

## Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

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### Schedule for the Week of July 19 - 25, 2009

Sunday Jul 19	St. Sisoës of Egypt
Saturday Jul 25	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Jul 26	First 6 Ecumen. Councils Свв отец бти Вселенских соборов 8:30 AM Confessions, Nocturns 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

#### Обретение святых мощей Преподобного Сергия (5/18 июля)

После того, как в 1392 году преподобный Сергий Радонежский преставился ко Господу, в 1408 году, при нашествии татарских орд, Троицкая обитель была разорена и сожжена.

Перед началом строительства нового каменного Троицкого храма на месте прежнего деревянного преподобный Сергий явился в видении одному мирянину и повелел открыть его мощи. И вот в 1422 году при строительстве собора мощи преподобного были обнаружены. Хотя вокруг гроба стояла вода, но и тело, и одежды игума земли Русской остались неповрежденными.

При освящении каменного Троицкого собора в 1426 году святые мощи преподобного Сергия были положены в этом храме; там они пребывают и сейчас, спустя почти шесть столетий. Поныне святые мощи преподобного Сергия являются драгоценнейшим сокровищем его обители и источником благодатных исцелений для всех прибегающих к его заступничеству.

#### Празднование Пресвятой Богородице, в честь Ее иконы, именуемой "Казанская" ( 8/21 Июля)

Празднование Пресвятой Богородице, в честь Ее иконы, именуемой "Казанская", установлено в благодарность за избавление Москвы и всей России от нашествия поляков в 1612 году. Конец XVI и начало XVII столетия известны в истории России как Смутное время. Страна подверглась нападению польских войск, которые глумились над православной верой, грабили и жгли храмы, города и села. Обманным путем им удалось овладеть Москвой. По

призыву святейшего патриарха Ермогена (память 12 мая) русский народ встал на защиту родины. В ополчение, которое возглавлял князь Димитрий Михайлович Пожарский, был прислан из Казани чудотворный образ Пресвятой Богородицы.

Святитель Димитрий Ростовский (память 21 сентября) в "Слове на день явления иконы Божией Матери в Казани" (празднование 8 июля) говорил: "Избавляет Мати Божия от великих бед и зол не токмо праведныя, но и грешныя, но которыя грешныя? Ты я, иже возвращаются к Отцу Небесному яко блудный сын, въздыхают биючи перси своя, яко мытарь, плачут у ног Христовых, яко грешница, омочившая нозе Его слезами, исповедание Ему приносят, яко на кресте разбойник. На таковая грешныя Пречистая Божия Мати призирает и ускоряет на помощь им, и от великих бед и зол избавляет".

Зная, что бедствие попущено за грехи, весь народ и ополчение наложили на себя трехдневный пост и с молитвой обратились к Господу и Его Пречистой Матери за небесной помощью. Молитва была услышана. От находившегося в плену у поляков святителя Арсения (впоследствии епископа Суздальского) пришла весть, что ему в видении было открыто о перемене суда Божия на милость, по заступничеству Пресвятой Девы. Воодушевленные известием русские войска 22 октября 1612 года освободили Москву от польских захватчиков. Празднование в честь Казанской иконы Пресвятой Богородицы установлено в 1649 году. И до наших дней эта икона особо почитается русским православным народом.



## Thoughts for Each Day of the Year

According to the Daily Church Readings  
from the Word of God

By *St. Theophan the Recluse*

The Lord forgives the sins of the man sick of the palsy. One should rejoice; but the evil mind of the learned scribes says: "This man blasphemeth." Even after the miracle of the healing of the man sick of the palsy—a confirmation of the comforting truth that *the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins*—the people glorified God; but nothing is said about the scribes, probably because they continued to weave their deceitful questions even after such a miracle. The mind without faith is a schemer; it constantly hammers out its evil suspicions and weaves blasphemy against the whole realm of faith. As for miracles—it either doesn't believe in them, or it demands a tangible one. But when a miracle is given that would obligate one to submit to the faith, this mind is not ashamed to turn away from it, distorting or slandering the miraculous works of God. It treats irrefutable evidence of God's truth in the same way. It is sufficiently and cogently presented with both experiential and intellectual proof, but it covers even this with doubt. Sort out all that it produces and you will see that in this there is only deceit, although its own language calls it cleverness, and you are unwillingly led to the conclusion that cleverness and deceit are one and the same. In the realm of faith the Apostle says, *We have the mind of Christ*. Whose mind is outside of the realm of faith? The evil one's. That is why deceit has become its distinguishing characteristic.

### St. Sergius of Radonezh

*(whom the church celebrates on 5/18 July)*

The Lord sent His chosen one at the difficult time not only of Russia's outward enslavement, but also of its inner decline, profound despondency and spiritual collapse. The Venerable one was born under the Tatar yoke -- a time when the nerves of all Russians still bore the painful impress of the horror caused by that national catastrophe, which resulted not only in material, but also in moral destruction, and for a long time subjected the populace to a stupefying torpor. To cast off the barbarian yoke once and for all, to establish a durable, independent state, and to induce non-Russians into the fold of the Christian Church, Russian society itself had to rise to the level of these great objectives, to uplift and strengthen its own moral powers, which had been abased by a century of bondage and despair.

It is to this moral instruction of the people that St. Sergius dedicated his life, to this end applying the means of a moral discipline accessible and comprehensible to all men -- a living example, a visible embodiment of moral rule. He began with himself, and by a lengthy period of solitude, full of labors and privations, in the

midst of a primeval forest, he prepared himself to become a guide for others.

Worshipping the life-giving, consubstantial and indivisible Trinity, Who is the beginning, source and well-spring of life, the Venerable one built a church to the All-holy Trinity. He saw it as a summons to unity for the Russian land, according to his biographer Epiphanius, "so that by gazing constantly upon it, we might conquer the fear created by the hated divisions of the world."

"When we honor the memory of St. Sergius, we examine ourselves, we review our own moral stock which had been bequeathed to us by the great founders of our moral order, and we replenish it, filling up what had been expended. The gates of the Lavra of St. Sergius will be shut and the lamps which burn over his tomb will be extinguished only when we completely squander this stock without replenishing it," wrote the historian Klyuchevsky in 1892. And such a time did come! The Lavra was destroyed and was closed for many years when "Tatars and Mongols of our times" captured it. All its treasures were confiscated. The relics of the Venerable one were rummaged through (as were others all over Soviet Russia). Everything was mocked, defiled. Yet the lamps have been lit anew over the tomb of the Venerable one, and the Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra now shines in golden splendor, reminding us of St. Sergius' great, selfless, inspired service to the homeland, his spiritual stature and dedication to the Faith.

For future generations, St. Sergius became an eternal companion and guide. "He uttered few words, but gave the brethren a far greater example by his works," his biographer Epiphanius says of the saint. He left no writings behind him, but his spiritual contribution to the history of the Russian Church and to Russian culture is remarkably great. The disciples of the Venerable one received, in addition to the usual monastic pursuits, a blessing to undertake special ministries to the Church: the copying of manuscripts, iconography, church building. In an ancient account of the saint's death, he is called "the initiator and teacher of all the monasteries in Russia." And truly, no fewer than one fourth of Russia's monasteries were founded by his closest disciples.

St. Sergius, during his early wanderings, and countless future generations of his spiritual children after him, carried with them Russian enlightenment, Russian culture, the Russian ideal, and spiritual beauty.

### Upcoming Reminder:

## St. Seraphim of Sarov Feast Day

Friday, July 31 6:30 PM Festal Vigil

Saturday, August 1 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy