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His Holiness Patriarch Kirill celebrates Liturgy on the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple



On December 4, 2021, the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple and the 104th anniversary of the enthronement of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of All Russia, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral Church of Christ the Saviour in Moscow.

His Holiness was assisted by Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate; Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis, representative of the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; Archbishop Aksiy of Podolsk and Lyubertsy, secretary of the Metropolis of Moscow Bishops' Council; Bishop Seraphim of Istra, chairman of the Synodal Youth Department; Archpriest Mikhail Ryazantsev, warden of the Church of Christ the Saviour; Archimandrite Alexy (Turikov), personal assistant to His Holiness Kirill; and the Moscow clergy.

Liturgical hymns were sung by the Patriarchal Choir of the Church of Christ the Saviour, precentor I. Tolkachev.

Present in the church was chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs. L. Slutsky.

The Patriarchal service was broadcast live by Soyuz and Spas TV channels and Patriarchia ru, the official portal of the Russian Orthodox Church.

During the Prayer of Ardent Supplication, prayerful petitions were lifted up for deliverance fr om the spread of the coronavirus infection and a petition for medical doctors: "O Lord Who loves mankind, show mercy for the selfless feat of our medical doctors, send them firm health, strength, fortitude and wisdom to carry out their work for the good of our people and through them accomplish the healing of Your suffering servants, we diligently entreat You to hear us and to give mercy to us".

After the Prayer of Ardent Supplication, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church lifted up the prayer read during the spread of a destructive infection.

During the Liturgy, His Holiness ordained Deacon Nikita Stratilat, a cleric of the Moscow Representation of the St. Sergius Laura of the Holy Trinity and the first pro-rector of the Nikolo- Ugreshski Seminary, as presbyter.

The sermon before communion was delivered by Archpriest Alexy Yakovlev, rector of the church of St. Seraphim of Sarov-in-Rayevo, Moscow.

In conclusion of the service, praise was sung to the feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos to the Temple.

Then His Holiness Kirill addressed himself to the congregation with a Primatial homily.

In acknowledgement of the diligent work of Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis and on the occasion of his 80th birthday, the Primate of the Russian Church awarded him the Order of the Holy Prince Daniel of Moscow (Degree I) and said:

“I would like to address myself to His Eminence Niphon with special words. He, a faithful son of his Church of Antioch and his people, certainly by God’s will has found himself in Moscow, wh ere he has spent a considerable part of his life. You are not just a representative of the Orthodox Church of Antioch, but you are our beloved brother. And I cannot imagine who else could more properly then you represent your Church and your people.

At the same time, I know that you share our sorrows and our joys. I thank you for your work and, along with this award, I would like to present you with a pectoral icon from the Patriarchal sacristy. It is my personal pectoral icon. But, showing it, I will give it to you after I make an appropriate inscription on the reverse side, so that you may remember that it is a gift from the Patriarch with profound gratitude for you archpastoral work on a day so special for you. Axios!”



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