



## **Divine Liturgy is celebrated at St. Nicholas church in Demre**

On 19 December 2018, Divine Liturgy was celebrated at St. Nicholas church in Demre, Turkey. Praying at service were a group of pilgrims from the Pskov and St. Petersburg metropolias, staff members of Russian Consulate General in Antalia, and many Russian compatriots living in Turkey. Rev. Georgy Sergeyev, rector of Ss Constantine and Helen church in Istanbul who cares for the Russian-speaking believers in the Republic of Turkey, officiated.

Petitions for the unity of Orthodoxy at the litany of fervent supplication and a prayer for peace in Ukraine were offered up. Commemorated at the requiem litany was H.E. Andrei Karlov, Russian Ambassador to Turkey, assassinated two years ago.

The first St. Nicholas church was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The present, though ruined building, dates back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. A well-known Russian traveler Andrei Muraviev visited the ruins in 1850. Thanks to his efforts, the ruins of the church and the adjacent plot of land were bought, but the excavation works and restoration began only in the 1990s. At present the complex is a state-protected museum.

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/46833/>