

**BELIEFS** Values

# Gay and lesbian spirituality focus of new church

**BY RENA FULKA**  
SPECIAL WRITER  
**W**hen the Church of Saint Sergius and Saint Bucchus opens on Sunday, April 14, it will be a community of faith that is intentionally ecumenical, intentionally liturgical and intentionally gay-proud.

John Roberts, "They pray daily and read Scriptures, but they don't go to church because they don't feel welcome. A congregation with a gay priest will be a safer home and a more comfortable place for lesbians and gay men who want to develop their spirituality."

**Community messenger:**  
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gelical Lutheran Church, "coming out" had its price.  
"I served in Lutheran churches for 17 years and when I went to the Bishop and came out to him,

See SPIRITUALITY, 19A

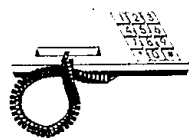


Spreading the faith: The Rev. John Roberts draws on his spirituality in his role as minister of the new Church of Saint Sergius and Saint Bucchus.

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real estate speaker and keynote speaker  
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