



## Faithful of the Moscow Patriarchate celebrate the Nativity of Christ



**DECR Communication Service, 12.01.2023.**

On January 7, 2023, the feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Church of Ss. Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the-Apostles, located in the territory of the summer residence of Russia's Consulate General in Istanbul.

Officiating was Rev. Georgy Sergeyev who is responsible for taking pastoral care of the Russian Orthodox Church's flock in the Republic of Turkey. Over one hundred people attended, many partook of the Holy Mysteries of Christ.

The Moscow Patriarchate's faithful residing in Bursa arrived in Istanbul to attend Christmas Liturgy.

After the divine service Fr. Georgy read out the Christmas Message of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus' and greeted all the worshippers. Children who attended the service received Christmas gifts.

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated for the first time for the community in Ankara. Officiating at the service that was held in the Rossotrudnichestvo building was Rev. Yevgeny Dolya, a cleric of the Moscow region diocese, who has arrived in Turkey with the blessing of the authorities of the Russian Orthodox Church. Attending the service were over one hundred people, including the employees of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Ankara and Mr. Alexander Sotnichenko, director of the Russian House in the capital of the Republic of Turkey.

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated for the faithful residing in Antalya Province on Christmas. Rev. Alexey Golovin, responsible for taking pastoral care of the Russian-speaking flock in Antalya, officiated. Attending were over one hundred and twenty people from Kemer, Side and Manavgat.

Rev. Dimitry Bogatyr celebrated the Divine Liturgy on Christmas for over one hundred and twenty faithful in Alanya.

Christmas divine services were celebrated on January 6 and 7 for the Russian employees working at the construction of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant by hieromonk Pallady (Bystrov) from the Holy Trinity and St. Sergius Laura currently taking pastoral care of the community.

Divine services were celebrated on January 6 and 7 for over forty people in the cities of Kuşadası, Aydın Province, and İzmir located on the west coast of Turkey washed by the Aegean Sea. Officiating was Rev. Alexander Brilenkov who has arrived in Turkey with the blessing of the authorities of the Russian Orthodox Church.

On January 9, Rev. Georgy Sergeyev celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the Moscow Patriarchate's faithful residing in the Turkish city of Samsun on the Black Sea coast.

On January 12, he celebrated Christmas service in Eskişehir located 300 km south-west of Istanbul.