Saturday, December 9

10am – 3pm

663 Wardner Ft. Steele Rd

Family Fun with Hot Chocolate, Hot Cider, Cookies, a Toasty Fire, Sledding and Photo Ops.

Included this year is a "Green Christmas Gift" Yard Sale of gently used items, with proceeds going to St. Aidan Orthodox Church Community Projects. We need **YOU** to donate gently used items – please bring them to the church and Ellen will pick them up there.



Father's Desk *The Festal Nativity Icon*

Our hearts have been preparing to receive the awesome joy of the coming of Christ! God Himself has come to gather us into His embrace and bring us into His family! What glory! Christ put on a body for our sake, that He the Uncreated, who created all things, might physically enter all of creation and sanctify and redeem it.

In the Nativity festal icon, we see the whole Nativity story; we see the Eternal God born as a little child. He is laying in a cave, in a manger that is shaped like an Altar. In the corner we see a bewildered Joseph, wrestling with doubts, as this is a miracle beyond the bounds of human comprehension. Even the angels look on and are amazed and astonished, announcing this new and glorious revelation to all of creation. We see the wise men, enlightened by God, representing all who seek God from every nation, led by the star to the very cradle of Christ God.

All of creation is present and filled with joy and awe; all has now changed. The mountains, the cave, the plants, the tree representing the root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-13), all worshipping the birth of Christ and glorifying the new peace of His kingdom and reign, ushered in by His arrival. The animals and the very air resonate with joy as the healing of all creation begins, as all of creation's groaning cries are answered. This is the beginning of our salvation. Christ is Born!



Fr Michael Oleksa

On the morning of November 29th, our much loved, dear friend Fr. Michael Oleksa fell asleep in the Lord. Father Peter Chris was able to commune Father Michael and Father Daniel, Father Peter Chris, and Father Jonah were able to administer last rites before he fell asleep. He was surrounded by his immediate family and loved ones. An announcement will be sent out when funeral arrangements will be made.

Fr. Michael Oleksa is well known as a missionary priest and student of Native Alaskan culture who has dedicated 55

years of his life to the Church in Alaska. He has served as a priest in over a dozen Native Alaskan villages over the years. Fr. Michael has also authored books such as *Orthodox Alaska: A Theology of Mission*, *Everyday Wonders: Stories of God's Providence*, *Alaskan Missionary Spirituality*, and *Another Culture/Another World*, and many more.

He was a very special friend to us here at St. Aidan and we were very blessed to have him come down and bless us with his wonderful stories and teaching.



over the years. Please keep Father Michael and his family in your prayers, especially during the first 40 days, and please also remember consolation for Matushka Xenia in your prayers.

May his memory be eternal!

Upcoming Events >>>

December 2023

December 2: 4pm - Family Vespers

December 3: 10:30am - Divine Liturgy

December 8: 6:30pm - Perogy Making Night

December 9: 10am to 3pm – Ellen's Christmas Tree Sale/Yard Sale

December 9: 6pm - Great Vespers

December 10: 10:30am – Divine Liturgy

December 16: 6pm – Great Vespers

December 17: 10:30am – Divine Liturgy

December 22: 9am to 10am: Royal Hours of the Nativity of Christ

December 23: 6pm - Great Vespers

December 24: 10:30am - Divine Liturgy

December 24: 6pm to 7:15pm - Great Vespers/Lytia, Nativity of Christ

December 25: 9am to 10:30am – Divine Liturgy

December 25: 1pm to 4pm – Community Christmas Dinner

December 30: 6pm - Great Vespers

December 31: 10:30am - Divine Liturgy

Perogy Making Night

Friday, Dec 8 at 6:30pm.

We are having our first perogy making session in our new Church kitchen. We will be having one per month in order to make enough perogies for the dinners and to sell frozen in bags.

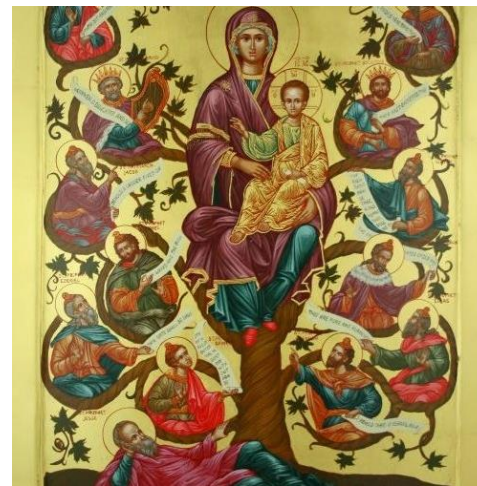
Please let Joanna or Fr Andrew know if you are planning on coming, and if you could bring any of the following:

- A mixer
- flat pans
- rolling pins



Church School

A picture for the children to color at the Family Vespers / St. Nicholas Day party on Dec. 2 :



Church Youth

The Sunday before the Nativity

On this day we commemorate the human ancestors of Jesus, from Adam to Joseph who are all a part of the genealogy of Jesus according to the Gospels.

One of the most endeared doctors of the Church, St. John Chrysostom, said that Christ was not embarrassed by the “skeletons”, hidden in His ancestor’s closets. In the genealogies recorded in this gospel, it is very evident and clear, that there were many serious sinners in His ancestry.

The human ancestry of Jesus Christ shows us that the Lord identifies with the human race, with men and women of flesh and blood like us all with failings, blemishes and all, for by His birth He becomes part of us, His creation.

It brings those who lived before Christ into the joy of the “Virgin birth and incarnation”, inviting them all by praises and divine spiritual hymns to prepare for the birth of Christ in the flesh.

We are all sharing in the birth in the flesh of the Son of God and thus new Life in Him!

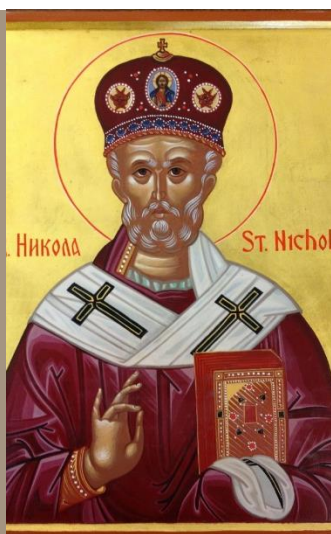
(sthermansoca.org)

Questions Answered >>>

Q: *Are the stories about the saints true?*

Every saint lives three lives. The first was the real life that he led on earth. The second life of the saint is his story, and very often the life is written like an icon, which may be different in the same way that we do not look at an icon as a human portrait. An icon is a certain symbolic image. The third life of a saint is his life as experienced by those people who address him in prayer over the course of centuries. This is a very real life of the saint that we can feel through our experience.

Metropolitan Hilarion



Outreach Ministry Updates ...

Family Vespers

December 2 at 4pm!

Everyone is welcome to join us at Family Vespers.

After Great Vespers, we will be eating a Fasting spaghetti dinner together.



St. Nicholas will be reading a story to the children and handing out gift bags.

There will also be games and activities for all.

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

Christmas Helpers

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

(Hebrews 13 : 15 – 16)

Christmas Dinner

Because Christmas is on a Monday this year, and our Breakfast Program is on Mondays, we will be serving a Christmas Dinner instead on Dec. 25 from 1pm to 4pm. We will need you to help cook turkeys, stuffing, vegetables, etc – a sign up sheet will be sent by email for you to choose something.

Christmas Hampers

It's time to choose something to bring for the Christmas Hampers. We always fill them up with all the fixings for a turkey dinner, as well as Christmas treats such as oranges, nuts and chocolate. A list will be sent around by email so that you can choose an item, please have the items at the church by Dec. 17th, so we can put the hampers together before Christmas.

Christmas Kettles

We have been asked to again volunteer for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle. Please let us know if you would be able to help out again this year during the Christmas season.

A list with the schedule of times and locations available will be sent out by email for you to choose a time.

Thank You so Much for Your Time!



coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

Book study nights

Theophany and the Blessing of Waters

Youth Group Update

Church School Update

Outreach Ministry Updates



Social Media Links

Website: saintaidan.ca

[Facebook](#)

[Facebook Group](#)

[Instagram](#)

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

St. Aidan Orthodox Church
201 7 Ave South
Cranbrook, BC Canada V1C 2J6