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# FIRE RAVAGES ONE OF KAZAKHSTAN'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES




A fire that broke out on Tuesday left a beautiful Orthodox church in southern Kazakhstan without a central dome, central altar area, an iconostasis, or interior decoration.

Thankfully, the altar table of the Church of the Exaltation of the Cross in Alma-Ata survived, reports the Russian Church's Metropolitan District in Kazakhstan.

Services will now be held in the parish refectory until the church can be restored. The church is fairly new, with construction ending just ten years ago.



His Eminence Metropolitan Alexander of Astrana and Kazakhstan has called on Kazakhstanis to help restore the church. Though the tragedy causes pain of soul for all Orthodox believers, “No difficulties that we encounter in life should cause excessive sadness and despondency.”

“Let us, you and I, united by love for our church, for the spiritual values of our country, make every effort for this holy site to rise from the ashes and shine again in all its beauty. I call on all Kazakhstanis to respond to the disaster and help in the restoration of the holy church,” the archpastor called.

In October 2019, Almaty’s wooden Ascension Cathedral was consecrated after extensive restoration work.

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