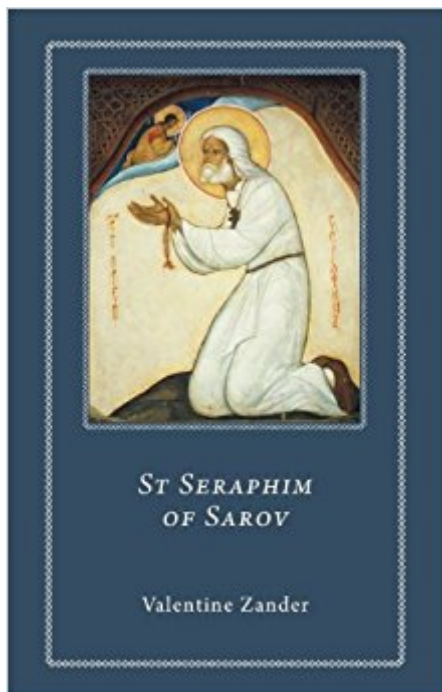


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# St. Seraphim Of Sarov



## Synopsis

Orthodox spirituality has produced many holy and famous men, but none in recent centuries to compare with Seraphim, staretz of the monastery of Sarov. After an initial period as a monk, working with the community, he was led to become a hermit, living deep in the forest in a world of solitude which was only destroyed when he was attacked by brigands. He returned to the community and in 1825, after fifteen years in silence, he began to receive visitors again and to spend his energies in their spiritual direction. By means of his faith and asceticism he performed a number of miracles. His fame and humility brought a steady stream of visitors, religious and royalty alike, to him for advice. His humility and concern for people made Sarov a center of pilgrimage until the events of the 1917 revolution. Zander has constructed this biography from the notebooks of people who knew him, the nuns whose spiritual director he became, the people whose lives he influenced, and the clergy who sought his advice. She adds to this information her own recollections of pilgrimages to Sarov before 1917. The life of the staretz is told with a touching simplicity which allows his life and work to be their own witnesses. All four books help to illumine the spiritual tradition so faithfully embodied in St Seraphim.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English, French (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I ordered this book because I wanted to learn all I can about St. Seraphim of Sarov. I didn't know

anything about this wonderful Saint until I read another book about an interview with the saint but then he was Father Seraphim. This book is so good that I just couldn't put it down. If you also want to learn more about this saint, I suggest you get this book and add it to your library.

He was a Glorious saint. When he was out in the woods he glowed and radiated heat and bears and wolves came up and bowed at his feet. He greeted people by saying "hello my joy."

Excellent

St Seraphim was an amazing person.

The content is quite good as it relates to the life of the saint. The book itself is poorly made.

GLAD IT CAME IN ONE PIECE.

I am a Latin Rite Catholic and wanted to read about this Russian Orthodox 19th c saint who is also well respected by Catholics. I was surprised by this book how much he seems to resemble Padre Pio (or Padre Pio resembles Seraphim) and some other Catholic saints such as St John Vianney. I would be inclined to describe him to other Roman Catholics as the "Russian Padre Pio." There were some things that confused me, for instance when Seraphim was living in the remote hermitage and not returning to the monastery for the Sunday Divine Liturgy during a certain period of his life, was he also not celebrating the Divine Liturgy privately at the hermitage? To my mind it is not just a Catholic precept but a fundamental Christian precept to participate in the Sunday Eucharist. The Eucharist did not seem to be quite so central for Seraphim as for Catholics, at least as described by this author. In most regards though, what was striking is that there was so little difference (other than the obvious such as the Jesus Prayer as the central monastic prayer obligation, rather than the Liturgy of the Hours) between the spirituality described in the book and the Catholic spirituality I am familiar with. From a perspective of hopes for Christian unity that pleased me!

St. Seraphim of Sarov lived in the country where great spiritual writers like Tolstoy and Dostoevsky lived. As the great theologian of 21st century, Karl Rahner said the Spirit of Christ prevails all over the world. St. Seraphim shares the same idea that all human beings are the sons and daughters of God, who is Love. Those who read this book will feel love of God works in St. Seraphim's words and

deeds. He who loves St. Francis of Assisi will find in St. Seraphim their similarities and there is no boundary in the work of the Spirit of God. We can contemplate what does it mean living a good life in this world. I recommend this book to every one searching for meaningful life.

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