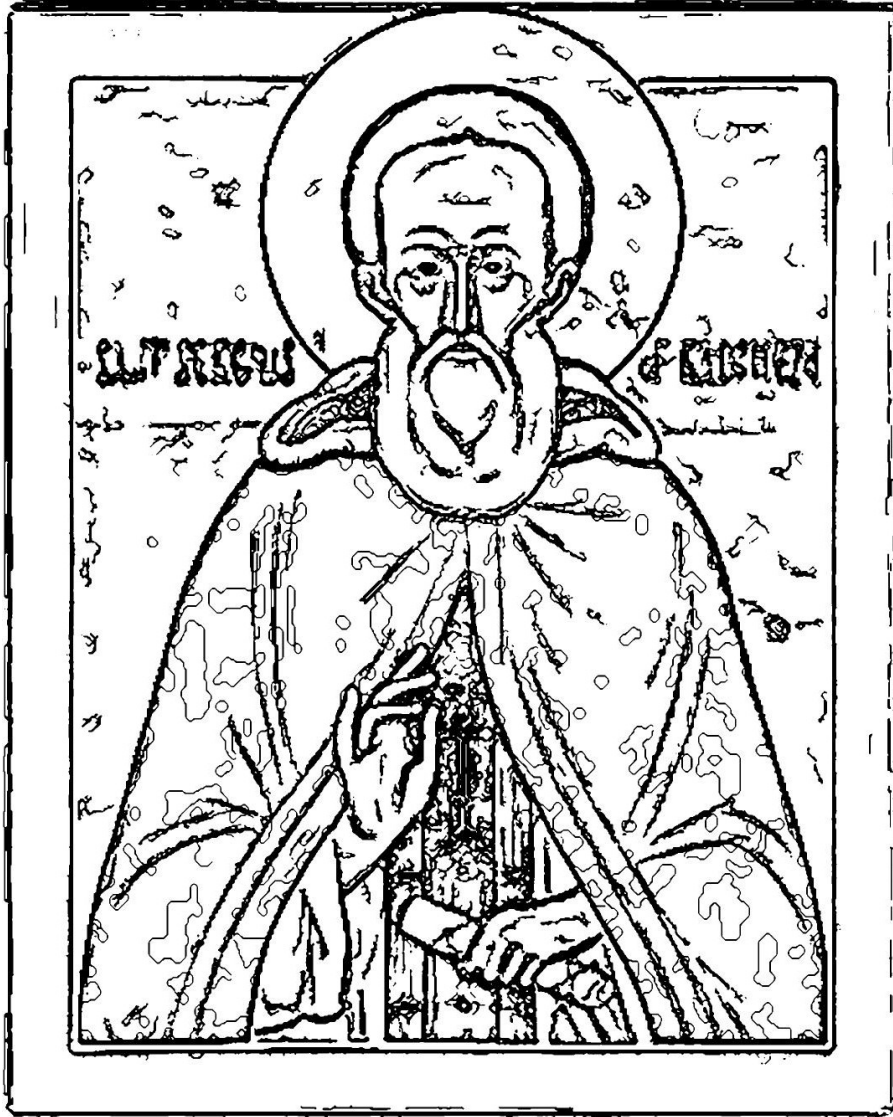


Saint Sergius, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2026 Alexandra Houck.  
Email is orthodoxchildrensward (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at orthodoxchildrensward.org.

# The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Volume 14, Issue 27

## Growing the fruit of the Spirit

**Have you ever taken care of a garden?** Maybe you have one really growing well now in these warm summer months! Sometimes we see the leaves and the stem growing and we get excited, but we really want to see the fruit. We want a big, juicy tomato or a nice, ripe cucumber.



We have to take care of gardens to make them grow! First, we plant things in the right place. But then we have to have good growing habits. We water them. We pick all the weeds around the plants. Maybe we give them plant vitamins.

Our life is kind of like that! When we become Orthodox Christians, we receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with us, but we want the Holy Spirit to give us good fruit. The epistle today tells us about this good fruit. Saint Paul says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." We want to grow this fruit of the Spirit!

How are we going to take care of the Holy Spirit in us? We have to make good habits. We want to have a good prayer life, when we say our prayers when we wake up and before we go to sleep, and little prayers throughout the whole day. We want to go to church. We want to help people around us, even when we might not feel like it. When we make good habits, we are helping to grow the fruit of the Spirit!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Fruit
- Garden
- Grow
- Hermit
- Monastery
- Prayer
- Radonezh
- Sergius
- Spirit

S R L U C K S M S C S T Q G G  
 D W E Y B E N J E P B K I W A  
 U L H Y R Z S I P B Y T L H R  
 W L M G A L Y R C Q A W Y A D  
 M Y I K E R L Y S P I R I T E  
 T U E Y W N P R Z B P G S Q N  
 S Z R D D H Z E N O D A R H W  
 Q V V K T Y A T C O B W E O C  
 N J Y B M J H S P E C R H W W  
 T N R B G T P A X Y M D C L U  
 M H J K F W Z N B I A F C T G  
 R Q M A F A U O T R K C I M H  
 G D C X G L S M N J T U L H S  
 Y Z E E I C X W K F R P U Z X  
 D N C W A I M P Z F Y V N R B

# WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

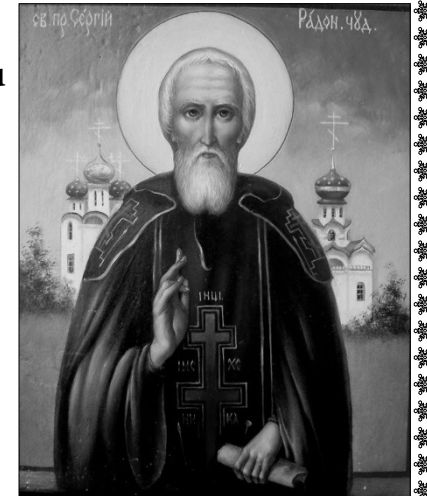
Here is an icon of Saint Sergius of Radonezh. He is the one kneeling.

Once, Saint Sergius was praying, and he had a vision of the Holy Theotokos, along with Saints Peter and John. Can you find them in the icon?



# A LEADER OF MONKS SAINT SERGIUS OF RADONEZH

**When was the last time you** were all alone, out in the woods? Maybe you went for a hike? Or maybe you went camping? It's very peaceful out there, but after a while you probably wanted to be with other people!



Saint Sergius of Radonezh (in Russia) was born 700 years ago, but we still remember him in our Church. We remember him because he did so much to help people grow closer to Christ!

Saint Sergius wanted to spend time in quiet prayer, so he started to live out in the wilderness, far away from other people. But people found out about him, and they knew he was a holy man. They wanted to learn from him, and they wanted to find out how they could grow closer to our Lord, too. After a while, Saint Sergius sent some of his followers out to different parts of Russia. They started more than 400 monasteries, places where people could pray and learn more about God.

That first monastery that Saint Sergius started was once out in the woods, away from everybody. But now it is huge place with many churches and monks, and lots of visitors too! Let's pray to St. Sergius today that he will help bring peace to the world.

We remember St. Sergius today, July 5th (OC: July 18th).