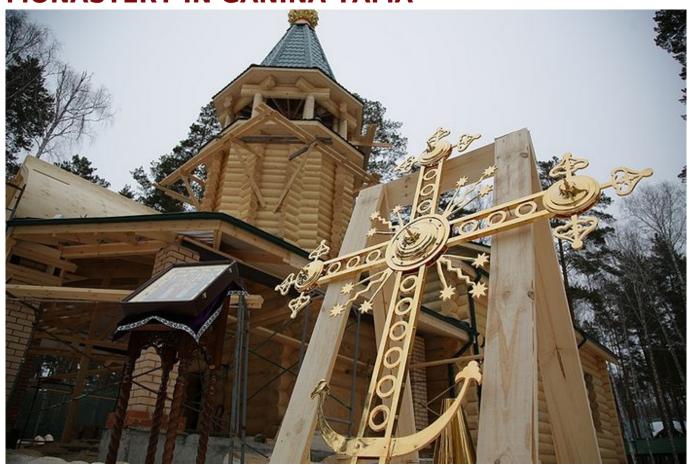
CROSS BLESSED AND ERECTED ON RESTORED CHURCH AT ROYAL PASSION-BEARERS MONASTERY IN GANINA YAMA



A new cross was blessed and erected yesterday and today for the restored Royal Passion-Bearers Church at the Royal Passion-Bearers Monastery at the Ganina Yama ravine outside Ekaterinburg.

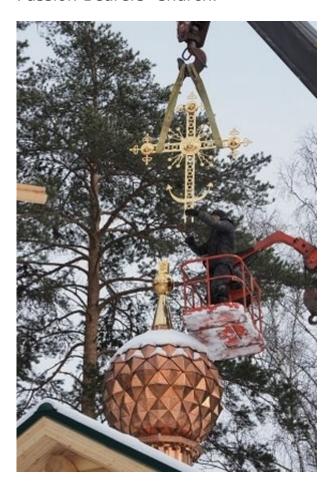
The blessing was celebrated yesterday by His Eminence Metropolitan Kirill of Ekaterinburg and Verkhotursky, Abbot Leonty (Kozlov), and the clergy of the monastery, reports the Ekaterinburg Diocese.

The erection of the new cross for the restored church was timed to the feast of the Reigning Icon of the Mother of God, which was miraculously revealed on the day of the abdication of Royal Martyr Tsar Nicholas II and was taken as a sign of the Mother of God's protection over much-suffering Russia.

"Today, March 1 according to the old Church style, according to which we serve, is

a special day in the life of the Church. This day is considered the day of the creation of the world. It is the commemoration of the release of the Jewish people from captivity. And today we consecrate this cross and dome and this Church of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers, with which I congratulate you all," His Eminence said.

Met. Kirill served the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at the monastery today, after which the newly-blessed cross was raised and installed on the dome of the Royal Passion-Bearers' Church.



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