

## Rector of St. Nicholas Cathedral in New York takes part in the ceremony of presenting commemorative medals to survivors of the siege of Leningrad



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On April 19, archpriest Igor Vyzhanov, rector of the St. Nicholas Patriarchal Cathedral in New York, took part in the ceremony of presenting commemorative medals "In honour of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the complete liberation of Leningrad from the Nazi blockade" to people who survived the siege of the city during the Great Patriotic War. The event took place at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in New York City.

Alexander V. Kim, minister-counselor of the Russian Embassy in the USA, arrived from Washington and presented state commemorative decorations to more than 60 blockade survivors who had gathered for the event and congratulated them. Also greeting them were H.E. Alexander K. Zakharov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in New York, Mrs. Isabella A. Svetlosanova, director of the Society of Leningrad Siege Survivors in New York, and archpriest Igor Vyzhanov.

In his speech, Very Rev. Igor emphasized the great importance of the Orthodox faith, which helped many people to endure the siege of Leningrad, and the role of the future Patriarch Alexy I, the then Metropolitan of Leningrad, who shared all the hardships of the blockade with his flock.

The parish website reports that the rector of St. Nicholas Cathedral offered up a prayer for the repose of those who died during the siege and wished God's mercy to the living veterans.

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