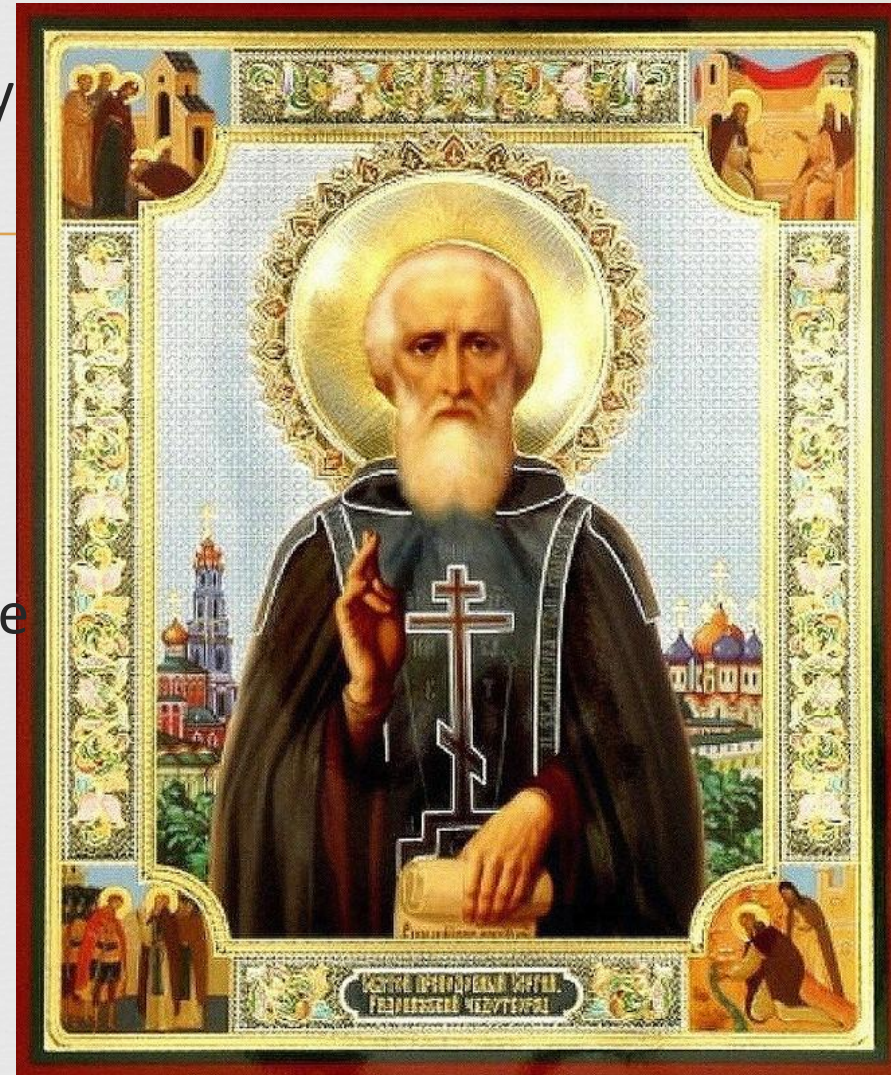


Our salvation is through love and unity.  
St. Sergius of Radonezh.  
Saint Sergius of Radonezh is a builder of the  
Holy Russia.  
Devoted to the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

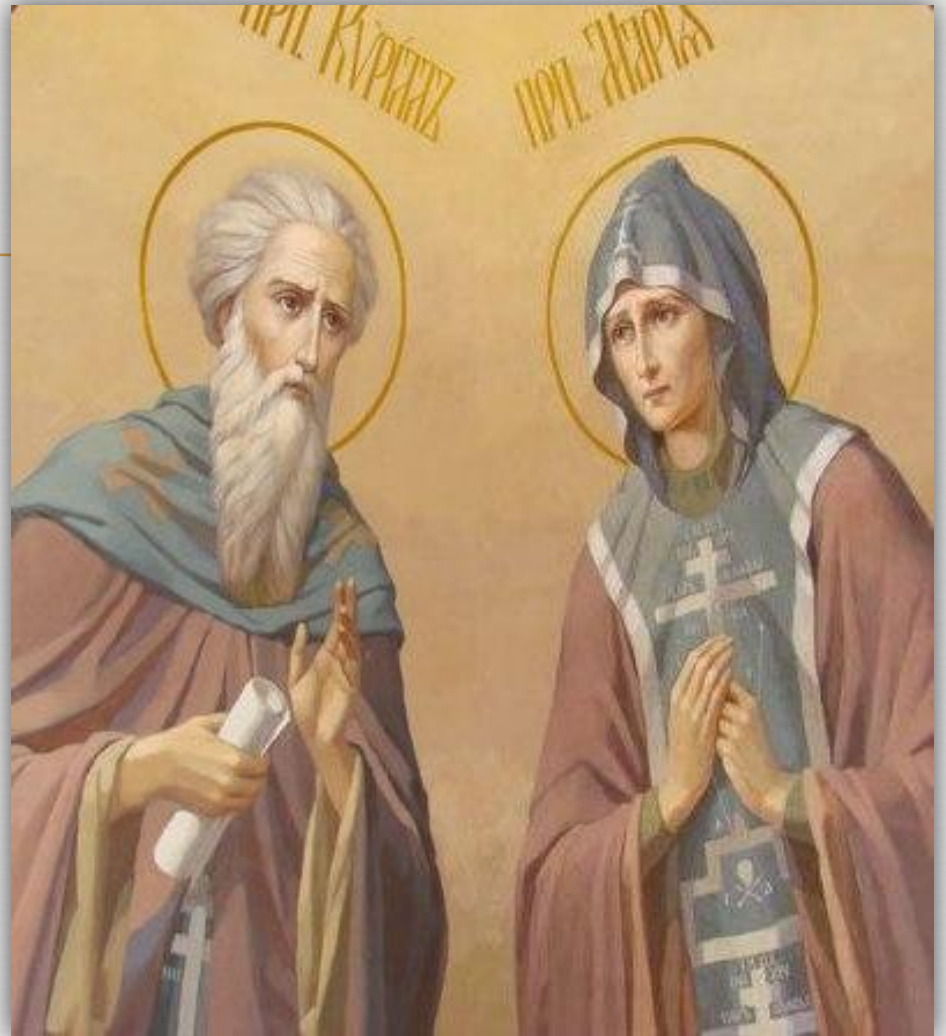




- There are names in Russian history which became symbols of the Orthodox faith for all people.
- One of them is the name of the Venerable Sergius of Radonezh.
- He was destined by God to become the builder of the Holy Russia.



- Saint Sergius  
(Bartholomew before  
consecration) was born  
on May 3, 1314 in the  
village of Varnitsy near  
the city of Rostov.
- His noble and wealthy  
parents Cyril and Maria  
had three sons: Stephen,  
Bartholomew and Peter.





St. Sergius' holiness was announced before his birth, as he was heard crying out from his mother's womb one day in Church. At his baptism, his parents told the priest about this sign and he said: Rejoice, for your child will be a chosen vessel of God and a servant of the Holy Trinity.

From his childhood Bartholomew grew accustomed to solitude, for he used to tend horses.



When Bartolomew reached the age of seven his parents sent him to school to learn to read and write.

But he had problems as his studies were difficult for him.

He prayed a lot that God would enable him to read and understand books.

One day Bartolomew saw an old monk praying under an oak and told him about his life and problems.





The monk listened to him, prayed and gave him a little piece of prosphora as a sign of the divine grace for reading.

□ From that time Bartolomew began to read the Bible and liturgical books and soon he began to read the Church Fathers, whose works were in The Rostov library.

- On the early 1330-ies his parents moved to Radonezh located in the north-easten part of Moscow, Principality on the Razha river.
- Before passing away to God Cyril and Maria entered the monastery in Khotkovo where they were buried in 1334.







In 1337 at the age of 23 Bartolomew decided to leave for desert together with his elder brother Stephen.

The brothers built a small wooden church and a monastic cell on the Macovets hill.

They dedicated the Church to the Lifegiving Trinity. That was the birth of the monastery, which later served as a source of pride and inspiration to the people of Russia.

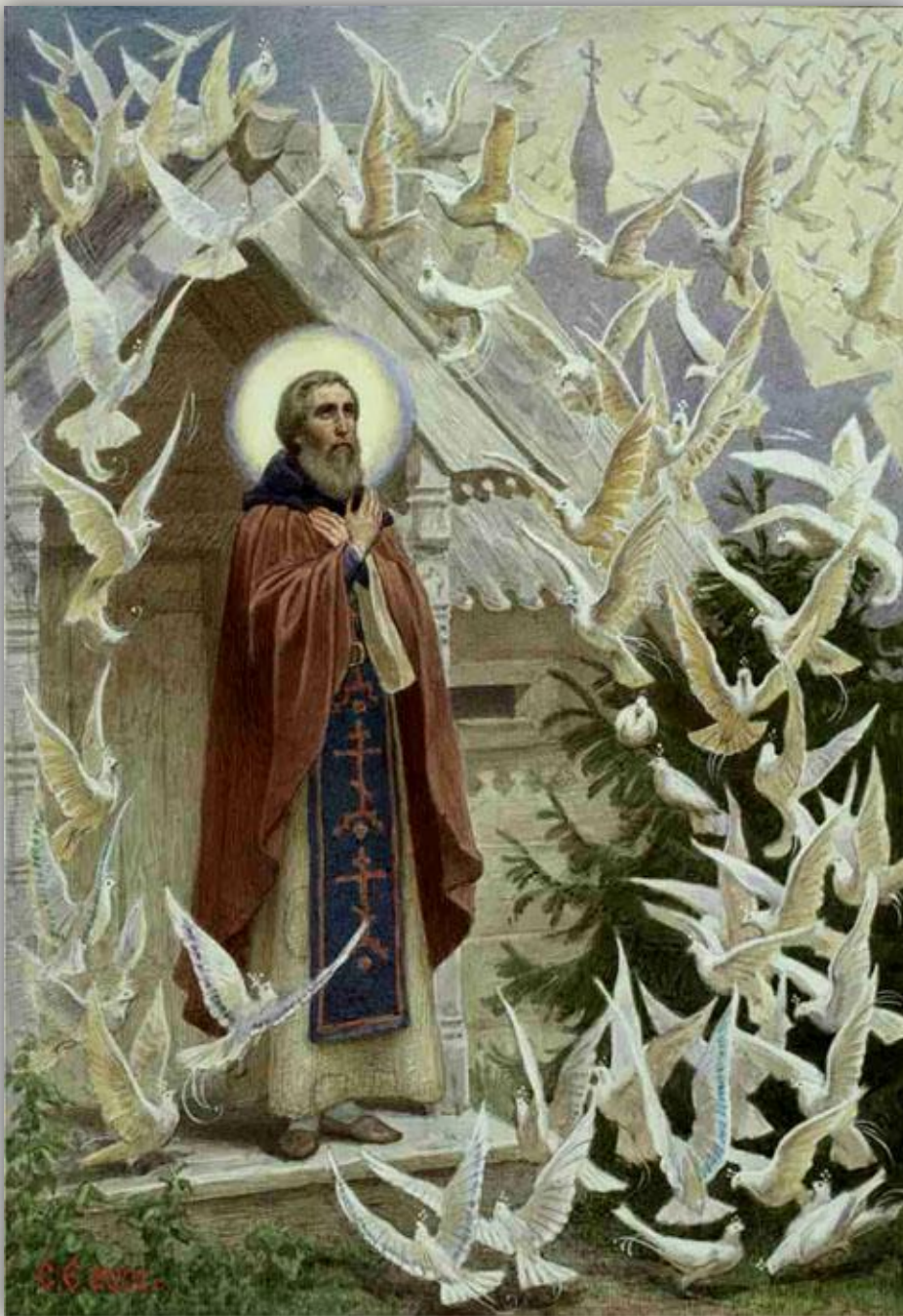


The life of a hermit was very difficult. Soon Stephen left Bartolomew as he preferred life in a urban monastery.

For about two years Bartolomew remained alone in the desert, and in silence and prayer he prepared himself for his monastic vows.

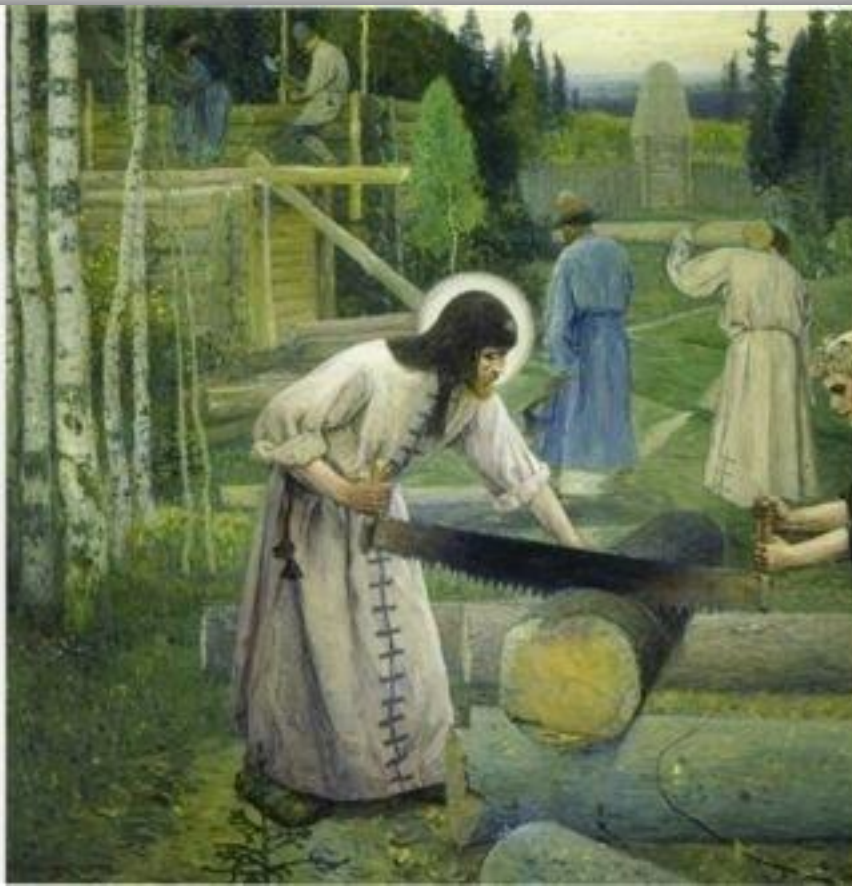
After taking them he received the name of Sergius.





- Soon pious monks began coming to him in search of guidance.
- One night while St. Sergius was praying, he heard a voice calling his name. Then the Saint saw a multitude of birds.
- The voice said: “The number of your monks will be as the number of the birds. And it will be not decrease if they follow your path”.





- Having become heguman of the monastery in 1357, St. Sergius continued to work for all. He remembered the words of Christ: “The Son of man didn` t come to be served, but to serve”.(Mt.20:28)



Gradually he became famous all over the country. Pilgrims as well as suffering and poor people came to him for consolation.

Numerous miracles took place and a lot of people were cured by St. Sergius prayers .



- He reanimated a dead boy, holy water gushed out.





- Two facts dominated Russian life at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century: the division of the country into a large number of independent principalities, and the Mongol yoke which had weighed heavily on the country.
- In 1380 Prince Dimitry Donskoy of Moscow came to seek St. Sergius blessing before leading his army for the Orthodox faith and for the liberation of his native land from Mongol yoke.



St. Sergius gave him his blessing to fight the Tartars to protect the nation and even provided two monks Alexander Peresvet and Andrei Oslyabi to serve as standard bearers.







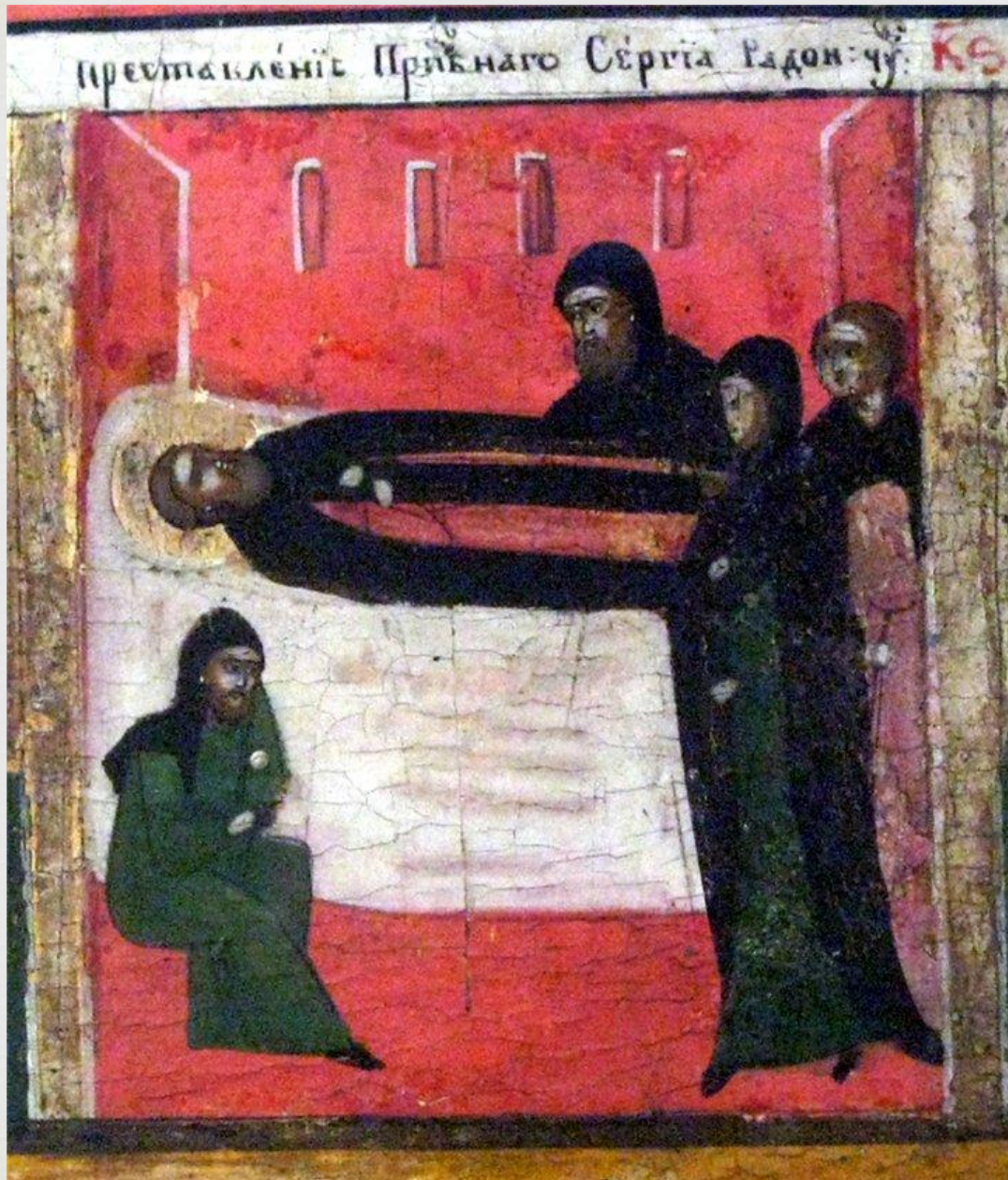
- By St. Sergius` prayers Prince Dimitry Donskoy won a great victory over the army of the Tartar Khan Mamai on the Kulikovo field on the 8th of September.



St. Sergius greatly revered the Mother of God and prayed a lot to Her. At the end of his life the most Holy Mother of God appeared to him and his disciple St. Mica. She came to his cell with the apostles Peter and John. The Holy Virgin promised to protect the monastery and to watch over it.







- St. Sergius entrusted his holy and pure soul to God on 25 September, 8 October, 1392. He was buried in his monastery.



- According to the life of St. Sergius his last words were addressed to his disciples whom he called for “mutual understanding, purity of soul and body and true love”.
- He asked to remember the words of Apostle Paul “... the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control:” (Gal.
- 5,22-23)

In 1422 heguman Sergius was canonized. His Holy relics are venerated by millions of pilgrims who come from all over the world to the Holy Trinity Cathedral which located in the St. Sergius Holy Trinity Lavra in Sergiev Posad.







St. Sergius played a great historical role in the unification of the country and in the struggle against the Mongols, for keeping Orthodox faith. He was the renewer of monasticism in Russia.

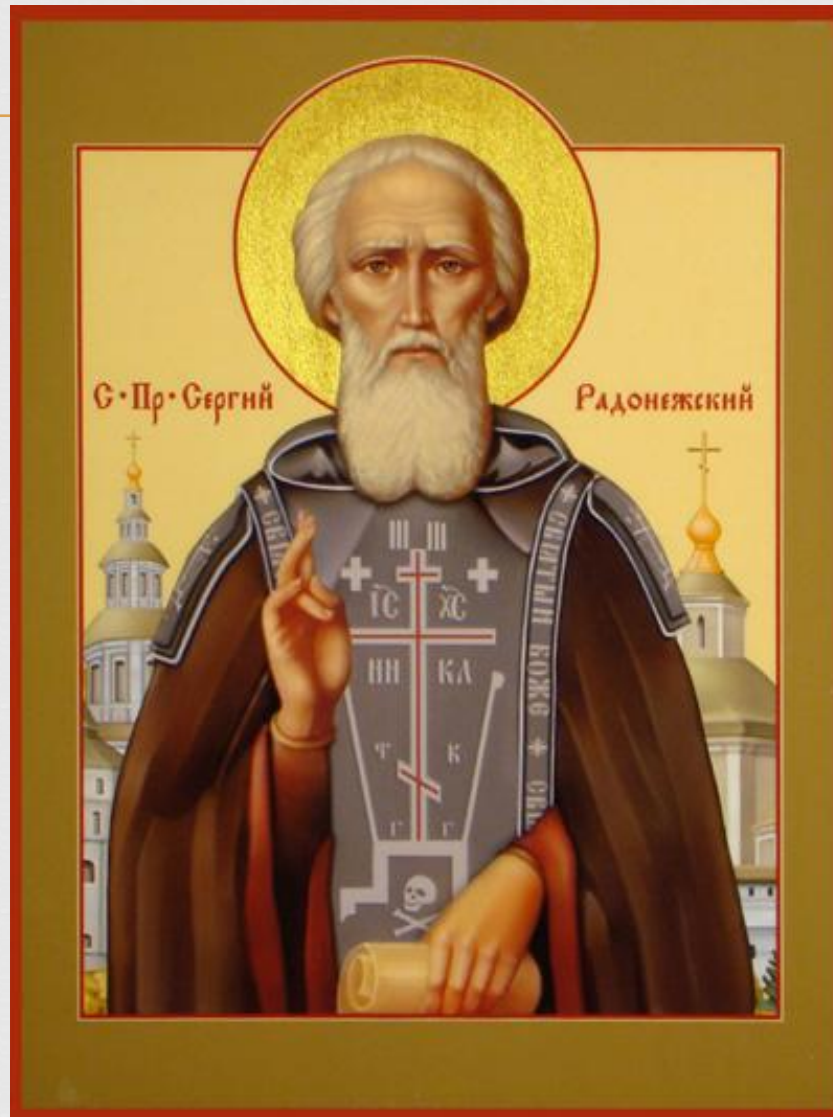


- It was for these reasons that St. Sergius became known as «the builder of the Holy Russia»
- 2014 is the 100th anniversary of St. Sergius birth which was solemnly celebrated all over the world.
- His holy life and his prayer for us still has been bringing faith and hope to the hearts of people.





- St. Sergius of Radonezh is commemorated on 25 September./8 October and on 5/18 July.



# Chronology.

What events did take place these years?

- 1314
- 1337
- 1340
- 08.09.1380
- 07.10.1392
- 18.07.1422





# Why do we call St Sergius a builder of the Holy Russia?



Крестный ход из г. Хотьково в  
Сергиев Посад завершился  
Патриаршим молебном на  
Благовещенском поле (2).mp4






These questions will help you to tell  
about the film.

1. Does the film show the cross way devoted to the birthday of St. Sergius of Radonezh?  

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2. When did the cross way take place?
3. Was it from Khotkovo to the Holy Trinity St. Sergius Lavra?
4. It was to remember his parents Kyril and Maria, wasn't it?

5. Were his parents buried in Khotkovo?

6. A lot of people took part in this celebration, didn't they?

7. Is this film interesting and exciting?

8. Do you like the film?



A lot of thanks!

