



## Feast of Nativity of John the Baptist celebrated at Damascus Representation of the Russian Church



On July 7, 2021, the Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Damascus Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church. The service was conducted by Hegumen Arseny (Sokolov), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia to the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, and Archimandrite Sergiy (Akimov), professor at Minsk Theological Academy, who came from Byelorussia.

After the liturgy, Archimandrite Sergiy had a talk with parishioners at the Representation's lounge.

Archimandrite Sergiy has been the rector of Minsk Theological Academy for the last seven years. On June 17, 2021, the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church relieved him of this duty due to his forthcoming business trip abroad.

During his visit to Damascus, Archimandrite Sergiy and Mr. A. Ovcharov, an assistant to the rector of Minsk Theological Academy, who accompanied him together with Hegumen Arseny (Sokolov) visited

the holy places of the city as well and Patriarchate of Antioch and the Byelorussian Embassy in Syria. At the Patriarchate of Antioch, they met with the secretary of the Synod of the Orthodox Church of Antioch, Bishop Ephrem of Seleucia, and at the Byelorussian embassy with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to Syria, Mr. Yu. O. Sluka.

*DECR Communication Service*

*With reference to the Damascus Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church*

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