

## **Communique of the Raška-Prizren Diocese concerning the unauthorized construction work at the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas in Novo Brdo**



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With great concern, the Diocese of Raška-Prizren has received information about an announcement specifying the beginning of construction work on the site of an old Serbian medieval church, that of St. Nicholas, which was the cathedral church for the Serbian Orthodox bishops of Novo Brdo and Gračanica, and which is located near the Novo Brdo fortress. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novo\\_Brdo\\_Fortress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novo_Brdo_Fortress)

The church was built in the middle of the 14th century and was enlarged during the reign of Despot Stephan Lazarević after 1455. According to all evidence available, it was later turned into a mosque during the Ottoman period, and then was later

destroyed by an earthquake and remained in ruins up to the present day, like the other remains of the town surrounding it, which was quickly abandoned. Similar to the other churches and monasteries built by the Nemanjić dynasty in the 13th and 14th centuries such as Sopoćani, Arilje, and Visoki Dečani, the Novo Brdo Church of St. Nicholas was constructed in the style of a romanesque basilica, and until the fall of Novo Brdo to the Ottoman rule, it was the main center of Orthodox worship for the region. Not far from this church, we also find the remains of the city's Roman Catholic Church which is known as the Saxon Church, thus named for the Saxon miners who, together with merchants from Dubrovnik and the local Serbian population, comprised a part of the rich and multifaceted ethnic and religious mosaic of medieval Novo Brdo, one of the most important cities of medieval Serbia.







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