# Rector and parishioners of Beirut Representation of the Russian Church visit Saida in Lebanon



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On December 18, Archimandrite Philip (Vasiltsev), representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus' to the Antiochian Patriarchal See, and the parishioners of the Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church in Lebanon made a pilgrimage to Saida to attend the hierarchal Divine Liturgy at the church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker at the invitation of Metropolitan Elias of Tyre and Sidon of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

Metropolitan Elias officiated at Matins and the Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating were Archimandrite Philip, Archpriest Joseph Khoury, rector of the church, Rev. Dimitry Slailetti, and Deacon Maxim Sabah.

Among those attending the divine service were representatives of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Lebanese Republic; Judge Ziad Abu Haidar, the Attorney General in Beirut; and many parishioners.

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the Arabic and Church Slavonic languages, website of the Beirut Representation reports.

After the communion verse, Metropolitan Elias delivered a sermon on the Reading from the Gospel.

After the dismissal, he warmly greeted the rector and parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church Representation, expressed his joy over common prayer, and wished Archimandrite Philip success in his ministry as official representative to the Orthodox Church of Antioch.

Archimandrite Phillip wholeheartedly thanked Metropolitan Elias for the invitation to attend the Divine Liturgy celebrated on the eve of the commemoration day of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, patron saint of the city of Saida.

The divine service was followed by a tea-party in the parish hall at the church of St. Nicholas.

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