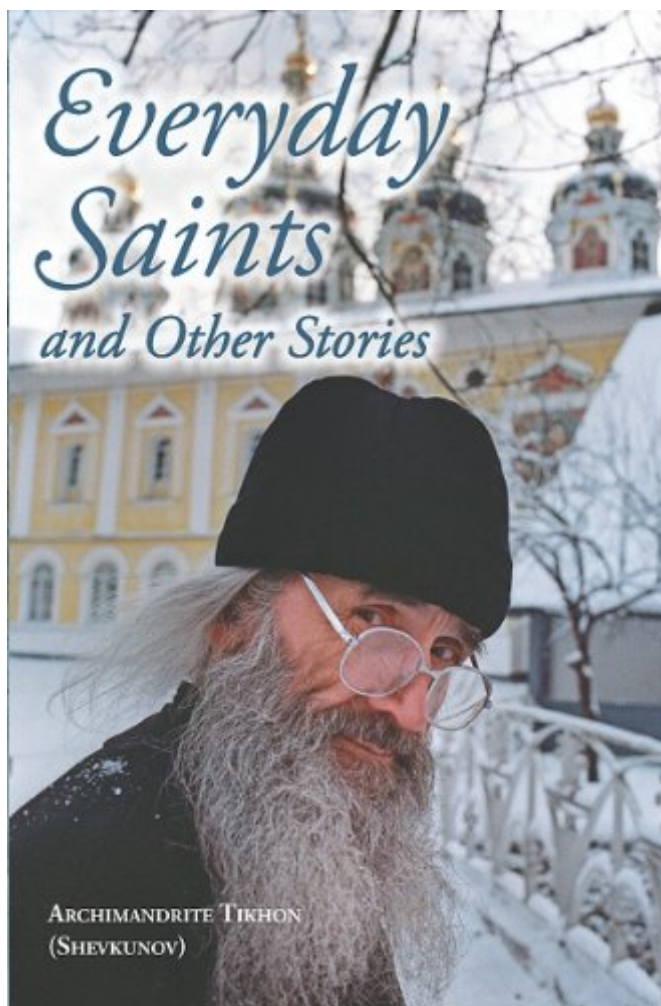


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# Everyday Saints And Other Stories



## Synopsis

More than a million copies and several million electronic versions of this book have sold in less than a year. *Everyday Saints* is the English translation of the work that has soared at the top of the bestseller lists in Russia since its publication in late 2011. Winner of several national awards including "Book of the Year", its readership spans philosophical boundaries, from the devoutly religious to the vehemently atheist. Surpassing all competition many times over, it was voted the most popular book in Russia for 2012. Open this book and you will discover a wondrous, enigmatic, remarkably beautiful, yet absolutely real world. Peer into the mysterious Russian soul, where happiness reigns no matter what life may bring. Page upon page of thanks, praise, and testimonies to the life-changing effect of these bright, good-hearted, and poignant tales have flooded the Russian media. This book has been the cause of many sleepless but happy nights: "I couldn't put it down" "was sorry when it ended" is the common reaction. The book is being translated into ten different languages. This English translation, *Everyday Saints*, is every bit as charming as the original.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I truly loved this book. I'm not orthodox but I was drawn to the depth of belief in these men. They are very human but holy...hence everyday saints. The manner of the story telling has a sweetness and almost childlike openness that is missing from western Christianity. I had originally purchased this book on my kindle but ended up buying the paper version. In a world so full of violence, bitterness and hatred, it was a respite for me to read. It is not that the people have had an easy life. Many have suffered much and have held on to their faith and traditions in an often hostile environment. Even though I do not hold to some of the beliefs of orthodox Christianity, one doesn't have to agree to appreciate this book and come to love the sincerity and belief structure of these men and the nuns we are privileged to meet on the pages of this book. I looked forward to reading this book each night and really miss it now that I've finished. The solution.... Re-read!

Without a doubt this humble, brilliant and spiritually compelling book has become one of my favorite works EVER. I don't want to read too many other reviews about Archimandrite Shevkunov's book so that my own review will not be unduly influenced one way or another. It is easy to describe the work: several young men in mid-1980s Russia are searching for their pathways in life, a bit confused politically and philosophically, exploring all kinds of options with good hearts but not much guidance. Eventually "Georgiy" (an aspiring screen-writer and film student at university) ends-up exploring the vast and ancient monastic world that lies above and (quite literally) beneath the Pskov Caves Monastery near what is now the border of Estonia. As the only Russian monastery that was never once closed-down due to oppressive political, ecclesiastical or "worldly" outer-forces, this holy place has been a bastion of devoted, truly Heaven-on-Earth service to God and to pilgrims & wayfarers for over 600 years. Beginning as a novice, young Georgiy becomes immersed in the often frustrating but always rewarding ways of simple sanctity, holy discipline, brotherhood, misadventure, joy, sorrow, mysticism and miracle after miracle. Eventually becoming Archimandrite Tikhon, Georgiy tells us the stories of the amazing brothers who have given their lives to the service of Christ and to the Most Pure Mother of God, each one of the men having his own personal struggles and quirks and trials and tribulations and triumphs. He tells the stories as if you were a pilgrim present at this holy, holy monastery, sitting at one of the supper-tables, hearing about such wonders firsthand from a beloved old friend (or "new" friend). Their lives are simple and marked by strenuous work, ardent prayer and the most inspiring dedication to God and their fellow brethren. It is amid this simplicity

that the astonishing fullness of their spiritual lives is made manifest, as you, the reader, journey into a world of love, laughter, life and learning with these blessed Orthodox monks. Their saintliness is evidenced in everyday ways and uncomplicated adventures that everyone can relate to! They are real flesh and blood men, flawed and gifted like all men, but drawn by God to share a holy communal life with all of life's ups and downs, earning their wisdom the hard way -- through finding the Pearl of Great Price in a spirit of humility, under the guidance of those spiritual heroes who came before them and who share the burdens with them as they travel faithfully the road to God. Rising above the world while remaining in the world, the true stories of these godly Orthodox men will move you to tears, laughter, expressions of awe, joy, and most of all to a deeper and more powerful faith in Christ the Lord of All and in His Most Pure Virgin Mother. I must say: it is rare that I discover a book that makes such an immediate and indelible impression upon my heart and, even better, my soul. Father Shevkunov's friendly, amiable and straightforward narrative paints a series of exquisite icons, as it were, on each page and this wonderful collection can be appreciably enjoyed by people of all faiths, I suppose. But it is really for the Orthodox, for the glory and the beauty and the Light of our holy Orthodoxy. It is a testament to the incomparable power of Orthodoxy, so in my opinion Orthodox people the world over should make a place for this new classic in their hearts and homes. It will be a holy and blessed day when I can visit the Pskov Monastery of the Caves and pay my own heartfelt respects to the holy brothers and fathers I have "met" herein, thanks to the writing of Father Shevkunov. Precious, precious book.

Somehow what gets broadcasted over the last dozen or so years eventhough labelled "culture" is in fact a mixed bag of vulgar, distasteful, over-sexualized, mundane, shocking, violent or new-age delusional elements in any odd proportion. I've come to a point of not wanting to go to the movies (haven't been for years), not wanting to watch TV, and even less so buy a recent book. And here is the exception that proves the rule--Archimandrite Tikhon's collection of stories that don't feature any of the dreaded substance of modern Hollywood/Bollywood/HBO material. They instead go to the very core of the human experience to answer the eternal most important questions of human existence. The stories resonated so much with me that I cried reading almost each and every one of them. This book is a stark reminder that "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever" and that salvation is possible even in our time when atheism is the norm of public life in the Western Civilization that has worked hard over the course of the 20th century to undermine its true cultural foundation. In the word of St Nilus, "Avarice - the thirst for money, is a precursor of the Antichrist. All that is intentional and premeditated to prepare people to faith and following the Lord is, has been,

and will be true. Conversely, anything that prepares people to abandon the Law of God and their Savior is a lie, the lie deliberately preparing the coming of the Antichrist and his acceptance by humankind. As St. John the Baptist preached a baptism of truth, and guided people on the path of salvation, so excessive and alarming concern not for spiritual, but for carnal things will spoil the feelings of people to make them numb and indifferent to their salvation, and due to the many cares about the flesh they will not have a sense of salvation. Men will not feel any desire for eternal future life, nor have fear of eternal damnation. The harlot with the Antichrist in the womb and one goat, will be the sign of forthcoming split of the tame from the wild. Yes, indeed, salvation will abide and will not be taken from the world, there will be possibility to work for attaining salvation, and there will be people who work on their salvation until the end of the world. Yes, indeed there will be salvation, but for whom will it be? For those who will not obey the affairs of antitipa (the forerunners of the Antichrist)."

This is a truly wonderful and comprehensive look into Russian Orthodox spirituality. An invaluable tool for understanding Orthodoxy in its struggles during the Soviet years and its miraculous emergence as a vital force in the post Soviet era. Achimandrite Tikhon's masterful narration is both inspiring and entertaining. This is no dull rehashing of oft heard platitudes but a vibrantly good read, moving, thought- provoking, even hilarious, at times. If you are looking for something different, but rewarding in your reading repertoire. Click on this. It will give you many pleasant and rewarding hours of enjoyment.

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