



**Our Righteous Father Sergius of Radonezh
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on September 25.**

Our Righteous Father Sergius was born in Rostov, north of Moscow, about the year 1314. Named Bartholomew in Baptism, he was brought up in Radonezh, and at the death of his parents he withdrew to the wilderness to become a monk. It is notable that without having been trained in a monastery, he was of such spiritual stature as to be able to take up the perilous eremitical life from the beginning, without falling into delusion or despondency. When he had endured with courage the depredations of the solitary life, other monks began to come to him, for whom he was made abbot against his will. On the counsel of Philotheus, Patriarch of Constantinople, he organized his monks according to the cenobitic life, appointing duties to each. While Anthony and Theodosius of Kiev, and other righteous Fathers before Sergius, had established their monasteries near cities, Sergius was the leader and the light to those who went far into the wilderness, and after his example the untrodden forests of northern Russia were settled with monks. When the Grand Duke Demetrius Donskoy was about to go into battle

against the invading Tartars, he first sought the blessing of Saint Sergius, through whose prayers he was triumphant. Saint Sergius was adorned with the highest virtues of Christ-like humility and burning love for God and neighbor, and received the gift of working wonders, of casting out demons, and of discretion for leading souls to salvation. When he served the Divine Liturgy, an Angel served with him visibly; he was also vouchsafed the visitation of the Most Holy Theotokos with the Apostles Peter and John. He was gathered to his Fathers on September 25, 1392. At the recovery of his relics on July 5, 1422, his body and garments were found fragrant and incorrupt. His life was written by the monk Epiphanius, who knew him.

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Dismissal Hymn of Saint Sergius. Fourth Tone

AS an athlete in virtue, and as a true soldier of Christ our God, thou didst struggle mightily against the passions in this temporal life, and thou wast a model for thy disciples in psalmody, vigils, and fasts. Wherefore the Holy Spirit dwelt in thee, and thou wast radiantly adorned by His grace. But since thou hast boldness with the Trinity, remember the flock which thou didst gather, O wise one; and forget not to visit thy children as thou didst promise, O Sergius our holy Father.

Kontakion of Saint Sergius. Plagal of Fourth Tone

WOUNDED with love for Christ, O Saint, and having followed Him with unwaning desire, thou didst hate all carnal pleasure, and like the sun thou didst shine on thy fatherland. Wherefore, Christ hath established thee with the gift of wonderworking. Remember us who honor thy most illustrious memory, that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O divinely-wise Sergius.



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