

## **Annual grand Christmas celebration at Kremlin; Russian Patriarch present**



The annual grand Christmas celebration at the Kremlin was held on Wednesday, with the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His All Holiness Kirill, in attendance. Dozens of children from the Russian territory of Kaliningrad, sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea, were present for the celebration this year, reciting poems, singing carols and offering a commemorative hand-made gift comprised of amber to the Russian Patriarch, while the latter presented each child with gifts by the Church.

At the event, the Patriarch also met with six-year-old Katia, whose Christmas wish this year was to meet with the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. Katia and her younger sister are hosted at a children's home operated by the Church in a village outside Moscow.

The Moscow Patriarchate celebrates Christmas with the Julian calendar, with







