



Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem attends reception on Victory Day



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On Victory Day, May 9, archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, celebrated a thanksgiving prayer service at the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Concelebrating were hegumen Nikon (Golovko), deputy head of the Mission, hieromonk Tikhon (Proyaev), deacon Makariy Petukhov, as well as archpriest Vladimir Puchkov and hieromonk Philofey (Artyushin), pilgrims in holy orders.

On the feast day, the Office of Thanksgiving and the singing of liturgical hymns to the Lord God sung on the Day of Victory in the Great Patriotic War was celebrated at all metochions of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in the Holy Land, the Mission website reports.

Every year, the celebration of the victory over Nazism lasts several days in Israel and Palestine. The 9th of May is preceded by a large number of solemn festive and mass events organized by Russian-speaking compatriots with the support of the diplomatic corps of Russia and friendly states. The Victory Day is traditionally marked by a mass procession along the main streets of Tel Aviv.

On May 9, a memorial event commemorating the 79th anniversary of the Victory was held in Jerusalem at the “Candle of Memory” monument to the heroic defenders and inhabitants of besieged Leningrad.

H.E. Anatoly Viktorov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the State of Israel, led the ceremony, which was attended by the ambassadors of Belarus and Kazakhstan, representatives of the Russian House in Israel, veterans, survivors of the Leningrad siege, Holocaust survivors, and Russian-speaking compatriots living in Israel.

Taking part in the flower-laying ceremony at the invitation of the Russian ambassador were archimandrite Vassian and hegumen Nikon.

On the same day, at the invitation of the Russian ambassador, the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem honored with his presence the solemn evening commemorating the 79th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos was accompanied by Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina, General Secretary of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and Patriarchal archdeacon Mark.

Representing the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission at the official reception hosted by the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv were archimandrite Vassian (Zmeyev), hegumen Nikon (Golovko), hieromonk Tikhon (Proyaev), and deacon Makariy Petukhov.

Among the distinguished guests at the reception were former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel Yuval Fuchs, heads and representatives of diplomatic missions of the Russian Federation and fraternal states, Israeli politicians and public figures, as well as veterans of the Great Patriotic War. A church choir of the graduates of the Sretensky theological seminary performed wartime songs.