

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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July 5, 2020

4th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 3

Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh
Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra on Mt. Athos



From the Fathers...

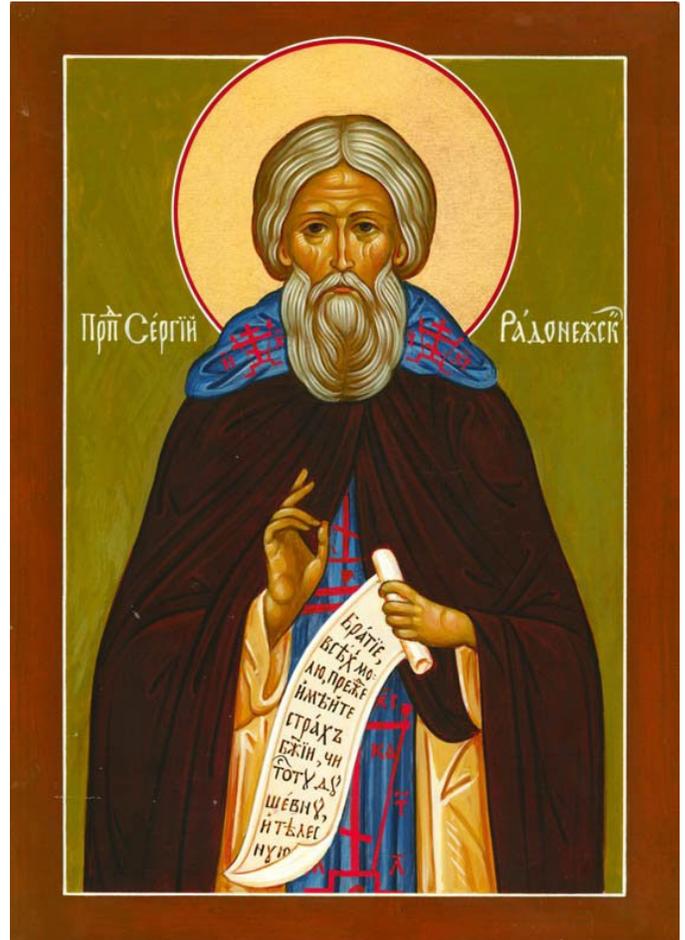
“When you stand in church, be careful not to look here and there, or curiously examine how each of the other brethren stands or sings. Rather, pay attention only to yourself and to the chanting of your own sins.”

- St. Symeon the New Theologian



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



When thy mother came to the Church of God even before thy birth,/ thou didst cry out in her womb three times, giving glory to the Trinity./ O godly-wise Father Sergius, / thou knewest God before thou knewest the world./ Thou wast known by God, O blessed man./ The light of His grace shone from thee to those who sought it./ The radiance of thy face showed thy spiritual and bodily purity./ Thou wast a chosen vessel of Christ our God./ Entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls!

O divinely wise Father Sergius,/ when thou didst hear a divine voice that said to thee:/ “Behold, the coming of the Most Pure One!”/ thou didst begin to make thyself worthy of this visitation,/ with many spiritual labors and fervent prayer./ Light brighter than the sun illumined thee,/ showing to thy spiritual and bodily eyes the Mother of God./ Thou didst hear her words to thee:/ “I shall not abandon this place, and thy monastery shall not be in want.”// Entreat her to save and enlighten our souls! (*Stichera of Lord, I Call*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!/ Let the earth be glad!/ For the Lord has shown strength with His arm./ He has trampled down death by death./ He has become the first born of the dead./ He has delivered us from the depths of hell,/ and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Ven. Sergius of Radonezh Troparion in Tone 8

From thy youth thou didst receive Christ into thy soul, O ven'erable one,/ and above all didst desire to leave behind the turmoil of the world./ With courage thou didst settle in the wilderness, where thou didst raise children in obedience, the fruits of humility./ Thus, as an abode of the Trinity, thou didst enlighten all who approached in faith, granting healing to all.// O our Father Sergius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,/ leading us from the gates of death./ On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;/ with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying,

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Ven. Sergius of Radonezh Kontakion in Tone 8

Having risen from the earth today and shining like the sun,/ thy precious and incorrupt relics are as fragrant flowers, scented with miracles,/ granting healing to all the faithful, and making glad thy flock which thou didst wisely gather and tend./ Now as thou standest before the throne of the Trinity, entreat God's help and grace for them and for all Orthodox Christians,// so that we may sing: Rejoice, O divinely-wise Sergius!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians in Tone 6

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,/ constant advocate before the Creator;/ despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,/ but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith./ Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,/ for you always protect those who honor you!

“Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, July 5th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream and In Person)

Ven. Athanasius, Founder of the Great Lavra

Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh

Romans 6:18-23, Galatians 5:22-6:2

Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 6:17-23

Monday, July 6th

7:00 PM Adult Education (Online)

Ven. Sisoies the Great

Virgin-Martyr Lucia

Romans 12:4-5, 15-21, Matthew 12:9-13

Tuesday, July 7th

Ven. Thomas of Mt. Maleon

Ven. Acasius of Sinai

Romans 14:9-18, Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30

Wednesday, July 8th

Holy Greatmartyr Procopius of Caesarea in Palestine

Righteous Prokopy, Fool-for-Christ

Romans 15:7-16, Matthew 12:38-45

Thursday, July 9th

Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily

Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete

Romans 15:17-29, Matthew 12:46-13:3

Friday, July 10th

Ven. Anthony of the Kiev Caves

Romans 16:1-16, Galatians 5:22-6:2

Matthew 13:3-9, Matthew 4:25-5:12

Saturday, July 11th

5:00 PM Great Vespers (Livestream and In Person)

Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised

Bl. Olga, Princess of Rus, in Baptism Elena

Romans 8:14-21, Matthew 9:9-13

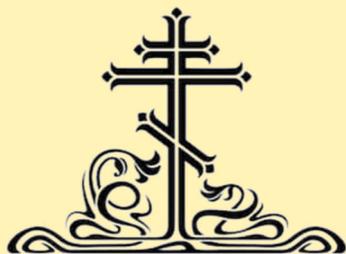
Sunday, July 12th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream and In Person)

Martyrs Proclus and Hilary of Ancyra

Ven. Michael of Maleinus

Romans 10:1-10, Matthew 8:28-9:1



Mothers of Saints



The Church honors a saint who lived in the 14th century but who was glorified much more recently, in 1992. She is Maria, the mother of Saint Sergius of Radonezh.

Her story gives insight into the effect on mothers when a child desires to become a monastic. Young Bartholomew (Saint Sergius' baptismal name) expressed this desire fairly early in life. But both his brothers were married and had families to take care of, so the parents were not eager to let him leave. He agreed to delay his departure in order to take care of them. This was especially important for Maria. Had her husband died, she would have had only her sons to depend on.

In respecting his parents' wishes, Bartholomew was similar to Saint John Chrysostom, whose mother Anthusa had been widowed very young. When her son told her he wanted to be a monk, Anthusa pointed out that there were family lands to be managed, taxes to be paid, and wily officials eager to take advantage of an inexperienced and unworldly woman who had suddenly been thrust into great responsibility. Like Bartholomew, John put off his entry into the monastic life to help his mother.

Though Maria needed her son, she was open to God's plan for him. In this she was like other holy mothers. Hannah, the mother of Samuel, dedicated her long-awaited only child to the Temple. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, paid attention when the child in her womb leaped for joy at the sound of the Virgin Mary's greeting, and called young Mary "the mother of my Lord." Maria and her husband lost no time in bringing their little Bartholomew to church and offering him as God's servant, believing this was His will for the child.

Maria was fortunate in having raised children who loved and cared about each other. In this too she was like other mothers of saints. Gregory of Nyssa wrote with great admiration and gratitude about his sister Macrina. Many saints made sure their siblings were provided for before becoming monastics. Bartholomew did this, bequeathing his considerable possessions to a brother before entering the new life in which he would be tonsured with the name Sergius.

Again like other mothers of saints, Maria made an agreement with her husband that they would go to separate monasteries. That is where they spent the remaining years of their lives. The title given to Maria by the Church is "Venerable Schema-Nun." That she became a schema-nun means that she reached a high spiritual level in the judgment of her superior, the abbess. She had already taken the formal vows of chastity, obedience, poverty and stability of place. She was already entitled to wear the mantle of a monastic. But as a schema-nun, she reached the highest level of monasticism.

Saint Maria lived as a wife, a mother, and an advanced monastic, all in one lifetime. It's a richness befitting the woman who bore and raised one of Russia's greatest saints.

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

Guidance for COVID-19

Reopening Guidelines

The Cathedral remains in Stage 4 of the reopening process.

Please visit the website at stgeorgrossford.org and follow the links in the calendar for the sign up sheet and a video explaining the process.

The sign up sheet will be posted on Monday morning each week for the following weekend. **Please help those who do not have access to the internet with the sign up process. We want everyone to be able to attend!**

In order to maximize the number of people who attend, please limit your sign ups to one Divine Liturgy per month. If space is still available by Friday at 5:00pm, please feel free to sign up.

Livestream Services

All services will continue to be **livestreamed on Facebook** and finished recordings will be **uploaded to YouTube**. **Like, Share, Subscribe** to both to be notified when new postings are available. The schedule is also available online at our website.

Confessions and Visitations

Confessions now available on Saturday evenings and by appointment. Please contact Fr. Gregory directly to schedule. Hospital visitations remain limited by local hospitals. Personal visitations by appointment with proper social-distancing are available. Please contact Fr. Gregory to discuss.

Online Adult Education

Please join us for an Adult Education series “Mothers and Martyrs: An Examination of Women Saints in the Orthodox Church” on **Monday evenings starting at 7:00pm**. Online classes will be held via Zoom. The Zoom link is sent through our email list.

Candles and Bulletin Sponsors

During this time of separation, if you would like a candle lit in church on your behalf or would like to sponsor the sanctuary lamp, please email Fr. Gregory. Donations can be made online on our website.

Prayer Calendar

The Quarterly prayer calendar is now available online at: <https://www.stgeorgrossford.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Prayer-Calendar-Q3.pdf>

Growing Young Initiative

The Parish Council supported Growing Young Initiative is meeting online monthly at GoToMeeting.com. If you haven't been invited but would like to be in on the excitement let Steve or Cindy know. What are we doing? Initiatives include mentoring our youth, Card Ministry, education and learning to create authentic dialogue. Join us!

We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Maria, Tanya, Lawrence, Kathleen, Karen, Panka, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

Sanctuary Lamp sponsorships are available. Sign up at the church or email Fr. Gregory directly.



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Carol Yonov (7/6)

Name's Days:

Elizabeth Ghareeb (7/5)

Jessica Geib (7/8)

