



## **Primate of Russian Church presents historic miracle-working Kazan Icon of the Mother of God to the faithful and celebrates Liturgy in the Kremlin Dormition Cathedral**



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On November 4, the commemoration day of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the Patriarchal Holy Dormition Cathedral of the Moscow Kremlin. That day also marked the National Unity Day in Russia.

As the Patriarchal Press Service reported (<http://www.patriarchia.ru/db/text/6074511.html>), His Holiness Patriarch Kirill arrived in the church, bringing with him the miracle-working Kazan Icon of the Mother of God. From the solea, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church addressed the worshippers, telling them that the historic icon, before which Prince Dmitry Pozharsky and Kuzma Minin had prayed [in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century], was discovered. Kept in the Kazan Cathedral in Red Square in

Moscow, the icon was stolen in 1918 and its whereabouts has been unknown until recently.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill blessed the worshippers with the miracle-working icon of the Mother of God. With the choir singing a prayer of praise, the icon was placed on the analogion in the centre of the Dormition Cathedral.

Con-celebrating with His Holiness was an assembly of hierarchs and clergymen of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as members of the Serbian Orthodox Church's delegation, namely Bishop Antonije of Moravica, representative of the Patriarch of Serbia to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Church at the Yauza Gates in Moscow (Metochion of the Serbian Orthodox Church); Bishop Sava of Marča, vicar of the Banja Luka Diocese; and clerics of the Banja Luka Diocese – Hieromonk Metodije (Kragulj), abbot of the Gomionica Monastery, and Protodeacon Radojica Zagran. During the Liturgy, several prayers were read in the Serbian language.

Among those who attended the divine service was Mr Nikita Chaplin, deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and warden of the Patriarchal Dormition Cathedral; Mr Andrei Potemkin, acting general director of the Sofrino Artistic Production Enterprise; and Mr Vasily Nesterenko, full member of the Russian Academy of Arts, People's Artist of the Russian Federation.

During the Litany of Fervent Supplication, special prayers were offered. His Holiness Patriarch Kirill read out a prayer for the unity of the Holy Rus'.

After the Liturgy, prayers of praise were read before the miracle-working Kazan Icon.

In his Primatial homily, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill noted, in particular, that the icon would be kept in the Kazan Cathedral in Red Square.