



SAINT SERAPHIM OF SOFIA

HIS LIFE, TEACHINGS, MIRACLES, AND GLORIFICATION

Translated by Schemanun Seraphima

Saint Seraphim of Sofia

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His Life, Teachings, Miracles,
and Glorification

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of the Holy *Theotókos*
(Sofia, Bulgaria)

Translated by
Schemanun Seraphima



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About the Translator

Mother Seraphima was born in Constantinople (İstanbul). Her father, Count Nikita Cheremeteff, hails from a pious Russian Orthodox family of some significance in Russian history. Her mother, Countess Maiko, is of Georgian ancestry. A graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University, Mother Seraphima entered the Convent of Saint Elizabeth the Grand Duchess of Russia, in Etna, California, in 2002, where, following a three-year novitiate, she was Tonsured a nun, and where, in 2008, she was Tonsured to the Great *Schéma*.

Dedication

I undertook the translation of this edifying work at the request of my spiritual Father, the Most Reverend Dr. Chrysostomos, Archbishop of Etna, and with the blessing of my spiritual Mother, the Very Reverend Dr. Elizabeth, Abbess of the Convent of Saint Elizabeth the Grand Duchess of Russia. I thank both of them for their encouragement in this respect.

I would like to dedicate this book to my parents according to the flesh, whose examples led me to the monastic life and to whom I owe much of my monastic success, and to Dr. Marek Jan Chodakiewicz.

Schemanun Seraphima



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INTRODUCTION

This book, dedicated to the ever-memorable Saint Seraphim, Archbishop of Bogucharsk and Wonderworker of Sofia, contains stories about his life, about his selfless pastoral and theological activities, and about the many miracles worked by his prayers. Here also included are some short but significant homilies and reports of the blessed deceased Hierarch. They not only show his burning love for Christ and for his neighbor—for his suffering flock—but remind us of his spiritual precepts, with which even now he appeals to us, this righteous Hierarch, man of prayer, clairvoyant, and zealot of Divine truth—this great light of Orthodoxy.

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**To the Glory of the Triune
Godhead Glorified
in His Saints**





SAINT SERAPHIM

**Archbishop of Bogucharsk and
Wonderworker of Sofia**

December 1, 1881–February 13, 1950



Apolytikion, Fourth Tone

Having acquired theology from on high by virginal purity, thou wast revealed as a pillar of Orthodoxy, and didst make thy flock steadfast in the Apostolic Faith, and having spoken the truth in love, didst receive abundant Grace from God. Wherefore, thou pourest forth healings and torrents of miracles upon those who have recourse unto thee with faith and love, O Seraphim, our beloved Father.

Kontákion, Grave Tone

Transfigured amid the struggles of piety, thou didst receive in abundance the effulgence of the Spirit; and like a lighted lamp, thou didst dispel the darkness of heresy. Wherefore, on the day of the Triumph of Orthodoxy, thou didst depart unto Christ, the preëternal Light. Him do thou entreat in behalf of our souls.

Megalynáron

Rejoice, thou staunch defender of the True Faith; rejoice, new Wonderworker, most meek Shepherd and Hierarch; rejoice, for through thy preaching, new heresies are laid low, O Seraphim, great luminary of the Holy Church.



PART I

**THE LIFE OF SAINT
SERAPHIM OF SOFIA**

*“The good shepherd giveth
his life for the sheep.”*

—St. John 10:11







REMINISCENCES OF ARCHBISHOP
SERAPHIM OF BOGUCHARSK

Delivered on the First Anniversary
of His Repose, February 13, 1951¹

Archimandrite Panteleimon
(1893–1980)²

Thanks to the great mercy of God, from 1926 onward, I found myself constantly in the presence of Владыка [*Vladyka*, “Master”]³ Seraphim. During that time, I heard of many incredible events, both from *Vladyka* himself, as well as from those close to him. It is a few of these events that I would like to share with you today.

We read the following words of the Psalmist on the grave of *Vladyka*: “*From my mother’s belly Thou art my protector.*”⁴

¹ [Unless otherwise noted, all dates in the present work are according to the Orthodox Church Calendar, *i.e.*, Old Style.]

² [A biographical note about Archimandrite Panteleimon may be found on p. 69.]

³ [Equivalent to the Greek “Δέσποτα” (“*Déspotá*”) and the Arabic “سيدنا” (“*Sayedna*”), this is a respectful and affectionate title for addressing or referring to a Hierarch.]

⁴ Psalm 70:6.



Archbishop Seraphim of Bogucharsk with his spiritual children in Ruse



Archbishop Seraphim of Bogucharsk in the cave of Saint John of Rila (ca. 876–946), Patron Saint of Bulgaria, September 20, 1937. Archbishop Seraphim had a special devotion to Saint John and composed an Akáthistos in his honor, still widely used by Bulgarians to this day

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