

Patriarch Kirill to visit Japan in Sept 2020



“The Japanese Orthodox Church is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the canonization of Equal-to-the-Apostles Nicholas next year. I intend to visit Japan in September 2020 at the invitation of Metropolitan Daniel of Tokyo to mark this date in the history of Japanese Orthodoxy and the spiritual relations between our countries with joint prayer,” the patriarch said in his congratulatory address to Japan’s Emperor Naruhito on his enthronement.

The Russian patriarch said in his message, which was released by his press service on Thursday, that he is convinced that interaction between the traditional institutions of Russian and Japanese society has “considerable potential for peaceful dialogue between our countries.”

Patriarch Kirill said he has warm memories from his visit to Japan in 2012, which was timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the death of St. Nicholas (Kasatkin), the Russian missionary who brought the Orthodox faith to Japan in the second half of the 19th century.

The Russian patriarch paid tribute to former Emperor Akihito, “whose entire life was devoted to serving Japan and its people,” saying he is confident that the new monarch will continue his work with honor.

- Source: interfax-religion.com