

O Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, together with all the Saints and the Heavenly Hosts, pray to God that on each of us He will bestow wisdom for our mind, strength for our will, light for our spirit, enabling us to attain to the true peace of life which is from God alone.



## Upcoming Events >>>

### July 2024

[Check website for updates!](#)

#### Sun, June 20

- 4pm: Canda Day BBQ

#### Sat, July 6

- 4pm: Family Vespers

#### Sun, July 7

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy,  
All Saints of North America

#### Sat, July 13

- 6pm: Great Vespers

#### Sun, July 14

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, All Saints  
of the Celtic Church

#### Sat, July 20

- 10am – 12noon: Men's Coffee  
Hour  
-6pm: Great Vespers

#### Sun, July 21

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy

#### Sat, July 27

- 6pm: Great Vespers

#### Sun, July 28

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, Holy  
Apostles of the Seventy and Deacons:  
Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and  
Parmentas

## Father's Desk: All Saints of North America

On the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, more than 250 million world-wide members of the Holy Orthodox Church are celebrating the saints on their home soil. Russia, Greece, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Georgia and other countries are each celebrating thousands of their local saints today. Saints that have lived over the last 2000 years as compared to our North American 200-year saint history. We in North America have a total of 19 saints, and only 3 were actually born on this continent. Yes, we are very much a toddler Orthodox mission church here in North America.

The Orthodox Church has existed and has been creating saints continuously from its beginning, from when Christ first called Peter and his brother Andrew and James and John the sons of Zebedee. They immediately left their nets and followed Him. This was a heart response by these first four disciples. They had no idea what the plan was, but it was enough just to trust and follow. To simply walk with faith in Him. Wherever He led them. They had this faith to simply follow right from the beginning, and when the Holy Spirit came upon them in fullness, and our Church was born in power and strength at Pentecost, this seed of faith burst into towering and ever-expanding life!

The Liturgy teaches us to how to pray and worship and give proper thanksgiving unto God. We gather to eat and drink of the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be mystically transformed and united into the body of Christ, The more we fully and with godly effort participate in the Liturgy, the work of the people, worshipping with the angels and with the saints gone before us, the more we begin to become more consciously aware of God being ever present and filling all things as we choose to follow Him. Through every generation for 20 centuries, from the Apostles,

through all the saints and right up until today here in St. Aidan's, God has been faithfully present in every Liturgy, transforming hearts and bringing His people to union with Himself.

What has all this to do with the saints of North America whom we are celebrating today? Everything. They were all formed within the bosom of the Church. You will find reading the lives of the saints that they immersed themselves in the cycles of the Church. They availed themselves of every opportunity to be present, to receive communion and pray, eagerly cooperating with the transforming grace of God.

We are blessed by the recent glorification of the faithful Orthodox Christian, Matushka Olga, dear to our own parish. Her humility, her generosity, her piety, her patience, and her selfless love for God and neighbor were well-known in the Kuskokwim villages during her earthly life. Her care for comforting the suffering and the grieving has also been revealed after her life by grace-filled manifestations to the faithful throughout not only Alaska, but all of North America.

So, let us do all we can to learn from the saints, asking for their intercessions before the very throne of God, and imitating them as best we are able. Pray for us St. Herman, St. Tikhon, St. Peter, St. John, St. Nicolai, Blessed Olga and all the rest of our beloved North American saints that we too may join you in answering Christ's call to simply "follow Him." Glory to Jesus Christ!

Kootenay Connect



Wycliffe, KCP media photo, Dave Quinn.

“Kootenay Connect is providing on-the-ground solutions to address the loss of biological diversity in our region,” said Marcy Mahr, KCP’s Kootenay Connect Manager. “From rolling grasslands and open dry forests to rich wetlands and towering stands of old growth cedar-hemlock, all of these habitats are essential to the day to day, seasonal, and long-term survival of the species who call the Kootenays home.”

Kootenay Connect includes over 30 partners collaborating on over 50 restoration projects benefiting species at risk and the habitats they need for survival. Four landscapes have been the focus of Kootenay Connect: Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor, Creston Valley, Columbia Valley Wetlands, and the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor. Three more areas were added in 2023, bringing the total area to 16.6 million hectares, which is about 20% of the Kootenay Region.

Check out the full article and its links to maps and videos below:

<https://www.e-know.ca/regions/east-kootenay/kootenay-connect-offers-hope-for-species-at-risk/>

# Holy Prophet Elijah

We commemorate the Holy Prophet Elijah on July 20<sup>th</sup>, praying to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames.” The name Elijah (the Lord’s strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah exhorted King Ahab to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him that there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer.

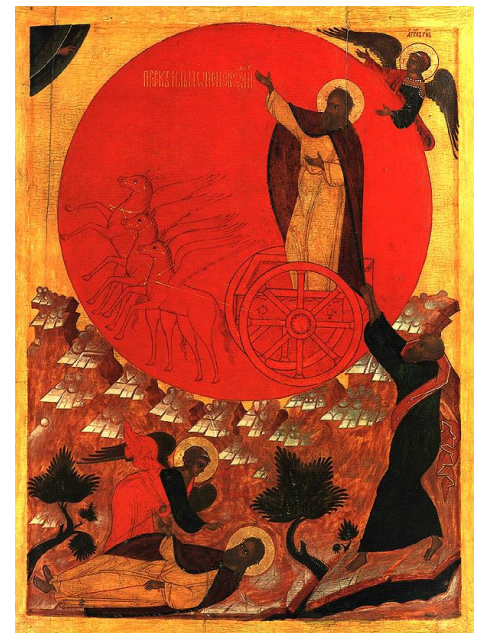
After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Through the prayer of the Prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice to the True God. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: “Truly, the Lord is God!” Then the Prophet Elijah began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth. Then King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins. (oca.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

Watch a video about the life of the Prophet Elijah on our website that will hopefully inspire you to keep struggling through the difficult climbs on the path to the kingdom of God.

<https://www.saintaidan.ca/2023/07/20/holy-glorious-prophet-elijah/>



## CHURCH SCHOOL – St. Aidan

What if you were asked to take over a school project that someone started but didn't finish. How would you feel?

St. Aidan had this happen to him.

Aidan was born in Ireland in the 7th century. He became a monk of Iona, an island monastery in Scotland. King Oswald wanted to bring Christianity to his people in Northumbria. He sent word to the monastery on the island of Iona, asking for missionaries. Bishop Cormac was sent, but he returned, saying he could not succeed because people there were stubborn and barbaric. Aidan explained that the bishop was too harsh, and that people "need to be fed first with milk, rather than solid food." He meant that he felt the bishop had been too impatient, and that teachers needed to move slowly to get people to understand Christ. The monks of Iona told Aidan to go to Northumbria and finish the job that Bishop Cormac left undone.

Aidan was successful and became famous throughout the area. He was well - known for his piety and humility, and is most remembered for his kindness, patience, and love for his people of Northumbria, as well as his outpouring of generosity to the poor.

Follow the link below to [SAINTS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE: An Activity Book for Orthodox Children and Parents](https://dce.oca.org/files/activity-books/saints-in-trouble.pdf), where you will read more about St. Aidan, and find a coloring page, a crossword puzzle and a message to decode. You will also learn about 11 other saints in this activity book.

<https://dce.oca.org/files/activity-books/saints-in-trouble.pdf>

oca.org

## Church Youth

### The Celtic Saints

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, we venerate the hundreds of first millennium British and Celtic Saints; one of the best known of course being our own St. Aidan of Lindisfarne. The North American Saints in Alaska and the Celtic Saints have much in common. As Fr. Stephen Freeman says in the article below:

“From the beginning, the early Church carried the gospel into various lands and immediately began the task of translation and enculturation.

One and the same faith was planted everywhere, but was everywhere unique and appropriate to its people. . .

Perhaps the most striking aspect of Celtic Christianity was the role of monasticism. The missions to the Celts occurred mostly after the rise of desert monasticism, indeed, they were pretty much coincident. For whatever reason, monastic Christianity and all that accompanies it took deep root among the Celts and the English as well. . . .

But the monastics in the British Isles, like the monastics across the Christian world of Late Antiquity, became a primary force within the whole of Church life.

They were missionaries. They were librarians. They were copyists. They were authors. They were hymnographers. They were a hedge against the power of the state. They were protectors of Orthodox teaching.”

You can trust that these Celtic saints we celebrate were real and serious about following Christ. You can trust that all of the saints we are reflecting on during the months of June and July 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.

### Questions Answered >>>

**Q:** Who is the Lady of Sitka?

Located in Sitka, Alaska is one of the most revered icons in North America: the Sitka Mother of God. The Cathedral received the Icon as a gift from the laborers of the Russian American Company in 1850. Miracles have been attributed to the Sitka Mother of God Icon over the years. “When the stormy seas engulf us and the rough waters fill our souls with fear, then does our holy Father Herman call from heaven upon your all powerful intercession, O Lady, and a deep calm envelops us all.” “Beset by hardships in this far northern land, we are lifted up by the faith our Father Herman instilled in us, and by the prayers of Our Lady of Sitka we take upon ourselves, with hope and fortitude, the Cross our Lord has given to each one of us.”

(Akathist Service to Our Lady of Sitka)



# Outreach Ministry Updates ...

## Family Vespers

JULY 6<sup>th</sup>

See You at Family Vespers at 4pm, then pizza and games!

## Perogy Pinching Nights

**\*\*Cancelled during July\*\***

## Garden Commitee

Before and After Photos of our new Community Garden Patio!



Before



After

**Thanks to all that helped!**

## Men's Coffee Hour

July 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am – 12pm.

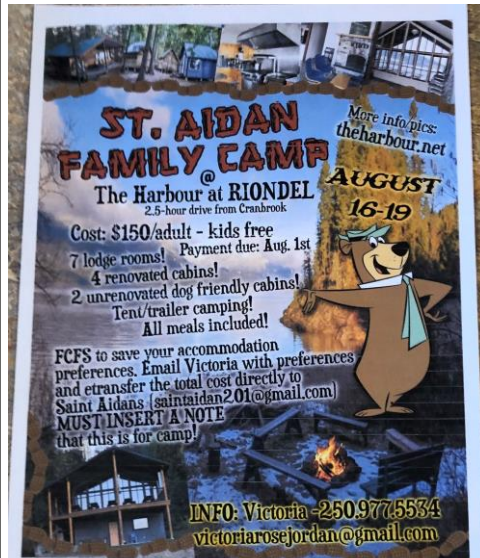
Come on out to the church the third Saturday of every month and bring any of your bros that may wish to partake in a time of who knows what conversations??? May it be blessed!

## Summer Camp

August 16 – 19, 2024!

**7 lodge rooms!  
4 renovated cabins!  
2 unrenovated  
dog friendly cabins!  
Tent/trailer camping!  
All meals included!**

**Payment due Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>!**



## The Lighter side of Orthodoxy

### Happy Canada Day!

Why did the Canadian cross the road with maple syrup? To get to the sweet side!

Why did the Canadian bring a hockey stick to the movies? It was a slapstick comedy.

What's a Canadian dad's favorite superhero? Captain Can-eh-da!

Why do Canadian dads love poutine jokes? The cheesier they are, the better!

How do you stop Canadian bacon from curling in the frying pan? Take away its broom.

My friend told me a few jokes about the Canadian Rockies. They were absolutely hill-areas.



### Social Media Links

[saintaidan.ca](http://saintaidan.ca) , [Facebook](#)

[Facebook Group](#) , [Instagram](#)

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

[saintaidan201@gmail.com](mailto:saintaidan201@gmail.com)

or with a [credit card](#)