



Patriarchal Exarch of South-East Asia consecrates St.Vladimir's church and celebrates in Bekasi, Indonesia



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On July 28, the Day of the Baptism of Rus' and commemoration day of the Holy Grand Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles, grand consecration of St.Vladimir's church took place in Bekasi, Republic of Indonesia.

Metropolitan Sergiy of Singapore and South-East Asia, Patriarchal Exarch of South-East Asia, officiated at the service; Bishop Pitirim of Jakarta and clerics of the Diocese of Singapore concelebrated.

Attending the service were high-ranking guests, including Ambassador Lyudmila Vorobieva of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Indonesia; Ambassador Valery Kolesnik of the Republic of

Belarus to the Republic of Indonesia; as well as cultural and public figures and many Orthodox faithful from Indonesia, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and other countries. A reliquary containing particles of relics of the saints was presented to St. Vladimir's church.

After the rite of consecration, Patriarchal Exarch celebrated the Divine Liturgy, congratulated the worshippers on the feast and thanked the diocesan clergy for the service, website of the Patriarchal Exarchate of South-East Asia reports.

St. Vladimir's church is dedicated to the Baptizer of Rus', the Holy Grand Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles. It has been built with funds donated by the Orthodox from Russia, Ukraine and Indonesia. The plot of land for the church building was provided by an Indonesian woman in prayerful memory of her late husband, a native Russian. The iconostasis, icon-cases, articles of worship and church vessels were donated by the faithful from Russia.

The first parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church appeared in Indonesia in 1920s.

Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad (now Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus') visited Indonesia in 2003. As the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, His Holiness keeps supporting Orthodox communities in Indonesia.

Indonesia has been considered a centre of the Russian Orthodox presence in Asia in the last several years. There are twenty-five parishes with forty clerics, including the readers, most of whom are Indonesian citizens.

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