



Relics of St. Catherine the Great Martyr are brought to Russia

On 1 December 2010, the relics of St. Catherine the Great Martyr were brought to Moscow with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia by the head of the Autonomous Archbishopric of Sinai, Archbishop Damian of Sinai, Pharan and Raitho. Archbishop Vikentiy of Yekaterinburg and Verkhnyaya Tura arrived from Cyprus, from where the precious relics were brought to Russia.

Meeting them at the "Vnukovo" airport were Bishop Tikhon of Vidnoye, a vicar of the Moscow diocese; archpriest Nikolai Balashov, deputy chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR); Rev. Igor Yakimchuk, DECR secretary for Inter-Orthodox relations; and clerics of the Moscow diocese.

A short prayer service was celebrated before the relics at the airport. The relics were first brought to St. Catherine's hermitage in the town of Vidnoye, Moscow region.

On December 2, the relics of St. Catherine will be brought to the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, where His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia will celebrate Divine Liturgy.

Prayer services will be celebrated before the relics at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour till December 4.

The relics will be brought to Yekaterinburg to be venerated till December 24.