



## **Representatives of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission congratulate the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem on the occasion of the Nativity of Christ.**



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On 8<sup>th</sup> January the head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem archimandrite Alexander (Yelisov), accompanied by the staff of the Mission abbot Nikon (Golovko), hieromonk Dometian (Markaryan) and hieromonk Athanasius (Bukin), attended the traditional reception which is annually held in the Great Throne Hall of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem to mark the feast of the Nativity of Christ. The reception was headed by His Beatitude the Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine Theophilos III.

The reception was attended by the Greek consul in Jerusalem Evangelos Vlioras, bishops of the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem, the clergy of the Brotherhood of the Holy Sepulchre and numerous Greek- and Arab-speaking Christians living in Jerusalem.

As reported by the press service of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos and the guests of the reception were greeted by the choir of students from the Sretensky theological academy under the direction of Ilya Vedischev and performed Nativity hymns and carols.

Archimandrite Alexander (Yelisov) conveyed to His Beatitude congratulations from His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill and the chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate the metropolitan of Volokolamsk Anthony. Then the staff of the Mission presented to His Beatitude Christmas presents.

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