

## Saint Sergei Radonetz

Sergei of Radonezh was born sometime around 1314. His older brother Stefan had chosen the monastic life, and Sergei persuaded Stefan that the two of them should move to a secluded spot to practice this vocation, and eventually the two of them settled in the woods.

It is said that the Devil sent wild animals to frighten Sergei. Yet Sergei responded without fear and all of the animals gave up trying to torment him – except one bear. Sergei wanted to show love to the bear so he gave him the only thing he had to offer – a slice of bread, which the bear accepted. This became a regular practice between the two, and on the days Sergei only had one slice of bread, he gave it to the bear. Word of his holiness spread and other monks came and asked to live with him. Though he wanted solitude, Sergei accepted their arrival as God’s will. When disagreements arose, St. Sergei did not enter into them, preferring to be silent rather than participate in any argument.



Once after prayer, a dazzling radiance shone upon Sergei and he saw Jesus, together with the Apostles Peter and John. The bright light of the vision was unbearable, and he fell to the ground. But the Mother of God, touching him, promised that she would be with his monastery during his life and afterwards, protecting it.

With the approach of death he gathered his brothers and begged them to be firm in love of God and one another; to keep pure in body and soul avoiding all evil; to be moderate in everything; above all, to be humble; to avoid back-talk, and never to set value on honor and praise in this life, but rather to await the joys of heaven.

## Prayer for Russia

God of the nations, bless Your people in Russia.

Fill the hearts of their leaders with a unity and love that banishes the spirit that makes for war.

We pray for Christians in the military in this challenging time; we ask God to guide them as their faith is being tested in new ways.

We ask God to bless soldiers’ wives and children with peace and safety while their husbands and fathers are gone.

To You we give glory: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

*Amen.*

Oh, St. Sergei, you loved the Russian people and spread Christ’s Good News to them.

Pray now that they may have peace.

# GROWING CATHOLICS

Leaflet 

## Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday Gospel • March 13, 2022 Luke 9:28b-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray.

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake,

they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him,

Peter said to Jesus,

“Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

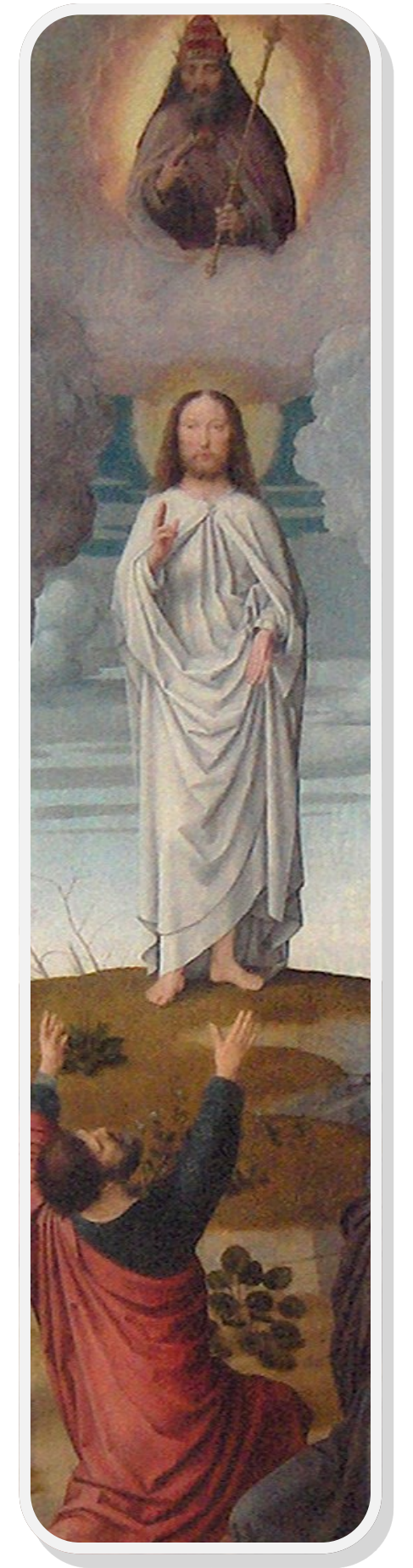
But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.



## EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

In the Bible, mountains are places of prayer, and it is on mountains that many key encounters with God occur in both the Old and New Testaments. What echoes of this do you see in the architecture of our church?



### THE INNER CIRCLE

Jesus had many followers, who were His disciples. He also had *The Twelve*, who were His “official” disciples named in Luke 6:12–16. But He also had three with whom He seemed to be particularly close: Peter, James and John. These three were witnesses of Jesus’ transfiguration, present at the raising of Jairus’s daughter, and with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane.



## SEEDS FOR CONVERSATION

What have been some of the best experiences you’ve had in your life?

What was so good about these experiences?

What did you want to do during and after these events?

Had you been at the Transfiguration what would your reaction have been?

How do you think seeing Jesus transfigured would have changed your view of him?

Would you be ready to leave the mountain right away? When you got down what would you want to do?

Can you think of a time when you felt especially close to God?

Has remembering this experience ever helped you?

## Ideas for Celebrating Saint Joseph

Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a *much-loved* father, a *tender* and *loving* father, an *obedient* father, an *accepting* father, a father who is creatively *courageous*, a *working* father and a father who was *humble* and willing to stay the shadows. When I think of St. Joseph what stands out for me is His willingness

to trust God - even when what God is asking seems pretty extreme. (Marry a woman who says she is pregnant with God’s Son? Leave everything you know and head to Egypt?)

St. Joseph is the patron saint of Sicily because in the Middle Ages, the people there prayed for an end to a horrible famine. Their prayers were answered and since that time he has been greatly honored there. Sicily has given us many St. Joseph traditions.

Enjoy some special food to celebrate St. Joseph and prompt some conversation. One of the traditional dishes for the celebration is “*St. Joseph’s Soup*”, made with *fava beans* as a primary ingredient because, according to legend, this bean was the crop that saved the population from starvation. Alternatively, St. Joseph’s (or “*Carpenter’s*” Pasta would be appropriate. This is pasta tossed with bread crumbs (representing sawdust) sautéed in butter.

Thank someone for their **quiet service**.

Remembering St. Joseph’s help to the Sicilians, **give food to the poor** (bring to drop in the shopping cart at Mass)

Make *Zeppole*, the traditional St. Joseph dessert. Recipes abound. Basically these are cream puffs, filled with a sweet ricotta cheese. I am glad of an excuse to try these!



## March 19

This coming Saturday is the traditional feast day of *St. Joseph, husband of Mary* that has been on the liturgical calendar since the 10th century.

May 1, is the feast of *St. Joseph the Worker*. It was established in 1955 by Pope Pius XII.