

“For all of these opportunities and more, motherhood is a blessed vocation, and beautiful opportunity to live the martyric life of unconditional love for others. May we all honor our mothers, as is their due, and may those of us who practice this vocation do so with increasing peace and joy, knowing that we have been given the opportunity to live a blessed life inspired by the examples of the martyrs, monastics, and teachers of the Faith.” Fr. Vasili + Pres. Hillhouse



FAITH and FAMILY

St. Aidan Orthodox Church – May 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming Events >>>

May 2024

[Check website for updates!](#)

- Mon, Apr. 29 – 6pm: Bridegroom Matins*
Tues, Apr. 30 – 6pm: Bridegroom Matins
Wed, May 1 - 6pm: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, followed by a soup supper at 7:30pm.
Th, May 2 - 10:30am: Vespertal 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
- 4pm – 5:30pm: Vespers with Shroud Veneration
- 6:30pm – 9pm: Matins with Praises & Shroud Procession
Sat, May 4 - 9am: St. Basil Vespertal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday, with baptisms!
- 10:30pm – 2am: Nocturns, Matins, Festal Divine Liturgy (PASCHA!), Blessing of Baskets
Sun, May 5 - 2pm – 2:30pm: Paschal Vespers
- 2:30pm – 5:00pm: Pascal Feast
- Thur, May 9 – 10:30am: Bright Week Thursday, St. John Chrysostom’s Liturgy*
- Sat, May 11 – 6pm: Great Vespers*
Sun, May 12 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy of St. Thomas
- Sat, May 18 – 10am – 12noon: Men’s Coffee Hour*
- 6pm: Great Vespers
Sun, May 19 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Myrrbearers
- Sat, May 25 – 6pm: Great Vespers*
Sun, May 26 – 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Paralytic
- Wed, May 29 – Midfeast of Pentecost*

Father’s Desk: The Sacraments of Baptism

On Sat, May 4 at 9am we celebrate the St. Basil Vespertal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday and baptize several of our catechumens.

The sacraments of Baptism and Charismation are the initial sacraments which bring us entry into the Church. They are as fundamental to entering the Church, as is birth to life. As these precious souls join us through their baptism, they become full and precious members of the Orthodox Church.

They will be the first in line to receive communion at Divine Liturgy, as feeding on the body and blood of Christ is fundamental to their health and spiritual growth. Their re-birth into the Kingdom of God in baptism, and the grace and nourishment that they will constantly receive from communion, are gifts of Grace from God, and are mysteries far beyond the limiting boundaries of reason and our natural human intellect. Communion is the “medicine of immortality” and draws us from our earthly created realm to the Kingdom of God. We can never be worthy to receive, only ever grateful for Christ’s great love and acceptance of us, in granting us life and salvation!

We all come out of the baptismal waters completely cleansed and clothed in a robe of light which remains with us all. However, living in this sinful and fallen world, it is inevitable that our wonderful robe of light, shining with the glory of Christ Himself, will start to collect some

stains as we travel through life. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. So we all, to varying degrees, have through our carelessness and foolishness and lack of understanding, stained our most precious treasure, the robe of salvation, that we have been clothed in at our baptism.

But we need to come to Christ, who clothed us at our baptism, and allow Him to wash away the stains. Then once again the wonderful splendour and light from our garment of salvation, will begin to noticeably shine forth. Once we have better light, we then start to notice smaller, lighter stains that still need to be cleansed by coming and regularly receiving His body and blood, through prayer, repentance and confession, forgiveness and all of the many ways the Lord has given to us to draw near to Him.

So, as we join these newly baptised on May 4th, and see them shining forth in their brand new robe of light, let us entreat our Saviour and Creator, the most merciful Christ our God, that we too may have our baptismal gowns cleansed and renewed.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Fr. Andrew

Kootenay Spotlight

Sunday of the Myrrhbearers



**Community Sustainability,
Technology and Innovation Fair**
with keynote speaker **Bob McDonald**



Door Prizes for Carbon Neutral transportation to event!
(bike, walk, EV car, carpooling)

Over 20 booths/vendors on sustainability, innovation, technology
and youth climate adaptation projects!

When: Monday, May 13, 2024
Where: McKim Middle School Theatre
Timing: 6:00 pm - Innovation Fair
7:00 pm - Presentation from Bob McDonald
8:00pm - Innovation Fair
Cost: \$25 general admission, \$5 under 18 years old
Purchase tickets through QR code or
eventbrite.ca/e/the-future-is-now-tickets-800185395057
Info: kimcrantfin@gmail.com

Thank you to local businesses who have provided door prizes and "in kind" support.



The Future is Now, a sustainability, technology, and innovation fair being held at McKim Middle School on May 13, 2024.

The event will showcase Youth activities and ideas on why we need innovation, action and hope for a brighter future. It also features an innovation fair of initiatives presented by local organizations, businesses and industry. We will also be joined by renowned science journalist and CBC Radio Host, Bob McDonald.

This event is a collaboration between several organizations, including School District #6, School District#5, City of Kimberley, and Kimberley and District Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to raise awareness and foster dialogue on local sustainability initiatives and innovations.

Purchase your tickets now!

We can only imagine how difficult it must have been for the myrrhbearers to associate with Christ at this time and to be witnesses of His Crucifixion and Resurrection. Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees, spoke to Christ under cover of dark, spent a huge sum on a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes, and then was cast out of the synagogue and suffered for disclosing the Jewish plots to hide and deny the truth about Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection.

The myrrhbearers selflessly sacrificed all for precious myrrh with which to anoint and

care for the Body of Christ, and then announced the Resurrection of the Crucified, when others hid for fear of the Jews. And yet they loved Christ to such a degree that they feared not and they all revealed the Truth of His Crucifixion and Resurrection and suffered for it.

This concerns us as in a sense we are all myrrhbearers. To do anything for the Church, for the Body of Christ, in this world, is difficult, because it requires faith. And those of little faith have little time and patience for the Church.

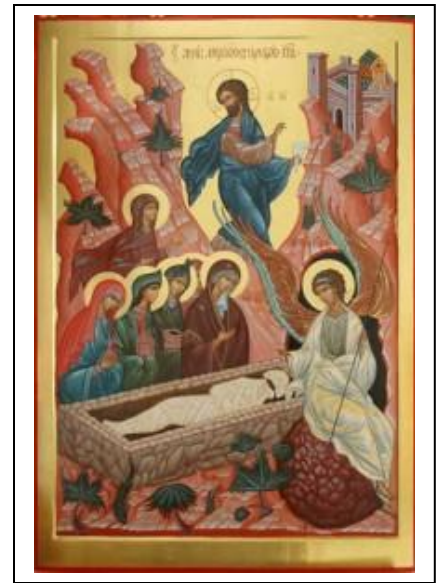
Myrrhbearing is not only participating in the sacraments, preaching the Gospel and confessing the Faith, it is also doing that myriad of things which are so difficult because they require our sacrifice. For:

- Those who sing in church are myrrhbearers.
- Those who clean the church are myrrhbearers.
- Those who prepare the flowers for the services are myrrhbearers.
- Those who look after the garden are myrrhbearers.
- Those who sew vestments and altar-coverings are myrrhbearers.
- Those who bake prosphora are myrrhbearers.
- Those who prepare tea or donate food or wash up are myrrhbearers.
- Those who donate icons or make offerings of money are myrrhbearers.
- Even those who simply come and pray for the salvation of all are myrrhbearers.

This is our joy, not only to feel, but also to know that the Body of Christ, the Church, is Risen, for She is the place of the Resurrection, and we are witnesses of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection. Moreover, when we care for the Church, the Church cares for us, for we are risen with Her.

May we all always have and cherish this inner knowledge of the Truth of Christ, being myrrhbearing witnesses to His Crucifixion and His Resurrection. Amen.

(excerpts of a sermon from orthodox-canada.com)



CHURCH SCHOOL – Mother’s Day, May 12

In the Orthodox tradition, mothers are honored on the Great Feast of the Presentation or Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple, celebrated on February 2nd. However, in the secular tradition, Mother’s Day is celebrated in May, and many Sunday Schools prepare a special project honoring mothers for that day. [Orthodox Pebbles](#) has an icon craft of the Theotokos surrounded with flowers, and templates that can be used to make a Mother’s Day card.

In his Mother's Day message his Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta stated the following: *"In honoring our earthly mothers on Mother's Day, let us also honor the Theotokos, the model of motherhood. Our Lord held a special place in His heart for His Blessed Mother. She*



was the only person with Him throughout his entire life on Earth: from birth to death to Resurrection to Ascension. They had the unique bond that only a mother and a child have. Even when our Lord was hanging on the cross in agony and near death, he was concerned for His mother, and gave her into the care of St. John. At His darkest hour, our Lord showed all of us today how important it is to take care of and love our mothers."

Throughout their lives, mothers act as nurses, doctors, psychologists, and counselors. Mothers serve as teachers, guides, disciplinarians, and coaches. Mothers act as chefs, cleaning ladies, and chauffeurs. Mothers develop personalities, cultivate attitudes, nourish faith, and build up spirits. Mothers constantly give, and give, and then give even more! They don't think of themselves too often, but willingly place the needs of others before their own.

"When we accept a little child in His name, we are accepting the ascetic life of motherhood. Mary in the presence of the Archangel Gabriel willingly accepted the call to be the mother of Christ. Each of us, mother or not, has a calling to embrace the life Christ has called us to. We are not forced to submit or coerced into obedience. We are presented with a question. We are each asked if we will follow Him. He leaves the answer to us." *Annalisa Boyd, The Ascetic Lives of Mothers.*

We can also take the time to support mothers who are [grieving](#) the loss of a child, and children/adults grieving the loss of their mothers. Motherhood does not simply mean to bear children. There are some women who never bear children, yet truly offer motherly compassion, love, encouragement, faith, care, hope, and inspiration to those around them. We honor them all. "A mother is never defined by the number of children you see, but by the love she holds in her heart."

Questions Answered >>>

Q: This month we remember the apostle Thomas who doubted in the Resurrection of Christ. His doubt served for the glory of God. We ask some pastors in which situations doubt or skepticism can be a virtue, and in which not?

A: Thomas sees his friends rejoicing. With one voice they declare: "The risen Lord has just arrived"—but he doubts. "That can't be," says Thomas, "and until I touch His wounds with my own hands and verify that they are genuine, I will remain in doubt." And the Lord allows Thomas to make sure that it's really Him. No matter what anyone advises you, before you accept it, compare with it with the Word of God. Find out what the Fathers said about it. If the advice has the logic of Orthodox teaching, carry it out. If not, then think hard about it. Otherwise, you could easily get into trouble.

Read the full article at orthochristian.com

Church Youth

Midfeast of Pentecost

"Having come to the middle of the feast, refresh my thirsty soul with the streams of piety; for Thou, O Savior, didst say to all:

Let him who thirsts come to Me and drink. O Christ our God, Source of Life, glory to Thee."

-Troparion of Mid-Pentecost (Tone 8)

Mid-Pentecost is to the Pentecostarion what the Third Sunday of Great Lent which honors the Holy Cross is to the period of Great Lent. The mid-point of the Pentecostarion enlightens us regarding the theme of the fifty days following Pascha - which is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit poured out as a gift upon all the faithful who partake of the living water which is Christ Himself. The central theme woven throughout the period of the Pentecostarion therefore is water.

Even as it is the tradition of the Church to bless gardens with Holy Water at Mid-Pentecost asking God for the fruits of the earth, so too, here at Mid-Pentecost let us contemplate and celebrate the fruits nourished within us by streams of living water – the waters that flow from the cross through the Church to eternal life in heaven.

[Listen to the Homily for Mid-Pentecost by St. John Chrysostom read by the Monks at Holy Cross Monastery \(9:16 Minutes\) HERE](#)

(Excerpts from:
asceticlifeofmotherhood.com/blog/midpentecost)

Outreach Ministry Updates ...

Family Vespers

Cancelled this month!

We decided to cancel our Family Vespers this month as the 4th is Pascha and the 18th is the Youth Retreat.

See You at Family Vespers in June for games and pizza!

Perogy Pinching Nights

****Cancelled during May****

Youth Retreat



This is the youth retreat that the kids in our parish attend every year. The youth retreat provides a unique opportunity for Orthodox youth to connect with each other and deepen their understanding of their Orthodox faith.

Men's Coffee Hour

May 18th 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!

Summer Camp

August 16 – 19, 2024!



Take a look at your calendars and let us know if you are coming to our annual summer camp at The Harbour in nearby Riondel!

John Behr Seminar

June 17-21, 8:30am-5:00pm (M-F)

“Early Christian Theological Anthropology”: A study of what it means to be a human being in the theology of Saints Irenaeus, Gregory of Nyssa, and Maximus the Confessor.

Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta

The Lighter side of Orthodoxy



Sayings from the Bible Moms

5. Samson! Get your hand out of that lion. You don't know where it's been!

4. David! I told you not to play in the house with that sling! Go practice your harp. We pay good money for those lessons!

3. Abraham! Stop wandering around the countryside and get home for supper!

2. James and John! No more burping contests at the dinner table, please. People are going to start calling you the sons of thunder!

1.Noah! No, you can't keep them! I told you, don't bring home any more animals!



Social Media Links

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](#)