



## New head of Russian Ecclesiastical Mission arrives in Jerusalem



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On November 16, the newly appointed head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, Archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), arrived in Jerusalem. He was met by nuns from the Gorny Convent and staff members of the Mission. After prayers were offered in the Church of the Holy Martyr Alexandra the Empress, Archimandrite Vassian greeted the Mission staff, giving them his blessing, Press Service of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission **reports**.

On November 17, Archimandrite Vassian officiated at the prayer service in the Church of St. Alexandra to invoke the Holy Spirit before any good work. Con-celebrating with him were Hegumen Nikon (Golovko), the Mission secretary; sacristans of the Mission's metochions – Archpriest Miroslav Vitiv of the Church of Prophet Elijah in Haifa, Archpriest Nikolai Zhdanov of the Church of St. Tabitha in Jaffa,

and Hieromonk Amvrosy (Ignatov) of the Church of the Holy Forefathers in Hebron – as well as Deacon Makary Petukhov, a cleric of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission.

The service was attended by Mother Superior Yekaterina (Chernysheva), abbess of the Gorny Convent in Ein Karem, and sisters of the abode; Mr Yury Romashuk, the Mission's representative to the Palestinian National Authority and administrator of the Pilgrim Residence; Nun Lukina (Ganicheva) of the Mission's Metochion in Jericho; Nun Nikolaya (Ganzha) of the Mission's Metochion in Magdala; and members of the Mission staff.

'Many Years' was sung after the service.

Later, Archimandrite Vassian met with the clergy and sisters of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem and was brought up to speed on day-to-day affairs of the Mission.

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