



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill's visit to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem on 9-14 November

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia will visit the Patriarchate of Jerusalem on November 9-14, 2012, at the invitation of His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem and the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem.

The focal point of the visit will be pilgrimage to the greatest holy sites of the Christian world. Patriarch Kirill is expected to concelebrate with Patriarch Theophilos III at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and walk along the *Via Dolorosa*.

Also planned are visits to the Basilica of the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem, to Nazareth, Gethsemane, Mount Tabor, Tiberias and other places linked with the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. His Holiness Patriarch Kirill will consecrate the cathedral in the Gorny Convent and conduct the Great Blessing of the Waters in the Jordan River at the site of the baptism of the Saviour.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill is to meet with the leaders of Israel, the Palestinian National Authority and the Kingdom of Jordan.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill's book "Freedom and Responsibility" in the Hebrew language will be presented. The Primate of the Russian Church will visit the Yad Vashem Memorial.

Accompanying His Holiness will be the choir of the Sretensky stavropegic monastery. The choir will sing at the divine services and give concerts of the Russian religious music.

The visit of His Holiness will serve to the strengthening of brotherly bonds that have united the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem and the Russian Orthodox Church for centuries.

By the Orthodox tradition, all Primates of the Local Orthodox Churches visit their brothers in other Local Churches after election. His Holiness Patriarch Kirill visited the Church of Constantinople in 2009, the Church of Alexandria in 2012, the Church of Antioch in 2011, and the Orthodox Churches of Bulgaria, Cyprus and Poland in 2012.