

- St. John of Damascus: On the Dormition of the Theotokos: "Thus though art also the fountain of true light, the inexhaustible treasury of life itself, the most fruitful source of blessing, who has won for us and brought us all good things — though for a while thou wast covered corporeally with death; nonetheless, thou dost pour out pure and inexhaustible streams of immense light, immortal life and true happiness, rivers of grace, fountains of healing and everlasting blessing."



Upcoming Events >>> August 2024

Check website for updates!

Th, August 1

Dormition Fast begins

Sat, August 3

- 4pm: Family Vespers

Sun, August 4

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, The 7 Sleepers

Mon, August 5

- 6pm: Great Vespers with Litya

Tues, August 6

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, Transfiguration of our Lord

Sat, August 10

-6pm: Great Vespers

Sun, August 11

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

Wed, August 14

- 6pm: Great Vespers with Litya

Th, August 15

- 10:30am: Divine Liturgy, Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokis (Dormition Fast ends)

Sat, August 17

-6pm: Great Vespers in Riondel at Family Camp, Cranbrook Church closed tonight.

Sun, August 18

-10:30am: Divine Liturgy at in Riondel Family Camp, Cranbrook Church closed this morning, Afterfeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Sat, August 24

-6pm: Great Vespers

Sun, August 25

-10:30am: Divine Liturgy

Fri, August 30

-6pm: Great Vespers with Litya

Sat, August 31

-10:30am: Divine Liturgy of St. Aidan

-6pm: Great Vespers

Father's Desk: Transfiguration of Our Lord

This month we have the blessed Feast of the Transfiguration! It is customary to bring grapes and fruit to be blessed on this special feast day service! Of course, we are also in the Dormition fast which runs from Aug. 1 through until the great feast day of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Aug 15.



Christ is revealing in His transfiguration His full divinity, allowing the uncreated divine energy of His Godly nature to shine through the fullness of His humanity which surrounds and keeps His Godly nature hidden from the apostles. It is not a change in His nature that is being revealed, but the reality of the kingdom of heaven – which is always everywhere present and fills all things. All of creation is filled with God, and exists because of the undergirding energies of God.

The ineffable light which proceeds from Christ fills all things. "He was transfigured before them. His face shone as the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light." The gold surrounding our icons depicts this transfigured reality. All the saints in the icons are filled with this light of Christ flowing through and permeating them. They are painted as transfigured in the kingdom with the full light of Christ. Every time we venerate an icon, the veneration goes through the saint, through to the transfigured and ever-present reality of the light of Christ's divinity in the saint, through to Christ Himself.

Theosis is the process of having our spiritual eyes opened to prepare to live in the kingdom of God.

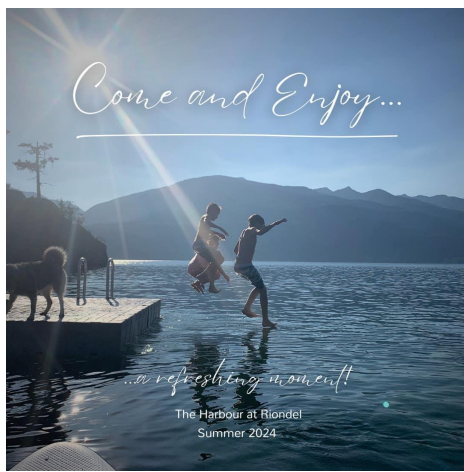
May God give us the grace to walk in the knowledge of the reality of the kingdom of God, here on earth as it is in heaven. -Fr. Andrew

Kootenay Spotlight

The Harbour at Riondel

www.theharbour.net

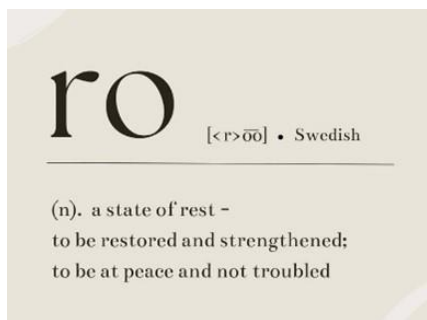
“We desire that all who enter onto this land encounter God in a real and tangible way.”



The site of our 2nd Annual Family Camp!

The Harbour at Riondel is a Christian ministry that hosts rental groups, retreats and a discipleship school centred on creating space to encounter the love of Jesus. Located on 47 acres along the shores of Kootenay Lake in Riondel, BC., the waterfront lodging is situated on two beautiful harbours.

Ro is a Christian, Non-Profit coffee shop and roastery in the heart of Riondel, BC.



The Riondel Community Church had not been functioning for a number of years and had to make the tough decision to sell the building, and they chose to gift the church to The Harbour ministries. As The Harbour maintained the church property and got to know people in the community, there was a noticeable lack of places for the community to gather in and so Ro. Neighbourhood Coffee was started in the old community church building.

The Dormition: Pascha of the Summer

This month we observe the Holy Dormition Fast; this period, which lasts two weeks from the 1st to the 14th of August, culminates on the 15th with the celebration of the Falling Asleep (Dormition) of the Mother of God. Before this, though, on August 6th, Orthodoxy celebrates another one of the Twelve Great Feasts, that is, the Transfiguration (Metamorphosis) of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The holiness of these two weeks gives fuel for the faithful to energize their spiritual struggle; this is one reason why the Dormition period is affectionately known as the Summer Pascha.

In the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom celebrated in the Orthodox Church, the priest repeats the following prayer a number of times: Let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God. In Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist recounts the manifestation of Christ's divinity through a display of His divine energy on Mount Tabor: "And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (Mt 17:2). The attainment of this light is the ultimate goal of Orthodox Christians and can be achieved by dedicating "our whole life to Christ our God" as the Holy Chrysostom says.

We have no better example, no better prototype, to lead us to Christ's ineffable glory than His Mother, the Most Holy Lady and Ever-Virgin Mary, whose Dormition we will soon celebrate. St. Gregory writes: She showed that her whole life, her behaviour, her mind and her words, were utterly devoted to godly striving. As a result of this, her death, too, was life-giving and led to heavenly, immortal life, and its day of remembrance is a joyful holiday and worldwide festival... For at present she is the only one who has a place in heaven with her divinely glorified body in the company of her Son.

Like Pascha, the Great Feasts of the Dormition Fast call us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk 12:30).

The Transfiguration shows us that we can experience the Kingdom of God here on earth, while the Dormition shows us that through our faith and good works and Christ's love and mercy, we can attain immortal life; since, as St. Gregory Palamas describes: "Christ as God is for those who live by the Spirit and see with spiritual eyes what the sun is for those who live by their senses and see with natural vision."

Read the full article at:

<https://goarchdiocese.ca/dormition-of-the-theotokos-resource-page/>

CHURCH SCHOOL – Women in the Early Church

During the time of St. Aidan, the Irish Christian Church had to share Britain with the Saxon Christian Church. Interestingly, there were highly valued roles for women in both the Saxon Churches and the Irish Culture.

“The role of women in Northumbria and Ireland ... was of the utmost importance in the Church of seventh-century Britain.... Queen Eanfled was very much St. Wilfrid’s spiritual mother in his formative years and continued to influence him throughout her life. Queen Bertha probably did as much to bring the Gospel to the Germanic people of Kent as did Augustine. The role of these powerful queens in the policy of the newly formed Anglo-Saxon kingdoms was substantial. Better known, of course, is St. Hilda, whose monastery at Whitby was a training ground for future clergy, including bishops; she was very much a teacher of the teachers. There are other examples of such ‘double’ monasteries, that is both a monastery for women and one for men, under the joint direction of an abbess. And it was always an abbess, not an abbot...” (1)

With the establishment of Christian monasticism in the west, other influential roles became available to women. From the 5th century onward, Christian convents provided an alternative for some women to the path of marriage and child-rearing and allowed them to acquire literacy and learning, and play a more active religious role. Medieval abbesses and female superiors of monastic houses appeared at Church councils in the midst of the bishops and abbots and priests, as did the Abbess Hilda at the Synod of Whitby in 664, and the Abbess Elfleda, who succeeded her, at that of the River Nith in 705. (2)

We have Women readers and singers, girls helping with candles and prospora distribution, Holy Myrrhbearing girls at Pascha, and most everything else is open other than roles restricted to the Clergy or serving in the Altar itself. Male and Female members of our parish are welcome to serve Christ in many ways in the Church. Please talk with Fr. Andrew if you would like to help more in the Church.

- (1) Fr. John Nankivell, [Saint Wilfrid](#)
(2) Wikipedia, ‘Women in Church History’

Questions Answered >>>

Q. Are there any Celtic monasteries from St. Aidan’s time that are still operating?

A: Mull Monastery, on the Isle of Mull off the west coast of Scotland, still operates today on the site of monastic dwellings from the late 500s when the first monasteries settled here because of St Ninian’s Holy Well. The Celtic Monastery of St Ninian flourished from late 500s until the end of the first millennium, when the Viking attacks put an end to monastic life in the Isles. Re-established in 2010, today the monastic community consists of two different Monasteries – the Monastery on Mull, called Kilninian (at St Ninian’s Holy Well), where the sisters live, and the nearby Monastery on Iona where the brothers live. They are a multi-national community – with Orthodox brothers and sisters coming from Canada, the United Kingdom, Romania and the United States of America. Spiritually, this is the fulfilment of St Columba’s prophecy about the return of the monks to Iona. Symbolically, the Orthodox Monastery on Iona is the final act in reclaiming the Isles for Orthodox monasticism and provides the Monastic Community with immense opportunity for missionary work. - <https://mullmonastery.com/>

Church Youth

St. Aidan’s World

Fr. John Nankivell’s first book, *St. Wilfrid*, remains an inspiration to those modern Orthodox Christians who seek to establish and nurture the faith in our multi-ethnic, multi-faith and often hostile world.

(It was St. Aidan who first instructed Wilfrid in monasticism.)

“There was a unity of practice and understanding in the seventh century that’s difficult for us to appreciate now....

Virtually all of Europe was under Germanic influence: the Lombards in north Italy, the Anglo-Saxons and Jutes in Britain, the Franks in France, and the Visigoths in Spain. The Persian invasions of the Holy Land (they took Jerusalem in 614) led to a large number of Syrian, Palestinian and Greek exiles seeking refuge in Rome, where they established monasteries and other institutions. Rome became a place of great ethnic and linguistic diversity, with a variety of liturgical and ecclesiastical traditions. It was possible for someone holding the office of bishop to be an Irishman in Gaul, a Syrian in Rome, or a Greek in Britain....

The Book of Kells could have come from a Northumbrian workshop via Iona. It contains an icon of the Mother of God that is pure Byzantine. In all these illuminated manuscripts you have the Romano-Greek Mediterranean influence, the Germanic influence, and the Irish influence, all beautifully synthesized. That is the reality and the beauty of the Church in this country – it had all of these elements.... It doesn’t really matter if a saint is Celtic, British, Anglo-Saxon, Roman, Greek or Syrian, if there is something in his life we can learn from.”

Read the full article ‘[BEDE’S WORLD: EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN THE BRITISH ISLES](#)’



Outreach Ministry Updates ...

Family Vespers

AUGUST 3rd

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

Men's Coffee Hour

August 17th at 10am – 12pm.

This month – held at the Family Camp!

2nd Annual Family Summer Camp: August 16 – 19, 2024!



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

Reserve your spot now!

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

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The Lighter side of Orthodoxy

Summer Camp Jokes

What is a snake's favorite thing about camping? The ssss-mores.

How does the sun cut its hair? Eclipse it!

A moth walked into the dentist's office. The dentist asked the moth what was bothering him. "Well", said the moth, "I was on my way to family camp and I realised that I forgot to bring any sunscreen or my swimsuit. By that time, it was too late to turn around so I just sat there and worried. Luckily I was able to borrow a swimsuit from my friend and I had a really good time." "I'm glad it all worked out.", said the dentist, "Family camp sounds like fun, but is there something bothering you about your teeth?" "My teeth? I don't have teeth." said the moth. "Then what brings you in?" says the dentist. "Oh," says the moth, "the light was on!"

What vegetable do you need to eat to win the canoe race? Hustle sprouts.



Social Media Links

saintaidan.ca , [Facebook](#)

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

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

saintaidan201@gmail.com

or with a [credit card](#)