# Divine Liturgy in ancient Greek celebrated at the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Martyr Alexandra the Empress in St. Petersburg

On 27th October 2019, 19th Sunday after Pentecost, commemoration day of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, the Divine Liturgy in the ancient Greek language was celebrated at the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and Martyr Alexandra the Empress in St. Petersburg on the eve of the Greek national holiday 'Oxi Day.' The divine service was celebrated by Archpriest Vladimir Goncharenko in concelebration with Hieromonk Varfolomey (Magnitsky), Priest Maxim Nikulin and Protodeacon Konstantin Markovich.

Among the worshippers were Mr. Spyridon Voulgaris, Consul General of the Hellenic Republic; Mr. Demetris Assos, Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus; members of the Greek community in St. Petersburg; staff members of the consulates; and parishioners.

"This is a national day in Greece and Cyprus; it unites our peoples," Archpriest Vladimir Goncharenko said in his homily delivered in the Greek language, "In the events which we recall today the Mother of God revealed her intercession. To commemorate that, in the late 1950s a festal service was compiled in honour of the Protecting Veil of the Most Holy Theotokos. It is included in the new edition of the Greek Menaion. According to historians, the heroic opposition of the Greek people to the invaders delayed the attack of the fascist coalition's troops on the Eastern European countries."

Mr. Spyridon Voulgaris, Consul General of Greece, noted that every Greek, no matter where he/she is at the moment, holds dear the Oxi Day. "And today at the Divine Liturgy we have felt at home," he said.

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