

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Ian	Stefan
Archpriest Eugene	John
Archpriest Seraphim	Vivian
Protodeacon Alexis	Jung Sook
Reader Aleksei	Thomas
Monk Philaret	Cheyenne
Matushka Mary	Nancy
Elizabeth • Virginia	Randall
Kapitolina • Thomas	Rose
John • Jacqueline	Don
Euphrosynos	Norma
John • Samuel	
Catechumen Rebecca	

The repose and salvation of –

Shamassy Marie (August 18)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.



Celebration of the 700th Anniversary of St Sergius at the St Sergius-Holy Trinity Lavra in 2014

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



Repose of the Venerable Sergius



Vision to the Youth Bartholomew by Mikhail Nesterov (1890)

**Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Other services as announced**

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Venerable Sergius, Abbott and Wonderworker of All Russia

St. Sergius was born in 1314 in Rostov of pious and devout parents. Even before his birth, God worked a miracle upon the future saint: while still in his mother's womb he cried aloud three times during the Divine Liturgy. Baptized with the name Bartholomew, the growing boy was a poor student, unable to learn how to read. He often prayed to God in secret: "O Lord, give me understanding of learning!" One day he met in the fields a holy elder of angel-like appearance who asked, "What are you seeking, my child?" The boy replied that he wished most of all to read and write. Assuring him that for his faith the Lord would give him learning, the elder at the boy's entreaty accompanied him to his parents' house. They all went into the house chapel and the elder told the boy to read aloud from the Psalter. "Father, I do not know how," Bartholomew said. But after the elder commanded him to "Speak the word of God without doubt," the boy began to read easily. Then the elder foretold to the parents that their son would be a dwelling of the Holy Trinity, that he would be great before God and man, and that he would direct others thanks to his virtuous life.

After his parents died he abandoned the world and went deep into the forest to build a cell and a small church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. At the age of 23 he received the monastic tonsure with the name Sergius. He was troubled by wild animals--especially bears. One bear in particular would come to the Saint. Seeing that the animal came only to get some food, the Saint would place a small slice of bread on a log... Often there was no bread, and both he and the bear would go hungry. Sometimes the Saint would give his only slice to the bear, being unwilling to disappoint him.

After two years, God-fearing monks came to dwell with St. Sergius. Although he had gone to the forest to work out his salvation in solitude, St. Sergius accepted their arrival as God's Providence. Each monk built his own cell, and all gathered with the Saint for the services in the chapel. A priest came from a village for Divine Liturgy until, finally, the Saint was persuaded to accept ordination at which time the bishop also named him abbot and exhorted him to "Remember this saying: 'Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ' (Gal. 6:2). If you follow this precept, you will save yourself and those who live with you." St. Sergius remembered this all his life and was not only a father but also a servant to all those who came to him.

St. Sergius worked at grinding grain, baking bread, cooking food, and making candles, as well as making shoes and clothing for the other monks. Remaining in ceaseless prayer and labors, he reminded his monks: "God's grace cannot be given without trials; after tribulation comes joy." Multitudes flocked to him, wishing to be part of this growing family of monks. When dissensions arose, the Saint did not enter into them, preferring to be silent rather than participate in any strife.

Continually chastening himself with fasting, working unceasingly, performing numberless miracles, the Saint reached advanced age. With the approach of death (which he foreknew) he gathered his flock and delivered a final exhortation. He made them promise to be steadfast in Orthodoxy and to preserve oneness in mind with each other; to keep pure in body and soul and to have unhypocritical love; to avoid all evil and carnal lusts; to be moderate in food and drink; above all, to be clothed with humility; not to forget love of strangers; to avoid back-talk, and on no account to set value on honor and praise in this life, but rather to await reward from God in the joys of heaven and eternal blessings.

He surrendered his pure, holy soul to the Lord on September 25, 1392, being 78 years of age. "After his death the Saint's body gave off an ineffable, sweet fragrance His face shone white as snow Angels preceded him after his repose and opened for him the doors of Paradise and -- what he had always desired -- the illumination of the Most Holy Trinity."

Also this week: *Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (September 26); Martyrs Callistratus and his company (September 27); Ven. Chariton the Confessor, Abbot of Palestine; Synaxis of the Saints of the Kiev Caves (September 28); Ven. Cyriacus the Hermit of Palestine (September 29); Hieromartyr Gregory of Greater Armenia (September 30); PROTECTION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY (October 1).*

*** "regular" fasting all week ***

Epistles: II Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (Sunday) / Galatians 5:22-6:2 (Saint)

Gospels: Luke 5:1-11 (Sunday) / Luke 6:17-23 (Saint)

Troparion – Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, /
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, /
Born for our salvation from the Virgin; /
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, /
To endure death, / And to raise the dead ///
By His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion – Tone 4 (St. Sergius)

As an athlete of ascetic virtue, / A true warrior of Christ our God /
Fighting fiercely the good fight against the passions in this passing life, /
In song, vigil and fasting thou wast an example to thy disciples. /
Wherefore, the Holy Spirit came and dwelt in thee /
And through His action adorned thee with radiant beauty: /
Since thou hast boldness before the Holy Trinity /
Remember the flock which thou hast wisely gathered to thee ///
And forget not thy promise to visit us thy children, Venerable Sergius, our father.

Kontakion – Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend into hades, O my Savior, /
Shattering its gates as Almighty; /
Resurrecting the dead as Creator, /
And destroying the sting of death. /
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, ///
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Kontakion – Tone 8 (St. Sergius)

Smitten with the love of Christ, O venerable one, /
Thou didst follow Him *without turning* back, /
Thou didst learn to despise *all the delights* of the flesh, /
And didst shine forth like the sun upon thy native land; /
Wherefore, Christ enriched thee *with* the gift of working miracles. /
Remember us who honor thine all *radiant* memory so that we may cry to thee: ///
Rejoice, O divinely-wise Sergius!