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**Sunday, October 16, 2022  
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:30 AM  
Confessions 8:30-9:15 AM**

**St. Dionysius the Areopagite  
Свящ. Дионисий Ареопагит**

## **ICON ST. SERAPHIM FLOATS DOWN THE RIVER TO MUCH-SUFFERING SVYATOGORSK LAVRA**

*Svyatogorsk, Donetsk Province, Ukraine, October 12, 2022*



The Holy Dormition-Svyatogorsk Lavra in the Donetsk Province of Ukraine considers it a miracle that an icon of one of the most beloved Orthodox saints safely floated down the river and was brought to the monastery.

The icon of St. Seraphim of Sarov, which was eventually found by some fishermen on the Seversky Donetsk River was handed over to the Lavra on October 5, which marked the 30th anniversary of the return of the Svyatogorsk Icon of the Mother of God to the monastery after the period of soviet persecution, reports the [Ukrainian Orthodox Church's Information Center](#).

“The icon is paper, a lithograph with glass, floated down the river. Some fishermen caught it and brought it to the Lavra,” His Eminence Metropolitan Arseny of Svyatogorsk, the monastery abbot, explained.

**Fall clean-up help needed this week**

**If you can help for a couple of hours to pick up and bag leaves and twigs on the church grounds, please let Fr John know the times when you can help. --**

**Thank You!!**

Saint Dionysius lived in the city of Athens. There he was brought up and received a classical Hellenic education. Then he went to Egypt, where he studied astronomy in the city of Iliopolis. Together with his friend Apollophon, he witnessed a solar eclipse at the time of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. "It is either God, the Creator of the whole world, who is suffering, or this visible world is ending," Dionysius said then. In Athens, where he returned from Egypt, he was elected a member of the Areopagus (the Athenian supreme court)

When the holy Apostle Paul preached in the Areopagus at Athens (Acts 17:16-34), Dionysius accepted this saving message and became a Christian. For three years Dionysius was an associate of the holy Apostle Paul in preaching the Word of God. Subsequently, the apostle Paul appointed him bishop of the city of Athens. In the year 57 Saint Dionysius was present at the burial of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Even during the life of the Mother of God, Dionysius the Areopagite, who specially came to Jerusalem from Athens to see the Mother of God, wrote to his teacher the Apostle Paul: "I testify by God that, apart from God Himself, there is nothing in the universe that is so full of Divine power and grace. No one I confess before God: when I was brought before the face of the Blessed Virgin by John, shining among the apostles like the sun in heaven, I experienced an inexpressible feeling. ..." .

After the death of the Apostle Paul, wishing to continue his work, Saint Dionysius set out to preach in Western countries, accompanied by Presbyter Rusticus and Deacon Eleutherius. He converted many to Christ in Rome, and then in Germany and Spain.

The works of St. Dionysius the Areopagite are of great importance for the Orthodox Church. Four books of them have survived to our time: "On the Heavenly Hierarchy", "On the Church Hierarchy", "On the Names of God", "On Mystical Theology", as well as ten epistles to various persons.

In the Russian Orthodox Church, the teaching of St. Dionysius on the spiritual authorities and the deification of human nature was first known from the "Theology" of St. John of Damascus. The first Slavonic translation of the Areopagitic itself was made on Athos around 1371 by the monk Isaiah. His lists of St Dionysius' works were widely distributed in Russia. Many of them are still preserved in domestic book depositories - including the parchment manuscript of "The Works of St. Dionysius the Areopagite", which belonged to St. Cyprian, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Russia (+ 1406) and written by his hand.

Первое упоминание о Дионисии Ареопагите содержится в книге Деяний апостольских. Согласно Деяниям, после проповеди апостола Павла в афинском ареопаге, некоторые «мужи, пристав к нему, уверовали; между ними был Дионисий Ареопагит ...

Евсевий Кесарийский в «Церковной истории» (начало IV в.) сообщает, что Дионисий был первым епископом Афин. Древнее церковное предание о поставлении апостолом Павлом Дионисия в епископы засвидетельствовано также в «Апостольских постановлениях». С именем Дионисия Ареопагита связан корпус богословских сочинений, оказавших большое влияние на православное богословие.