TEACHER'S REFERENCE

Delivery & Differentiation

Lesson Purpose: Students learn who St. Sergius of Radonezh was and understand how prayer, perseverance, obedience, humility, faithful work, and service shaped his life in Christ.

Core Teaching: St. Sergius became holy not by seeking importance, but by faithfully following Christ through prayer, humility, obedience, work, and service.

Early Learner Emphasis: St. Sergius loved God, prayed, worked, helped others, and did not give up when learning was difficult.

Elementary Emphasis: Connect the childhood learning story with perseverance and prayer; introduce monk, monastery, igumen/abbot, humility, and service.

Older Student Extension: Explore Orthodox monastic vocation, humility as freedom from pride rather than low self-worth, and Christian leadership as service. Ask how knowledge and ability can be used without becoming a source of pride.

Hagiographic Note: Present the elder/prosphora account as the received Life of St. Sergius. Do not turn it into a formula that prayer automatically makes school easy. The teaching emphasis is that Bartholomew brought his difficulty to God, accepted help, persevered, and grew.

Activity Guidance: Use the Prayer - Work - Service worksheet with age-appropriate depth.

A. Early Learners: Draw or dictate one simple way to pray, work faithfully, or help someone. The teacher may complete the sentence for the child.
B. Elementary: Complete all three prompts with a short sentence or drawing and choose one action to practise during the week.
C. Older Students: Complete all three prompts and explain how one chosen action requires humility, perseverance, obedience, or service.

Presentation Extension: Use Asset A02, the hagiographic vita icon, on a dedicated presentation slide. Show the full icon first, then enlarge selected details so students can observe individual scenes without relying on tiny printed imagery.

Local Parish Connection: St. Sergius is the patron saint of St. Sergius School, but do not assume he is the patron of the parish using the packet. Invite students to name their own parish or school patron saint/feast and identify one thing that patron teaches their community about following Christ.

Main Point to Remember: "St. Sergius followed Christ through prayer, humility, obedience, faithful work, and service."

For older students: "St. Sergius shows that Christian learning and leadership should lead us toward humility, service, and deeper life in Christ."

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Answer Key & Resource Control

Discussion Questions — Answers

1. What was St. Sergius called before he became a monk? **Answer:** Bartholomew.

2. What was difficult for Bartholomew when he was young? **Answer:** He struggled to learn to read and fell behind other children.

3. How did Bartholomew respond when learning was difficult? **Answer:** He prayed, asked the elder to pray for him, accepted the elder's blessing, and continued learning rather than giving up.

4. Why did Bartholomew wait before entering the monastic life? **Answer:** His parents asked him to wait and care for them; he obeyed them until their repose.

5. To whom was the small church in the forest dedicated? **Answer:** The Holy Trinity.

6. Name two kinds of ordinary work St. Sergius continued to do for the monastery. **Answer:** Any two: carrying water, chopping wood, baking bread, sewing clothing, preparing food, building cells, or other monastery work.

7. What does Christian humility mean? **Answer:** Humility means remembering that our gifts come from God, refusing to make ourselves more important than others, and being willing to serve.

8. How can prayer and ordinary work belong together? **Answer:** Prayer can shape the way we do ordinary responsibilities. Work done faithfully and with love can become part of our life with God.

9. St. Sergius is the patron saint of St. Sergius School. What does the patron saint or feast of your own parish or Church school teach your community about following Christ? **Answers vary:** St. Sergius is the patron of St. Sergius School; other parishes or schools should identify their own patron saint or feast and explain what that patron teaches about life in Christ.

10. What is one way you can follow the example of St. Sergius this week? **Answers vary:** pray before work, keep trying when learning is hard, obey parents/teachers, complete responsibilities carefully, help someone without seeking praise, or serve faithfully in another concrete way.

The Law of God

Supporting Reading | Part V, Chapter 12, Concerning Monasticism and Monasteries (PDF pp. 1145–1156) (BOOK pp. 616–622); Part I, Chapter 4, Prayer (PDF pp. 59–60) (BOOK p. 19).

Optional Early Learner Resource: *Saints and the Animals That Served Them* — Orthodox Church in America, Department of Christian Education. The St. Sergius of Radonezh section includes an iconographic line drawing suitable for colouring as well as additional age-appropriate activities. See the Supplemental Resources link for this lesson.

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