

**Конспект проведения конференции  
на английском языке  
«Преподобный Сергий Радонежский»  
"St. Sergius of Radonezh"**

**Участники конференции:** учащиеся 7 и 11 классов

**Дата проведения: 24.02.2017**

**1. Вступление**

*Dear children,*

Today we are glad to present you a story of life of one of the greatest Russian Saints

– *St Sergius of Radonezh*. Perhaps you've heard this story or read it in Russian. But today our senior pupils (*hosts – pupils of the 11<sup>th</sup> form*) will present it in English. Please, listen carefully as after the listening you'll have to answer some questions to check your understanding. We hope that at home you will write the summary of the story and the best summaries will be awarded prizes.

**2. Презентация новых слов (Presentation of the words):**

Перед началом конференции каждый участник конференции получает раздаточный материал в виде листа формата А4, на одной стороне которого напечатаны слова (новая лексика) - *Приложение 1*, а на другой – задание на понимание прослушанного (соотнести вопросы и ответы) – *Приложение 2*. Ведущие (учащиеся 10-11 классов) знакомят участников конференции с новой лексикой, озвучивая слова, появляющиеся на экране компьютерной презентации *Приложения 1*. Затем ведущие проверяют (фронтальный опрос), насколько аудитория усвоила новую лексику.

*(Hosts):* So, you're ready for the listening. Let's start the presentation.

**3. Презентация (Presentation of the story):**

*Ведущие начинают презентацию. Текст презентации сопровождается компьютерной презентацией слайдов, подобранных для иллюстрации жизни св. преп. Сергия Радонежского.*

St Sergius was born in 1319 in a place called Varnitsa near the city of Rostov. His parents were the pious boyars Cyril and Maria. His holiness was announced before his birth as he was heard crying out of his mother's womb one

day in a church. At his baptism he was called Bartholomew and the priest told his parents that their child was destined by God to be a chosen vessel of God and a servant of the Holy Trinity.

From his very first days of life the infant amazed everyone by his fasting. On Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother.

At the age of seven, Bartholomew was sent to study together with his two brothers: his older brother Stephen, and his younger brother Peter. His brothers learned successfully, but Bartholomew fell behind in his studies. Finally, Bartholomew prayed to the Lord with tears to grant him the ability to read.

Once in the fields, he came across an old monk whom he had never seen before. The monk was praying under an oak tree. The boy came up to him and told him about his difficulties in school. The monk prayed over him and gave him a piece of prosthara, saying, "Take and eat, this is given to you as a sign of the divine grace for reading." After this the holy child read without difficulty and understood the contents of books and his desire to serve only God became still stronger. But his love for his parents kept him in the family.

After his parents died, Bartholomew gave up his inheritance to his younger brother Peter and together with his elder brother Stephan, settled to live in a wild forest 10 miles away from Radonezh. The brothers cut wood themselves and built a hut and a little church, which they dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Thus a famous monastery of Saint Sergius was founded.

Soon Stephan left his brother to become Father Superior of Bogoyavlenski monastery in Moscow and a confessor of the great prince. But Bartholomew, who was called Sergius when taking the monastic vows, stayed in the forest alone.

It is hard even to imagine how many temptations the young monk had to go through during that time. But with the help of God, Sergius learnt to survive the harsh climate, to exist with very little food and even to tame the wild beasts. Once he gave some bread to a bear who came to his cell and from that time on the animal began to frequent venerable Sergius, who shared his last piece of bread with him.

Soon word spread about the holy monk Sergius and several men came to him asking to share his life in the wilderness. Seeing their faith, he agreed to let them

join him, although he had desire to live alone. He organized the brothers and together they began to build cells for the other monks.

Later Bishop Athanasius ordained Sergius to the priesthood and appointed him abbot of the monastery, giving him the rules of the Desert Fathers for guiding men's souls.

The monastery began growing rapidly and there were a lot of monks in Sergius' charge. But Sergius himself continued to live the simple life, always teaching the monks by his own example. He worked daily in the garden, made his clothes from the discarded robes of the others, and spent his nights in prayer.

With the expansion of the monastery, its needs also grew. Often there was lack of food in the monastery, but through the prayers of St Sergius unknown people provided the necessities.

A word of St Sergius' deeds spread even to even at Constantinople, and Patriarch Philotheus sent to the monk a grammota of blessing, in which the Patriarch advised the chosen of God to organize a cenobitic monastery. St Sergius had close bonds of spiritual friendship and brotherly love with St Metropolitan Alexis. Only once did Sergius refuse to follow the requests of the Metropolitan. He refused to be obedient to St Alexis when he asked him to accept the position of Russian Metropolitan for he felt that his obedience to God as a simple monk was his true purpose in life.

The Russian Land at this time suffered under the Mongol-Tatar Yoke. St. Sergius gave his blessing to Great-prince Demetrius to fight to protect the nation and even provided two Schemamonks of his monastery Andrei [Oslyaba] and Alexander [Peresvet] to serve as standard-bearers and predicted the victory for prince Demetrius.

The prophecy of St Sergius was fulfilled: on September 8, 1380, on the feast day of the Nativity of the Mother of God, Russian soldiers gained a total victory over the Tatar hordes at Kulikovo Pole, and set in place the beginning of the liberation of the Russian Land from the Mongol Yoke. During the fighting St Sergius and the brethren stood at prayer and besought God to grant victory to the Russian forces.

For his angelic manner of life St Sergius was granted a heavenly vision by God: the Mother of God accompanied by the holy Apostles Peter and John came to his cell, and in blessing him promised always to be Protectress of his holy monastery.

Having reached old age, and foreseeing his own end six months beforehand, St Sergius called the brothers and appointed his disciple St Nikon, who was experienced in the spiritual life and obedience, to be hegumen of the monastery. St Sergius fell asleep in the Lord on September 25, 1392. On the night before, the great saint of God called the brothers a final time to give them his final instruction: "Brethren, be attentive to yourselves. Have first the fear of God, purity of soul and sincere love...."

St. Sergius was destined by God to become the builder of Russia. He was to mend the spirit of Russian people, which had been crashed by the Mongol invaders. Due to the influence of St Sergius and his disciples, in a little over than 200 years, over 150 monasteries were founded in the wilderness and over 100 in towns. Many monasteries had schools and libraries and they became the centres of Christianity and culture. They also fed the poor and gave protection to ordinary people in emergency, so people preferred to build their houses around the monasteries. As a result, many cities were built around them and the nation of Russia grew rapidly. That is why St Sergius became known as the "builder of Russia". His holy life and moral example left a spiritual imprint on the nation, which will never be forgotten.

(*Hosts*): Well, the presentation has finished and now it's high time to answer our questions.

#### **4. Вопросы на понимание (Comprehension):**

- 1. When and where was St Sergius of Radonezh born?**
- 2. What was his Christian name?**
- 3. Who were his parents?**
- 4. What problems did he have at school?**
- 5. How did he get the divine grace for reading?**
- 6. When did he leave for a wild forest?**

7. Whom did he dedicate the first church to?
8. How could he survive the harsh climate and temptations of solitary life in the forest?
9. How was the monastery organized?
10. How did St Sergius spend his day in the monastery?
11. What did Patriarch Philotheus of Constantinople send to St Sergius?
12. What kind of monastery did he advise him to organize?
13. Why did St Sergius refuse to accept the position of Russian Metropolitan?
14. How did St Sergius and his monks help Great-prince Demetrius and Russian army to gain a victory over the Tatar hordes?
15. What heavenly vision was he granted by God?
16. When did he fall asleep?
17. 17. Why is he called “the builder of Russia”?

## 5. **Заключительная часть**

*(Hosts):* Well done, dear children, you’ve understood almost everything. We hope that our presentation was interesting for you and it will help you to prepare the summary of the whole story at home. The authors of the best summaries will be awarded.

Now it’s time to say goodbye. Our conference has finished. Thank you for your attention.

## 6. **Источники (Sources):**

1. **Chosen Lives of the saints/Избранные жития святых: Сборник текстов и упражнений для домашнего чтения по английскому языку / Авт. – сост. Г.В. Базылева. – М., 2006. – с. 49 -65.**
2. **The Life of our Venerable Father Amongst the Saints St. Sergius of Radonezh, <http://www.st-sergius.org/>**
3. **Venerable Sergius of Radonezh, [http://www.fatheralexander.org/booklets/english/saints/sergius\\_radonezh.htm](http://www.fatheralexander.org/booklets/english/saints/sergius_radonezh.htm)**
4. **Repose of the Venerable Sergius, Abbot and Wonderworker of Radonezh, <http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsLife>**

## **Wordlist:**

a chosen vessel of God	избранный сосуд Божий
priest	священник
monk/schemamonk	монах/схимонах
hegumen	игумен
abbot/Father Superior	настоятель монастыря
bishop	епископ
Metropolitan	митрополит
Patriarch	патриарх
Apostle	апостол
Protectress	Покровительница, Заступница
fasting	пост
divine grace	Божественная благодать
holy	святой
holiness	святость
obey /obedient	слушаться/послушный
inheritance	наследство
dedicated to	посвященный
confessor	духовник; исповедник
take the monastic vows	постричься в монахи
temptation	искушение
cell	келья
venerable	преподобный
wilderness	пустыня; дикая местность
ordain to the priesthood	рукоположить во священство
rules of the Desert Fathers	правила отцов пустынников
discarded robes	обноски
cenobitic monastery	общежительный монастырь
spiritual friendship	духовная дружба
brotherly love	братская любовь
true purpose in life	истинная цель жизни
Mongol-Tatar Yoke	монголо-татарское иго
prophecy	пророчество
the Nativity of the Mother of God	Рождество Пресвятой Богородицы
angelic manner of life	ангельская жизнь
foresee	предвидеть, предсказывать
fell asleep	упокоиться
fear of God	страх Божий

purity of soul  
sincere love  
spirit  
spiritual imprint

чистота души  
нелицемерная любовь  
дух  
духовный след/отпечаток

**Match the questions on the left with the correct answers on the right then write down the answers to make the summary of the story.**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. When and where was St Sergius of Radonezh born?</li><li>2. What was his Christian name?</li><li>3. Who were his parents?</li><li>4. What problems did he have at school?</li><li>5. How did he get the divine grace for reading?</li><li>6. When did he leave for a wild forest?</li><li>7. Whom did he dedicate the first church to?</li><li>8. How was the monastery organized?</li><li>9. How did St Sergius spend his day in the monastery?</li><li>10. How did St Sergius and his monks help Great-prince Dimitry and Russian army to gain a victory over the Mongol - Tatar hordes?</li><li>11. What heavenly vision was he granted by God?</li><li>12. When did he fall asleep?</li><li>13. Why is he called “the builder of Russia”?</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) He worked daily in the garden, made his clothes from the old clothes of the others, and spent his nights in prayer.</li><li>b) After his parents death.</li><li>c) St. Sergius gave his blessing to Great-prince Dimitry and his army and prayed for them during the battle.</li><li>d) The vision of the Mother of God with the holy Apostles Peter and John.</li><li>e) St Sergius was born in 1319 near the city of Rostov.</li><li>f) St Sergius fell asleep in the Lord on September 25, 1392.</li><li>g) St Sergius and his disciples founded over 250 monasteries, which became the centres of Christianity and culture and Russia grew rapidly.</li><li>h) Pious boyars Cyril and Maria.</li><li>i) Bartholomew fell behind in his studies because he didn't have the ability to read.</li><li>j) An old monk in the forest prayed over him and gave him a piece of prosphora to eat. After that the holy child read without any difficulty.</li><li>k) Several men came to him asking to share his life in the forest.</li><li>k) At his baptism he was called Bartholomew.</li><li>m) To the Holy Trinity.</li></ol>
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