



## Romanov News Новости Романовых

*By Ludmila & Paul Kulikovsky*

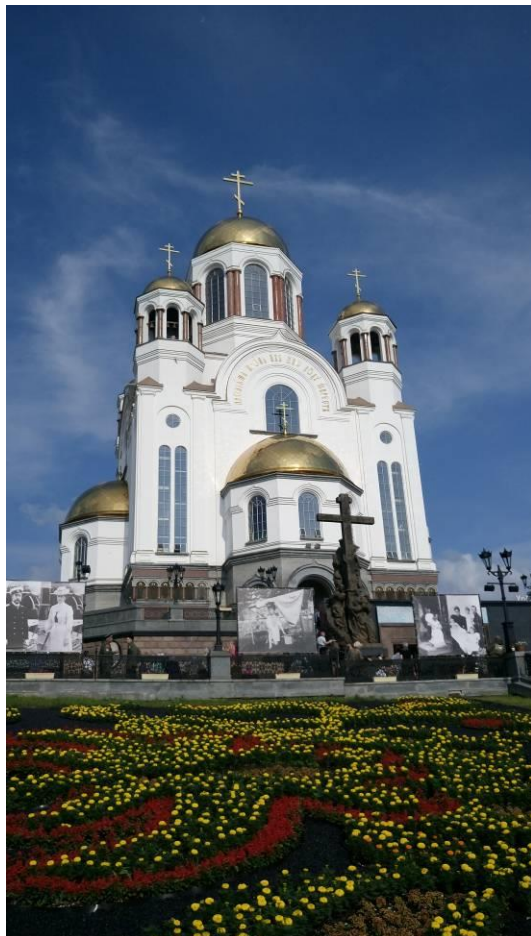
# №124

July 2018 - Part 1/2



**HOLY ROYAL MARTYRS  
100 YEARS REMEMBERING**

## 100 years since the murder of members of the Imperial Family in Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk - and the birth of our New Martyrs



"Coming to Yekaterinburg is not easy for those in my family, who all their life have grown up learning about the city as the one where Emperor Nicholas II, Alexandra, their children and most loyal servants were killed.

This is properly also why some of my relatives have chosen to be in St. Petersburg in these days.

Some only see it as a place of murder, think about the victims, and becomes sad. They do not see anything joyful in it.

I, also had difficulties in coming to Yekaterinburg the first time and only because it was a part of a larger pilgrimage, going to many holy places in the region, I accepted to go, and that only a few years ago.

However, thinking more about it, I came to realize, that it was odd to think so and it did not reflect historical reality. I knew better, but chose to see it in one dimension only.

Murder of members of my family have happened also in St. Petersburg and that much earlier than in Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk - Emperor Peter III, Emperor Paul I, and Emperor Alexander II, just to mention some of the most prominent ancestors murdered in St. Petersburg. And I can add Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich who was killed in Moscow.

But nobody is talking about that they cannot go to these cities because of these murders. So why use it as an excuse for not going to Yekaterinburg?

Every story has two sides. Past and Future. Darkness and Light. Tragedy and Triumph. An Earthly Kingdom lost, a Heavenly Kingdom gained. You choose which side to see, and which side to live in.

I have chosen to see the light. The triumph. To see the birthplace of our New Martyrs. In short, I have chosen to be in Yekaterinburg and Alapaevsk in these days.



I also rejoice in the fact, that the

Bolsheviks failed miserably in their efforts to erase the memory of the Romanov family.

To me it seems that the Romanovs, particular in the faces of the Royal Passion-Bearers and the Alapaevsk martyrs, are not forgotten.

The appreciation of their feats are growing, and they are providing spiritual guidance and consolation to many people through the entire world.

The Romanovs are regaining their place in Russian history, are being honoured in monuments all over our motherland, and are no longer only a part of the past, but also a part of the future of Russia."

- Paul E. Kulikovsky, Yekaterinburg, July 13, 2018.



## His Holiness Patriarch Kirill visited the Church-monument on the Blood in Yekaterinburg

July 13, 2018 His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, who had just arrived in Yekaterinburg, visited the Church-memorial on the Blood in honour of All Saints, in the land of the Russian, who shone, in Yekaterinburg.

In the church was brought the ark with a part of the relics of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth from the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow. The Ark was installed in the center of the church, where His Holiness performed the reverence of the Martyr Elisabeth.

Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Ladoga Varsonofi; Metropolitan of Tashkent and Uzbekistan Vikenty; Metropolitan of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Kirill; Archbishop Sergius of Solnechnogorsk; Bishop of Kamensk and Alapaevsk Methodius; Bishop Evgeny of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansk; Bishop of Serov and Krasnoturinsky Alexy; Abbess of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy Elisaveta (Pozdnyakova); the clergy of the Yekaterinburg metropolis; numerous residents of the city and pilgrims who arrived in Yekaterinburg for the international festival "Tsar Days" were in the church.



Also in the church were: the representative of the President in the region N.N. Tsukanov; Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region E.V. Kuyvashev; and great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III P.E. Kulikovsky.

Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg welcomed His Holiness and presented His Holiness the icon of the holy Royal Passion-Bearers, made of stone and metal.

The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church addressed the assembled in the church with the First-Hierarchical word:

"With a special trembling feeling, I

crossed the threshold of this church and plunged into memories of how the Lord favoured me to consecrate this place to serve here the Divine Eucharist. But besides that memorable day for me, every visit to Yekaterinburg is connected with thoughts about the feat of the Royal Martyrs. There was a time when the theme of the martyrdom of Emperor Nicholas II and his family was banned. I remember well how the book "23 steps down" appeared in the 70s. How did people pick up the entire print run! How literally to the holes read out copies of this book! The Soviet historian, though in a subjective

interpretation, conveyed the tragic history of this place. And today we can happily say that the absolute majority of people are familiar with the interpretation of this event, which corresponds to reality, and therefore the veneration of the holy Royal Martyrs so quickly took root in our believing people. Today, no one doubts about the fact that here really all the Imperial Family was committed to a passionate feat.

In the year of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Nicholas II and the year of remembrance of the tragic death of the Emperor, along with the whole family, we should offer special prayers to the Royal Martyrs, that they, in front of God, intercede for our Fatherland, our people, that never and under no circumstances the civil unrest, contradictions, clashes did not destroy our Fatherland any more, as it was ruined in the terrible revolutionary year of the 20th century. By their prayers the Lord preserves the Russian land, God bless this city and all of you, my dear brothers and sisters, gathered here today to meet the relics of the Holy Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna, who also martyred her life path near Yekaterinburg. We will pray with you during these days and, feeling mutual spiritual support, rush thoughts to the Lord and in his prayers, first of all, to remember our Russian power. Amen".

Believers were given icons of the Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna with the Patriarch's blessing. Then His Holiness Patriarch Kirill descended to the lower church, consecrated in honour of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church. The Primate of the Russian Church performed glorification and read a prayer to the holy Royal Passion-Bearers.

The Holy Royal Passion-Bearers - Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, Tsarevich Alexei, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia took a martyr's death 100 years ago, on the night of July 16-17, 1918 in the basement of the Ipatiev House. In the early 2000s, a church was built on the same location.

In the eastern part of the church there is a mosaic depiction of holy Royal Passion-bearers and loyal subjects: Saint Yevgeny Botkin, as well as Tsar's servant Aloizia Yegorovich Trupp, cook Ivan Kharitonov and the maid Anna Demidova. Above them is the Theodore Icon of the Mother of God. In the western vault depicts the Sovereign Icon of the Mother of God, which was revealed on the same day when the Emperor was forced to leave the throne, and the saints glorified during the reign of Emperor Nicholas Alexandrovich: St. Theodosius of Chernigov, St. Seraphim of Sarov, St. Princess Anna Kashinskaya, saints Joasaph Belgorod, Hermogen Moscow, Pitirim Tambovsky and John Tobolsky.

It took almost a year to create the paintings and mosaics. Particular complexity was represented by mosaic works, since the iconography of all the members of the Imperial Family and their loyal subjects was completely re-developed.

On the right side of the throne in a special reliquary there will be fragments of the Ipatiev House: a brick and a balustrade.

The walls and the floor around the altar were lined with red onyx, which is very symbolic, because the red color on one side symbolizes the martyr blood shed by the Tsar's family and his associates, and on the other hand is the color of the royal scarlet and porphyry, emphasizing the heroic deed of the Royal Passion- who both in royal majesty and in humiliation showed a rare piety and extraordinary spiritual heights.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcXGusMel6g>

### **The Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region's reception of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill**

July 13, 2018 in the House of Sevastyanov - the residence of the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region in Yekaterinburg, was first a meeting of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia with the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Urals Federal District Nikolai N. Tsukanov, the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region Evgeny V. Kuyvashev and the Head of the Yekaterinburg Metropolitan of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Kirill, and it was followed by a reception in the great hall with all the members of the Holy Synod, the top official of Yekaterinburg, and



special guests of the Governor, among them; Olga Nikolaievna Kulikovskaya, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovskiy, and Anna V. Gromova.

Welcoming His Holiness, the Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region E.V. Kuyvashev, in particular, noted: "I remember your words when you said that it is impossible to build a fair society on lies, treachery and murder."

According to the head of the region, the visit of His Holiness to the Urals is another step in the way of building such a society, as it helps to comprehend the tragic past and overcome historical divisions.



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill said - "We know that this story was very difficult: a Civil War that took millions and millions of lives, the division of our people, a multimillion emigration from Russia. We also know what happened later with the peasants, the clergy, many other people, how many sorrows had to be endured ... And then the hardest years of the Great Patriotic War, and even in the post-war period, although the country developed quite intensely, but with all the positive sides there was a rethinking of history in the light of the tragedies of the 20th century, there was no understanding that we are all one people. The tragedy of the murder of the Imperial Family, the tragedy of the Civil War and other divisions of our people, our society should really teach that such a huge multinational country as Russia should in a special way build what is called the civil world. I think this experience of history should help us, modern people, avoid conflicts that could push one significant part of the people against the other. It is quite obvious that by the grace of God the last decades have been marked by the stable development of Russia. We see how the economy is developing, and in this sense it is very interesting for me to come to the Urals, to Yekaterinburg, because Yekaterinburg and the Urals in general are one of the important centers that ensure the economic development of our country. The first impressions are very optimistic, joyful; I am sure that the subsequent impressions will be the same.



We will celebrate this difficult memorable date together with thousands and thousands of people who will come for the same purpose. We will pray for Russia, for our people, and I would like to wholeheartedly wish you, all Yekaterinburg residents, all the residents of the Urals success in the works and, most importantly, the peace of the soul. After all, the concept of happiness is determined not by figures of economic development, although they are important, but by the state of the human soul."

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## The relics of St. Elizabeth were taken to Alapayevsk

On July 14, with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, the ark with a part of the relics of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth, was transported to the monastery in the name of the Church of the New Martyrs and Confessors in Alapayevsk.

Outside the main gate to the monastery the ark with the relics were received by Bishop Methodius, together with Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky. The ark was then carried into the monastery and after a prayer, carried around the mine where Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara was killed.

The ark was then taken into the just completed Church of Feodorovsky Mother of God, which is next to the mine.



After a prayer at the Ark, by Bishop Methodius and the clergy, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky were shown around in the new church, and also went into the alter, as it was not yet consecrated. The church looks beautiful, full of light, a high dome and a wonderful iconostas of white marble, with a mosaic decoration that sparkles in the light.



## The Saint Elizabeth monument in Alapaevsk city

From the monastery at the mine there are 12 km into the city of Alapaevsk, which was the next stop for the Kulikovskys. There they first laid flowers - white lilies - at the monument to Saint Elizabeth on the square in front of the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Archpriest Maxim (Dudarenko), the dean of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, in workman's cloth came to greet the guests. He was busy preparing the cathedral for the next day visit of His Holiness the Patriarch Kirill, while at the same time taking care of the many pilgrims that had already arrived and during the night had been sleeping on the floor in the cathedral.



*The monument to Saint Elizabeth on the square in front of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapaevsk*





Father Maxim took the Kulikovskys to the Holy Trinity Cathedral for a small tour, before they went to the crypt below the church for a prayer, where the Alapaevsk Martyrs were hidden, before taken out of Russia.

After removing the bodies of: October 21, 1918 - F. Remez; Oct 22 - Nun Varvara and Prince V.P. Paley; October 23 - Princes Konstantin and Igor Konstantinovich and Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich; and October 24 - Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Prince John Konstantinovich, from the mine, they were washed, dressed in pure white clothes and placed in wooden coffins, inside of which were cases of roofing iron.

November 1st a funeral liturgy was made at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapaevsk. Then, the bodies were placed in the crypt, arranged in the south side of the altar of the Holy Trinity Cathedral and then the entrance was walled up with bricks.





## The opening of the "Memorial Museum for representatives of the Russian Imperial House. The Field School in the Town of Alapaevsk"

On July 14, the solemn ceremony began with a powerful musical chord of the "I Believe!" prayer performed by the chamber orchestra and the symphony choir of the regional philharmonic society.



*From left - Bishop of Kamensky and Alapaevsky Methodius; Paul and Ludmila Kulikovskiy; and Sergei Grigorevich Beshpalov, Mayor of Alapaevsk (With sunglasses).*

Sitting outside, behind the former Field School, the guests besides listening to the speeches and singing, could look at the one-story building of the Zemstvo school of red brick built in 1913-1915 on a field outside the city of Alapaevsk. Now it is in the historical quarter of the central part of the city.

May 20, 1918, by order of the Ural Council of Workers', Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies, the Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, and Princes (sons of Grand Duke Konstantin) John, Constantine, Igor and Prince Vladimir Pavlovich Paley (son of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich) were brought to Alapaevsk. The prisoners were placed in the hastily vacated building



of the Field School. They were allocated three rooms, where they put iron beds, modest tables and chairs taken from the local hospital. Two more small rooms led to the kitchen and the dwelling for the servants. The guards - Alapayevsk Chekists, commissars, Bolshevik deputies and Red Army soldiers - settled in a room near the entrance to the building.

The first month the members of the Romanov family were allowed to visit the cemetery church of St. Catherine, the library, to walk around the area adjacent to the school, to work in the garden in the school yard (Elizabeth Feodorovna especially liked to plant vegetables and flowers). Thanks to their efforts, the cleaned school yard turned into a cozy corner for rest.

The prisoners dined together in the room of Grand Duke Sergey Mikhailovich, with the exception of Elizabeth Feodorovna, who was eating separately in her room, and there she also drew and prayed for a long time. At the evening prayer, all gathered in the room of Elizabeth Feodorovna.

From June 21, the regime for prisoners was toughened: they reduced the food ration, took away all property and money (the values were then sold through the Alapaevsky consumer society), often held night checks, searches. Almost all the servants of the members of the Imperial House by this time were taken from Alapaevsk, only the nun Varvara Yakovleva and Fedor Semenovitch Remez stayed.

On the night of July 18, 1918, under the pretext of moving to a safer place, the Romanovs were taken towards the Upper Sinyachikha, to the abandoned Nizhne-Selimskaya mine. The captives were killed and thrown into a deep mine.



The building of the School until now has preserved its original appearance and interior layout of premises and fulfilled a direct purpose - until November 1, 2017, an elementary school worked there. Since 2003, a Memorial Room of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna functioned in the building. The public school naturally became the center of attraction of pilgrims and tourists, which influenced the decision on the museumification of the building.

The increased interest in the city of Alapaevsk have also resulted in a large scale improvement of the main areas and the roads to and in the city, which makes one feel better there, than just two years ago.



"There have never been so many distinguished guests from all over the world. Never before the provincial city of Alapaevsk had been known to the whole world, as now, in the year of the 100th anniversary of the tragedy - when members of the Romanovs' House were thrown alive into the mine. This event changed the course of history.

For many years the memory of the members of the Imperial House was carefully hidden, blotted out and destroyed, so the opening of the museum can be considered a great act of historical justice." - said the Deputy Governor Pavel Krekov.

- "The path of spiritual purification and the return of grateful memory is long and difficult. The opening of the museum in Alapaevsk is not just another event, this event, we hope, will really affect the quality of the spiritual path that all our people are going through. The result of this soul labor we see today here."

He thanked everyone who put their hands, mind and heart to the creation of the museum - who repaired the building, searched for unique artefacts, designed the expositions - Anna Vitalievna Gromova and her co-workers, employees of the regional museum of local lore, the Ministry of Culture, people associated with the Church. This will change our whole life. He wished everyone to come into contact with the real story more often.



The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Sverdlovsk Region, Lyudmila Babushkina - "Today we are talking about a tragic date - the 100th anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family. And it was not by chance that this very day the branch of the Regional Museum of Local Lore was opened - in the former the Alapaevsk Field School. Caring, kindness and mercy are those postulates that will allow us to prevent a repetition of the tragedy. Together we must do everything possible to live in harmony and peace. The whole life of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna proves that charity has no nationality, does not depend on citizenship - this is the highest spiritual message. Opening of the Field School in Alapaevsk, consecration of churches - the whole complex of "Tsar Days" is held under the patronage of the governor Evgeny Kuyvashev. The participation of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia attaches particular importance to the events in the Sverdlovsk Region. This is the history of Russia, it is important for the moral and spiritual fastening of our people".



The chairman of Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society Anna Gromova noted that the death of the Sovereign and his family, all 18 members of the Romanov Imperial House in 1918, opened a terrible list of many thousands of victims throughout the country:

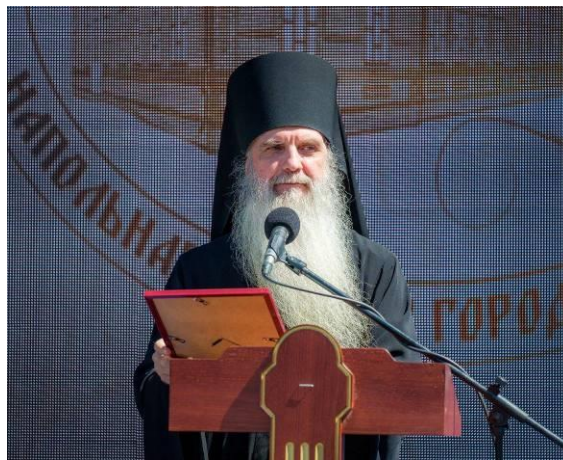
- "But now the perennial wandering in the darkness of our people has ended, they have shed light." We have clear goals and objectives. Today we must work tirelessly to ensure that our museum is the focus of conscience and truth."





Bishop of Kamensky and Alapaevsky Methodius expressed the opinion of many people involved in the creation of the museum:

- "It's finished! We have long hoped, and worked. And finally the waiting is over. 100 years ago, the Grand Duchess and her companions were imprisoned here. Tens of years passed, and here a monastery was founded, and the school also worked like a school. Today the school has become a museum, and the monastery has become a monastery. It is quite obvious that the Grand Duchess arranged not only the Marfo-Mariinsky monastery, but also this monastery. It's her doing. What happens on earth is always controlled from Heaven. These past decades have shrunk in one day - tomorrow a new church in the monastery will be consecrated by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.



The union of the state museum and the Orthodox monastery symbolizes the unity that Elizabeth Feodorovna revealed. She was a righteous woman when she was the wife of the Grand Duke. She remained a statesman when she wore monastic clothes. The monastery and the museum show it symbolically - there is no fence between them. Also there was no obstacle in the soul of the Grand Duchess between state activity and the service of mercy and prayer - to God. I hope that in the future we will be able to find this harmony of the museum and monastery, as harmoniously combined in the soul of the Grand Duchess. I think that this is our task and the demand of the Grand Duchess, that we live in peace and harmony. "

Further, Vladika thanked everyone who was involved in the creation of the museum and presented awards of the Kamenskaya diocese.

Applause was greeted by all the participants at the opening ceremony of the museum with the idea of renaming the (Sverdlovsk) region, expressed by Olga Nikolaevna Kulikovskaya-Romanova.

Paul E. Kulikovsky said - *"Today I am a very happy, as a wish I had, and which I stated in public upon my visit here two years ago has come true.*

*The Field School is turned into a museum in the memory of Alapaevsk Martyrs - Thank God!*

*It is opening here on the eve of the 100 years anniversary of the great tragedy that happened here.*

*But it's opening is also a prelude to the most anticipated event this year - the Tsar Days - in which we celebrate the 100 years anniversary of our new martyrs - the Royal Passion Bearers and the Alapaevsk Martyrs.*



*It is wonderful to see the authorities, the church and private organizations working together in a symphony, achieving great results, that will be for the benefit of the society for a long time.*



*I see Anna Vitalievna, head of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, as the conductor of this orchestra.*

*With her vision, ideas, energy, and tireless efforts, she is creating a team and finding the support needed to complete big and amazing tasks.*

*We have now seen it many times, latest in April this year, where in Tobolsk in the Governor's House opened the Museum of the Family of Emperor Nicholas II, where she also conducted the troika to a magnum opus.*

*Speaking of the Governor's House in Tobolsk, it is the last place where lived the Royal Passion-Bearers, before their martyrdom - which is still existing!*

*The building here is also the last one the Alapaevsk Martyrs lived in, before meeting their martyrdom. Here, 100 years ago, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, nun Varvara (Yakolev), Grand Duke Sergei Michaelovich, Princes of Imperial Blood John Konstantinovich, Konstantin Konstantinovich (Jr.), Igor Konstantinovich, Prince Vladimir Pavlovich Paley and Feodor Semenovich Remez, had their last meal, made their prayers, before they were taken away, to an abandoned mine, and killed.*

*I think, it is not only a miracle that the building is still standing - having survived a cruel regime that enjoyed erasing from the face of our Motherland not only members of my family, but all things related to my family.*

*It is a blessing that we now live in such times, where we can turn buildings into museums in the memory of the victims of this godless regime.*

*It is my hope, that this museum will not be just a brief enjoyable experience for its visitors, but will educate them about what happened 100 years ago, about the history of the Romanov family, history of Russia, and give them a lasting impression, that will make them better citizens of our great country.*

*It is my hope, that this museum will unite, rather than divide people. Will facilitate dialog in tours, in meetings, round tables, conferences, which help to clarify the meaning of the spiritual feat of the true sons and daughters of the country who gave their lives for our motherland and Christ.*

*It is my hope, that this museum will give the visitors a lasting memory of the Romanov family, who left a significant mark in the life of our country. And will realize that my ancestors greatest happiness in this world was in loving and serving the country. Which I hope will inspire many to do the same!*

*I thank all who worked on realizing this project of the museum, and for their efforts in preserving the memory of the members of the Russian Imperial Family."*

*Of course, the hearts of all the participants in the ceremony filled with joy, when eight white doves rose to the sky at the end of the ceremony.*



After cutting the traditional ribbon at the front entrance, the guests entered the transformed Field School.



Inside, one immediately see a big cross at the end of the hall. It is a 3-meter tall copy of the memorial cross-monument to Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, established in the Kremlin, based on the sketches of V. M. Vasnetsov.



The exposition of the museum presents memorial items that reveal the deep inner peace of the Alapaevsky martyrs. The halls tell about the military feat, loyalty, friendships, family relations, charitable activities of the representatives of the Romanov Imperial House.





Among the unique items transferred from private collections, visitors can see, a part of the coffin lid in which the relics of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna were transported from Alapaevsk to the Holy Land, a part of the wedding service of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, the famous book "The Martyrs of the Christian Debt" with the signature and records of its author Hegumen Serafim (Kuznetsov), original orders and regimental insignia, uniforms, and many photographs of the Alapaevsk prisoners.

The museum will, together with the museum in the Governor's house in Tobolsk, occupy an important place in the national project "The Imperial Route", which unites places of memory of representatives of



the Russian Imperial House. The route was developed by the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

The museum is established as a branch of the Sverdlovsk Regional Museum of Local Lore. The work on the creation of the museum was carried out jointly by the Ministry of Culture of the Sverdlovsk Region, the Sverdlovsk Regional Museum, the Ural Institute of Museum Projects, the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society and other organizations.

The museum's exposition was created with the support of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Ministry of Culture of the Sverdlovsk Region, the Military History Museum of Artillery, the Engineer and Signal Corps, the Russian State Historical Archive, the Russian State Military Historical Archive, the Russian State Archive of Cinema and Photo Documents, the State Archives of the Sverdlovsk Region, the educational center "Tsarsky", the Museum of Wooden Architecture "Nizhnyaya Sinyachikha", the library's collection of the city of Yekaterinburg, the Union of Russian Filokartists, private collectors from St. Petersburg, Moscow, Yekaterinburg and Alapayevsk, including A.V. Gromova, D.K. Matlin, A.B. Sirotkina and others.

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDQEWESMaEE>











*In the evening of July 14th, Valeria Nodelman, a special correspondent of Izvestia, made an interview with Paul E. Kulikovsky. It was published in the newspaper Izvestia on July 20th. We bring it here:*

### **"It is a great honor if your ancestors are ranked as Saints"**

The great-great-grandson of Alexander III Pavel Kulikovsky - about the consequences of regicide for society, the attitude towards the canonization of their ancestors and the cultural revival of the country

In Yekaterinburg, the XVII International Festival of Orthodox Culture "Tsar Days" continues. This year it is held especially widely in connection with the centennial anniversary of the murder of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family. July 16-18, 1918 in Yekaterinburg, the Bolsheviks killed the Tsar himself, his wife Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, their children - Olga, Maria, Tatiana, Anastasia and Tsarevich Alexei. July 18 in Alapaevsk were drowned alive in a mine Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, Grand Duke Sergey Mikhailovich and Princes of the imperial blood Igor, John and Konstantin Konstantinovich, as well as the son of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich Vladimir Paley. Some of them died for several days. Emperor Nicholas II, his wife, children and Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna were later canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church.

*- What does it mean for you personally to participate in the "Tsar Days" in Yekaterinburg and the fact of the murder of the Imperial Family 100 years ago?*

- I came to Yekaterinburg for these memorial events in the first place, in order to honour the memory of my family members. Usually July 16-17 we spent in St. Petersburg, in the Peter and Paul Cathedral, where the tomb of the Romanovs is located. But since the centenary of these terrible events is celebrated, this year my wife and I decided to come to Yekaterinburg and take part in the "Tsar Days". But these days we not only mourn. We also remember that 100 years ago our relatives were born as martyrs, became saints.



We wanted to see with our own eyes the people who participate in the "Tsar Days", talk with them, find out why they do it, what motivates them. In addition, it was important for us to participate in the opening of the Museum of Remembrance of the representatives of the Russian Imperial House "The Field School in Alapaevsk". We know the people who took part in this project, who worked on this museum, sought to create it. And we decided to support them, and to speak at the opening.

*- What do you think that Russia lost with the murder of the Imperial Family?*

- A lot. It is difficult for me to set some priorities between what was lost. But first of all, I think, it was honour. Many officers, representatives of the nobility, violated the oath given to the Sovereign. And in general, the killing of innocent people, without trial and verdict, is a violation of the moral law, the loss of humanity. Transition of the moral border.

If it is possible to kill the Tsar - you can kill anyone, without trial and judgement. Murder in the Ipatiev House opened the lock and led to a wave of repression. As a result, a lot of people of high intellect and high culture were exterminated. It was a serious blow to society. It led to fratricidal Civil War, emigration, repression. Russia lost and lost, and lost.

A big topic is the matter of faith. By 1917, many people lost faith in the Church. Church values devalued. Of course, with the murder of the Imperial Family much was lost in regard to faith. The Tsar was not simply the head of state, he was the head of the Church.



Now much is being done to restore morality. Yes, some people still remain in the world that was created by the new morality of the Bolsheviks. A lot of people do not think about their civil duties at all. They just live in some small circle, with their own morals. But this group is decreasing. More becomes those who think about society, wants to improve it, restore lost moral principles.

For me, perhaps the most significant moment was the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty on the Russian throne in 2013. Then they restored the Romanov obelisk in the Alexander Garden by the Moscow Kremlin. Instead of the names of the leaders of the communist movement, the names of the Romanov Tsars were restored on it. People start to talk differently about the Romanovs, and in general about what happened in Russia before 1917. They more widely began to look at the entire Russian history. Soon after, a monument to the heroes of the First World War was opened. Then a monument to Alexander I - in the Alexander Garden near the Kremlin wall. This is a series of events that show that attitudes in society have changed at a serious level.

*- How does the Romanov family evaluate the canonization of their ancestors? And how important is this for you personally?*

- Most of us, of course, were happy that Nicholas II and his family members were canonized. It is a great honour if your ancestors or relatives are ranked as saints. But our family tree is not limited only to the Romanov family. I can trace my genealogy three thousand years back. And there were also saints there. Yaroslav the Wise, Vladimir, Olga - they all are related to us. But there we are talking about a thousand-year history, about distant ancestors, but here about a hundred-year period, and it's very close. Three or four generations ago, and immediately the whole family became Saints.

I do not know if this is a special responsibility for us. But this stimulates us to more activity, we have in addition to birthdays, angel days now also Saint dates, which we honour and take part in their celebration.

*- What do you like from the cultural life of Russia? Do you see positive dynamics?*

- Growth in culture is difficult to assess. Because it is a broad concept. Now in Russia a lot of new things are happening. I cannot say that I like it all, but it's good that people experiment in sculpture, in painting, including street art. Experiments are also conducted in theatrical art. For example, we were in Perm in June and listened to the amazing Currentzis chorus there - a performance with theatrical elements. Such a choir-theater. It makes a very strong impression.

I can also give an example of a concert-requiem in memory of the 100th anniversary of the murder of the Imperial Family, which was created by Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeev). There was a choir, beautiful music, recitations and reading of the text of archival materials, performance of actors. In parallel, there was a documentary. Such different genres have merged into one action, which affects a variety of senses. This is an intellectual load, with music for the pleasure of hearing, and video.

In culture there is definitely a change of generations. The masters of Soviet art are leaving. A new youth has already grown up, which speaks a different language, which has a new look. Here is another interesting example. The day before we left for Yekaterinburg, July 12, we were at the State Historical Museum in Moscow at the opening of a small exhibition, also dedicated to the Romanovs. So, the curators of this exhibition were very young. And yet, they made a very interesting, professional exposition with a fresh presentation of the exhibits. It turned out unusually and beautifully.



**The Primate of the Russian Church consecrated the church in honour of the Feodorovsky Icon of the Mother of God in the monastery of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church in Alapaevsk**

On July 15, 2018, on the 7th Sunday after Pentecost, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia and the permanent members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church arrived in the city of Alapayevsk in the Sverdlovsk Region, where commemorative events were organized in the framework of the "Tsar Days".

The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church visited the monastery of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church (Kamensk Eparchy), built near the Nizhne-Selimskaya Mine, where on the night of July 18, 1918, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, the nun Varvara (Yakovleva), Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, the Princes of the imperial blood, John, Constantine and Igor Konstantinovich, Prince Vladimir Paley and Fedor Remez, were killed.



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill officiated at the great consecration of the church in honour of Feodorovsky icon of the Mother of God on the territory of the monastery and led the Divine Liturgy in the newly-consecrated church.

The construction of the church started in 2008, took 10 years, and ends in the year of the 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of the martyrs Elizabeth and Varvara.

In the church stood the ark with a part of the relics of the Martyr Elizabeth, brought from the Saint-Elizabeth-founded Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow.

His Holiness was co-served by Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine; Metropolitan Juvenaly of Krutitsy and Kolomna; Metropolitan of Chisinau and All Moldova Vladimir; Metropolitan of Astana and Kazakhstan Alexander, head of the Metropolitan district in the Republic of Kazakhstan; Metropolitan Vikentiy of Tashkent and Uzbekistan, head of the Central Asian metropolitan district; Metropolitan Varsonofi of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, manager of the affairs of the Moscow Patriarchate; Metropolitan of Minsk and Pavel Zaslavsky, Patriarchal Exarch of All





Belarus; Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations; Metropolitan of Ekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Cyril; Archbishop Sergiy of Solnechnogorsk, head of the Administrative Secretariat of the Moscow Patriarchate; Bishop of Kamensk and Alapaevsky Methodius; Bishop Evgeny of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansk; Bishop of Serov and Krasnoturinsky Alexis; Hieromonk Kirill (Korytko), secretary of the diocesan administration of the Yekaterinburg diocese; Hegumen Moses (Pilats), rector of the monastery of the New Martyrs and confessors of the Russian Church; the inhabitants of the monastery of the New Martyrs and confessors of the Russian Church in a sacred place, the clergy of the Yekaterinburg metropolis.

The divine service was attended by: the plenipotentiary representative of the President in the Urals Federal District N.N. Tsukanov; First Deputy Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region A.V. Orlov; member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation E.E. Rossel; Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society A.V. Gromova; the leadership of the Sverdlovsk region and the municipality of Alapaevsk. Among the prayers were representatives of the House of Romanovs: O.N. Kulikovskaya-Romanova, P.E. Kulikovsky and L.A. Kulikovskaya.



*From left - Paul and Ludmila Kulikovskiy; Anna V. Gromova; and Svetlana N. Uchuykina, Head of Culture, Sverdlovsk Region.*

Liturgical chants were performed by the choir of the monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers on Ganina Yama (regent A.Y. Lebedev).



A live broadcast of the Patriarchal Divine Services was on TV channel "Soyuz". Believers who did not get into the crowded church watched the broadcast on a large screen installed at the western gates of the church.

A petition was included in the funeral litany: "We pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased servants of God, in the place of the seven slain, Grand Duke Sergey Mikhailovich, the Princes of the imperial blood of Igor, John and Konstantin Konstantinovich, Prince Vladimir, the servant of God Feodor and all, killed by the atheists; died in camps, in dungeons and in bonds from wounds, diseases and the death of those who died; in the bitter works of the tortured and all in the exploit of the confessional who labored and about every one to forgive them every sin against the free and unwilling."

After the special litany, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church offered a prayer for peace in Ukraine.

At the end of the service, His Holiness turned to the believers with a sermon.

*"Your Beatitude! Your Eminence and Eminence! Dear fathers, brothers and sisters! I congratulate you all on Sunday! By coincidence of historical circumstances, we had the opportunity to make a Divine Liturgy here and consecrate the church in honour of the Feodorovskaya icon of the Mother of God associated with the Romanov dynasty, a church that is next to the site of the death of the Holy Martyr Elizabeh, the nun Varvara and other representatives of the Royal Family.*

*It is difficult to imagine looking at this place on this already almost completely buried mine, the fear and terror that engulfed innocent people who were led to this precipice to be thrown down. And the hand did not stop! But before the executioners were not criminals, but people who did not violate any law that did not pose any threat, because they refused all political struggle, from any claims to power. The only reason Elizabeth Feodorovna stayed in Russia and did not go abroad, where she could live safely with her relatives, is that she could not leave the country that became her second Motherland, the Church she served as faith and truth, having established the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy and having taught so many Russian people to unite their Orthodox faith with real good deeds.*



*Reflecting on this tragedy, I thought, why did the executioners not shoot Saint Elizabeth? A terrible execution, but still an instant death ... Why did this fragile woman in monastic clothes have to be dumped alive into this deep pit? Why did you need to drop all the others alive? Why was it necessary to throw grenades without even knowing whether people will perish from them or will suffer suffering from wounds? No revolutionary impulse, no desire for social justice, no struggle with the exploiters - nothing that was declared as the cause of the revolution, it is impossible to justify this insane diabolical malice. But you can understand, especially us, Christians. The Lord reveals a lot to us through our faith - it is enough to remember Christ himself the Savior. Why was He crucified? For whom He was a threat? What evil deeds did He do? He did not offend one man, but healed, raised from sickness, resurrected ... Thousands of people revered before His deeds, but the hand of persecutors did not stop, sinless tortured, beaten and bloodied crucified.*

*I think that after the Calvary sacrifice a very important part of our church tradition was the understanding of the sacrifice as the atonement of sins. The Lord through the sacrifice of the cross redeemed the sins of the whole*



*human race, because He was both God and Man. But everyone who passes through suffering, being innocent, also makes a sacrifice to the Lord. And, probably, not only about his sins, he makes a sacrifice, like a lamb undefiled, hardened by the forces of evil. Such a sacrifice was brought also by the Martyr Elisabeth, as a pure aggressor, slaughtered here by those who were burning with anger and whose life, dark and terrible, was incompatible with the light that radiated the martyr and the people who died with her.*

*Today in ordinary Sunday reading (Romans 15: 1-7) we find the words of the apostle Paul: "Hope is affirmed by patience." In general, the connection between patience and hope is a very powerful thought that the apostle Paul conducts through a number of his texts. And this is not accidental, because without hope there can be no patience, and without patience there can be no hope. Man tolerates, because he hopes. Even a person sentenced to a terrible illness often suffers this disease, because he hopes, and as often happens, that hope does not shame!*

*What was the hope of the holy martyr? After all, she was a clever, really thinking person. She understood that they were thrown into this terrible mine and pelted with grenades, not in order to lower the ladder and save them. She understood that this was the end. The Holy Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna died an agonizing death from hunger and thirst, being undoubtedly wounded, since it was impossible not to get injured by falling into the mine, and not to suffer from the fragments of grenades thrown in there. But the Holy Martyr had hope, although she understood that her hope was not connected with earthly life. Earthly life remained there, above, she was already on the road to a different life and believed in this life. And her hope was not confounded, so that the holy Martyr Elisabeth was still strong enough to tear off her monastic clothes and bandage the wounds to those who suffered with her in this terrible mine.*

*I would like to sincerely thank all those who worked hard to create this monastery. And I thank everyone who contributed, who worked so that the memory of the holy Martyr Elisabeth, the nun Varvara and other fallen here on this earth, was preserved in our people and in our grateful memory.*

*Through the prayers of the holy Royal Passion-bearers, the Martyrs Elisabeth and the nun Barbara, and all the slain, let the Lord preserve the Russian land and keep the Orthodox faith in our hearts, which gives us hope, but does not disappoint hope. Therefore, we believe in the further revival of our people, our Church, in strengthening the spiritual life of people, without which there can not be the fullness of human life and there can not be real human happiness. Fulfilled by this hope, we will, with doubled strength, serve the achievement of the goal that today faces our Church, for we are heirs of the holy new martyrs and confessors of the Russian Church. They from our Golgothas gave us a spiritual mandate to take care of our people, about its salvation, about its spiritual life, and seeing all of you, visiting virtually all the ends of the Russian land and observing the spiritual revival of the people, I realize that we are now on a very important stretch of historical existence, with which the revival of our faith and our Fatherland is bound to be bound. Amen."*

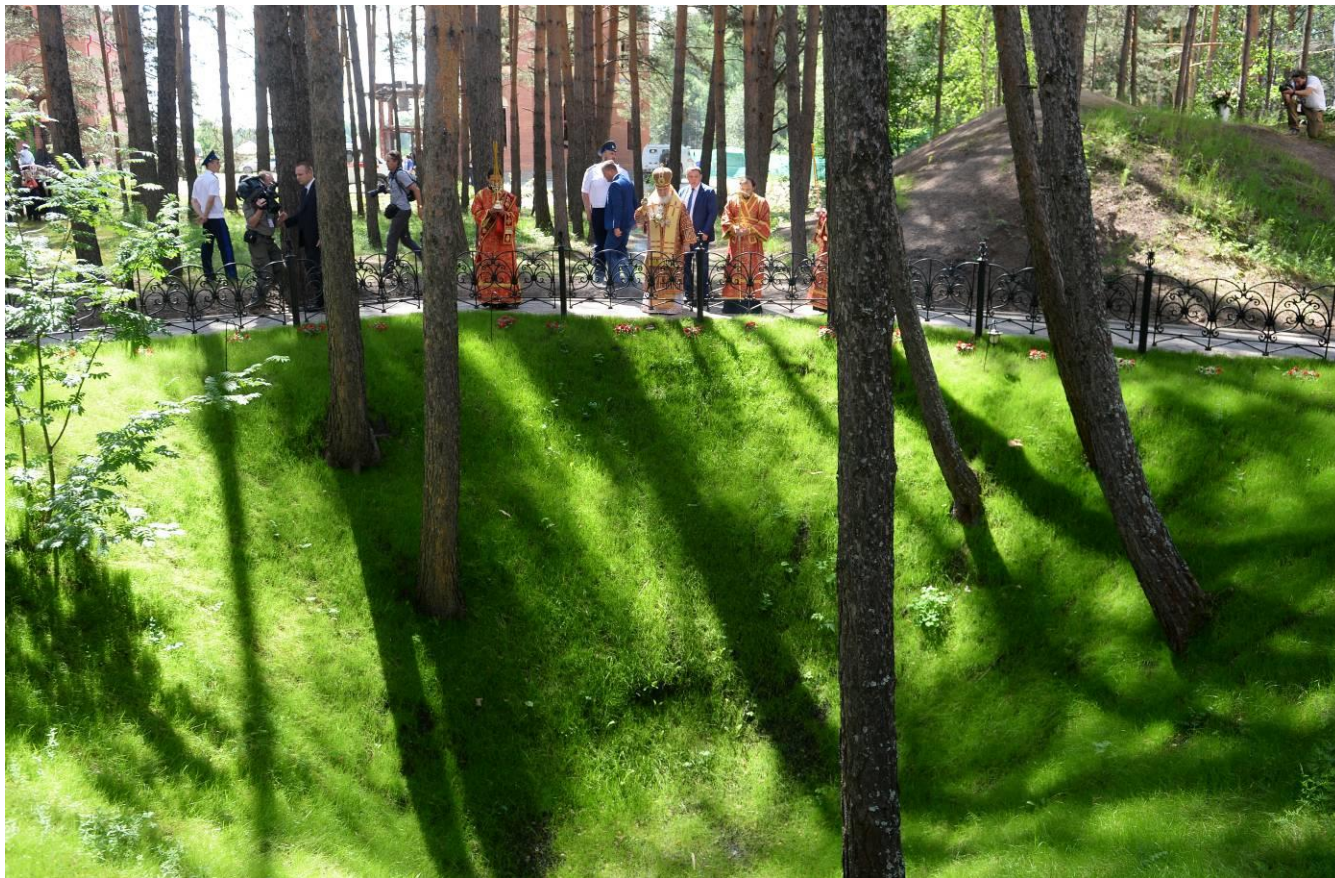
At the end of the divine service, a procession was held with the relics of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth to the former Nizhne-Selinskaya mine, where on the night of July 18, 1918, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna Romanova, the nun Varvara (Yakovleva) and the Princes of the Romanov dynasty were thrown in alive. The ark with the relics was placed at the mine.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia performed the funeral litany.

The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church performed glorification and read a prayer to the martyrs Elisabeth and Barbara.







Then His Holiness the Patriarch laid a bouquet of white roses to the cross installed at the place of execution. Flowers were also placed by the permanent members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, bishops and honoured guests.

Bishop Kamensky Methodius greeted His Holiness the Patriarch and presented him an icon of Feodore of the Mother of God, an icon of St. Elizabeth Feodorovna and a painting by artist A.V. Efremova - "In the Holy Elizabethan Monastery. Alapaevsk".





As a gift to the newly consecrated church, His Holiness passed the icon of Christ the Savior. His Holiness Patriarch Kirill handed over to the Metropolitan of Yekaterinburg Kirill and Bishop Methodius of Kamensk, pectoral crosses made to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the restoration of the Patriarchate in the Russian Orthodox Church and the election of St. Tikhon to the Patriarchal See.

In the gift of the Kamenskaya diocese, the Primate handed over the 15th Holy Gospels.

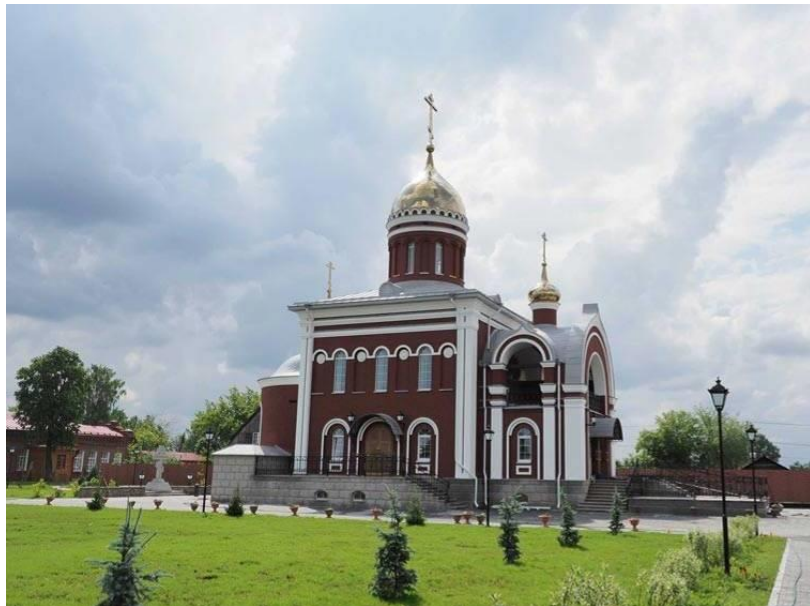
In consideration of the help of the Yekaterinburg Metropolia and in connection with the 100th anniversary of the feat of the holy Royal Passion-Bearers, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill awarded the member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, E.E. Rossel the Patriarchal sign of the church-builder.

All the participants of the divine service were presented with icons of the Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna with the Patriarch's blessing.

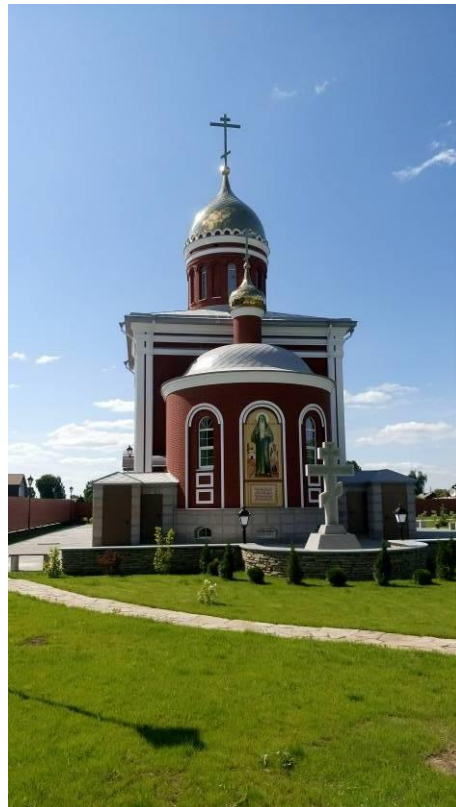
Videos - 1) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=PfkW07Y2KdA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=PfkW07Y2KdA)  
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRaAH7hLlV4>

### **His Holiness Patriarch Kirill consecrated the church in honour of St. Elizabeth in the Elizabeth Monastery in Alapaevsk**

July 15, 2018, after the Liturgy in the church in honour of Feodore's icon of the Mother of God in the monastery of the New Martyrs and Confessors, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill and the permanent members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, accompanied by Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye and the Bishop of Kamensky and Alapaevsky Methodius visited the convent in honor of the Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna in Alapaevsk. The monastery was founded in 1998 near the historical building of the Field School.



The construction of the church of St. Elizabeth began in 2015. The charitable assistance in the first phase of construction was provided by the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. April 7, 2017 the abbess of the monastery was appointed nun Smaragda (Zykov). In 2017, the Ural Mining and Metallurgical Company took over the financing of the construction of the church.



The Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church performed the rite of the small consecration of the newly built church in honour of the holy Martyr Elizabeth on the territory of the monastery.



Liturgical chants were performed by the choir of the Sredneuralsk women's monastery, the regent is the nun Vera (Poghosyan) .

At the end of the divine service, Abbess Smaragda greeted the Primate of the Russian Church and presented as a gift to His Holiness the Akathist St. Elizabeth, published in Alapaevsk.

Video - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=4&v=jl3xOtoQavQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=jl3xOtoQavQ)

### **His Holiness Patriarch Kirill examined the exposition of the museum in the Field School**

The excursion to the museum for His Holiness was conducted by the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society, and the Deputy Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Anna Gromova.



Video - 1) <https://youtu.be/Pg0IPGwQayc>  
2) <https://youtu.be/WSQgbQsCGiY>



## His Holiness Patriarch Kirill visited the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapaevsk

On July 15, 2018, after visiting the Elizabeth Monastery and the Museum in the former Field School in Alapaevsk, Patriarch Kirill and the permanent members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, accompanied by Metropolitan Kirill and Bishop Methodius, inspected the Cathedral Square of the city, where the Monument to the Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna is located, and then proceeded to the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Alapaevsk.

At the gates of the Cathedral the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church were greeted by Archpriest Maxim (Dudarenko), the Dean of the cathedral, and the clergy of the cathedral.



After a brief prayer, Archpriest Maxim Dudarenko greeted His Holiness on behalf of the parishioners and clergy of the cathedral and presented His Holiness with a picture of the Holy Trinity Cathedral made by Mark Kramorenko.

As a gift to the cathedral, the Primate of the Russian Church donated the icon of the martyr Hermogen, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

Then His Holiness Patriarch Kirill and members of the Holy Synod visited the crypt behind the altar of the cathedral - the site of the original burial of the Martyr Elizabeth and the other Alapaevsk Martyrs.



**On July 16, the great-great-grandson of Emperor Alexander III Paul Kulikovsky and his wife visited B.N. Yeltsin Center**

16 July. Yeltsin Center - Paul Eduardovich took an active part in the "Tsarist Days" that took place in Yekaterinburg, but he found time for visiting the Presidential Center of Boris N. Yeltsin. Paul Kulikovsky visited the Museum not for the first time - during this visit, a special attention of the guest was attracted by a photograph of Emperor Nicholas II with his wife and children, a frame which was made in the Moscow department of the studio of Faberge. This photo is presented in the Boris N. Yeltsin Museum in the "History of One Exhibit" department.



- I like the Yeltsin Museum, it's fantastic, - Paul Kulikovsky shared his impressions in an interview for the site of the Presidential Center BN. Yeltsin. - It is not only modern, it features an interesting exposition, part of which is devoted to the history of the Romanovs and their tragedy, and one can also trace the history connected with Yeltsin. For me, this is the historical period in which I participated, this immersion in Russian history, not a millennial, but comparatively recent. And it's very interesting.

The era of Boris Yeltsin was very difficult, I do not go into political details, but the decision to participate in the burial of the Romanovs in 1998 was very difficult for Yeltsin.

In the end Yeltsin decided to take part in the burial and delivered a very strong speech. What he said touched the hearts of many people and was very important not only for our family, but also for many Russians. Quotations from this speech we use in our speeches, comments and our journal "Romanov News". We are very grateful to Yeltsin. In our family we remember him very well. When he worked in Sverdlovsk, he had to destroy the House of Ipatiev, it was sad, but forgivable, because it was not his decision. And we honor the memory of Yeltsin in the museum, which I now visit for the second time.



- *Yekaterinburg is a special place for you because of the tragedy that has occurred with your family. What did you feel?*

- I experienced strong emotions after visiting Yekaterinburg. First of all, this is the place where members of my family were killed, they were killed not only in Yekaterinburg, but also in Alapaevsk. However, murders of members of the Imperial Family occurred also in St. Petersburg, where among others the Emperor Alexander II was killed by terrorists, and Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, the husband of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, was killed in Moscow. In general, we can say, that the Romanovs were



killed not only in Yekaterinburg. But Yekaterinburg is a holy place. And I experience mixed emotions here, on the one hand, sadness, because the Tsar was killed here, but on the other hand joy, because he became a saint here.

- According to the latest information, the remains of members of the Imperial Family, found near Yekaterinburg, are genuine. What do you think of it?

- I also believe it is so. I participated in the burial of the remains in the Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg in 1998 and I was sure that it was the remains of the Emperor. And now, after a while, we have the results of the second official examination of the remains, and, of course, we are now waiting for the decision of the Church. In our family, Nicholas II was always venerated as a saint.

### ***A gift to President Yeltsin - But from whom?***

In the exhibition of gifts to President Yeltsin, is on the 100 years anniversary of the murder of the Imperial Family, and 20 years since the burial in Sts Peter and Paul in St. Petersburg, exhibited a photo of the Imperial Family in a Faberge frame.

The picture was taken in 1899 in honor of the birthday of Grand Duchess Maria Nicholaevna and is in itself not rare, but the frame is a Faberge, which makes it special, and in addition it was presented to President Boris Yeltsin.



*Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky with Dina Sorokina,  
Director of Yeltsin Center Museum*

The rare exhibit was given to the "Yeltsin Center" by the widow of the first Russian president, Naina Yeltsin. The photo and frame are exhibited for the first time.

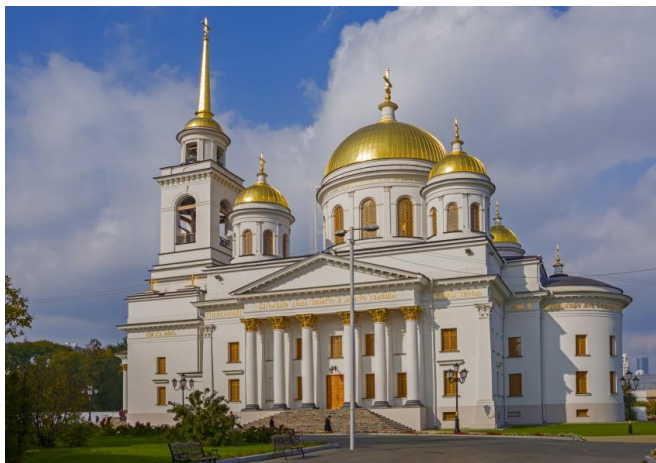
However, the museum have no information about who presented this gift to Yeltsin and when. It is assumed it was shortly after 1998.

Do you have any information related to this gift? - Then the Yeltsin center would be very interested in hearing from you.

## The restored Church of "Joy of All Who Sorrow" in Alexander-Nevsky Novo-Tikhvinsky Women's Monastery

On July 16, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovskiy visited the Alexander-Nevsky Novo-Tikhvinsky Women's Monastery, to present to the nuns material for a coming exhibition and a copy of the book with the memories of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna - "25 Chapters of my life".

First the guests went to the Cathedral of Alexander Nevsky, to the main relics there and then looked at the painting on display - the Icon-epitaph "Farewell of the sisters of the monastery with the Abbess Taisia and the view of the Novo-Tikhvinsky Women's Monastery".



On the top - the view of the monastery at the beginning of the XIX century.

In the middle - the life of Taisia and the list of imperial gifts to her.  
Below - the farewell of the sisters to the abbess.

December 31, 1809 by order of Emperor Alexander I, in Yekaterinburg was established Novo-Tikhvinsky monastery, the first abbess of which was Tatiana Mitrofanova-Kostromina, tonsured under the name of Taisia. November 18, 1826 abbess Taisia died, the founder and first abbess of the monastery. The sisters experienced such sorrow for their spiritual mother that they depicted farewell to her in an unusual picture that can tell more about Mother Taisia than any historical document.

This painting, called an art icon "icon-epitaph," is not made on a tree or canvas, as it often happens, but on copper, a rare, now lost technology. Where it was in the monastery - is unknown, we can assume that in the Abbess' cells.



The sisters of the restored monastery learned about it by accident: while studying the album with the works of the Ural masters, one of the sisters, who bears obedience in the church-historical study, noticed an unusual illustration. The signature was even more interesting to her: "Farewell of the sisters of the monastery with the Abbess Taisia and the view of the Novo-Tikhvin Monastery". It was mentioned nearby that now the icon-epitaph is located in the storerooms of the Yekaterinburg Museum of Fine Arts.

Both texts and picturesque images of the icon-epitaph are a real discovery for the history of the monastery.

Abbess Domnik (Korobeinikov) then invited for lunch together with Bishop Paisiy of Shigrovsky and Mantursky and Bishop Pavel of Xanty-Mansiysky. There the Kulikovskys presented their gifts. The Abbess presented them in return the latest publication of the Monastery - a book about St. Eugene Botkin, "Faithful to God and the Tsar".



Abbess Domnik have now been at the head of the Novo-Tikhvinsky monastery for 10 years. All these years the monastery developed, assuming its former majestic appearance, and continues its way into the future. The sisters have fully restored several pre-revolutionary buildings and two churches (the monastery cathedral is consecrated and now is another church being prepared for consecration, the monastic territory is arranged well, and the most important is a monastic, prayer life is blooming and attracting new sisters.

The new church in the name of the icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow". restored and ready for consecration.







*In the ikonostas are the "Royal Martyrs", "Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II" and "Holy Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara"*





Above, the alter and its interior.  
Left, the big candelier in the church



## On the 100th anniversary of the murder of Nicholas II, his family, and servants

The Divine Liturgy with His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia was scheduled to start at midnight July 16/17.

The special guests were to arrive on the opposite side of the entrance to the Church on Blood. From there they were guided to the area behind the stage where the Divine Liturgy was to take place.

The relatives of the Imperial Family were guided to a small platform next to the stairs in front of the stage, leaving them a good view of both the stage and the believers in front of it.

On the opposite site where a similar platform for the nuns to stand. Among them could be seen Abbess Elizaveta from the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, and Abbess Domnik from the Novo-Tikhvin monastery.

The many media present were presented by the church's press-service one of the special guests at a time on one location. This series of interviews can be seen in the video link - <https://youtu.be/6CiuxKCWC8A>

At the min. 00:45 starts the interview with Paul E. Kulikovsky.

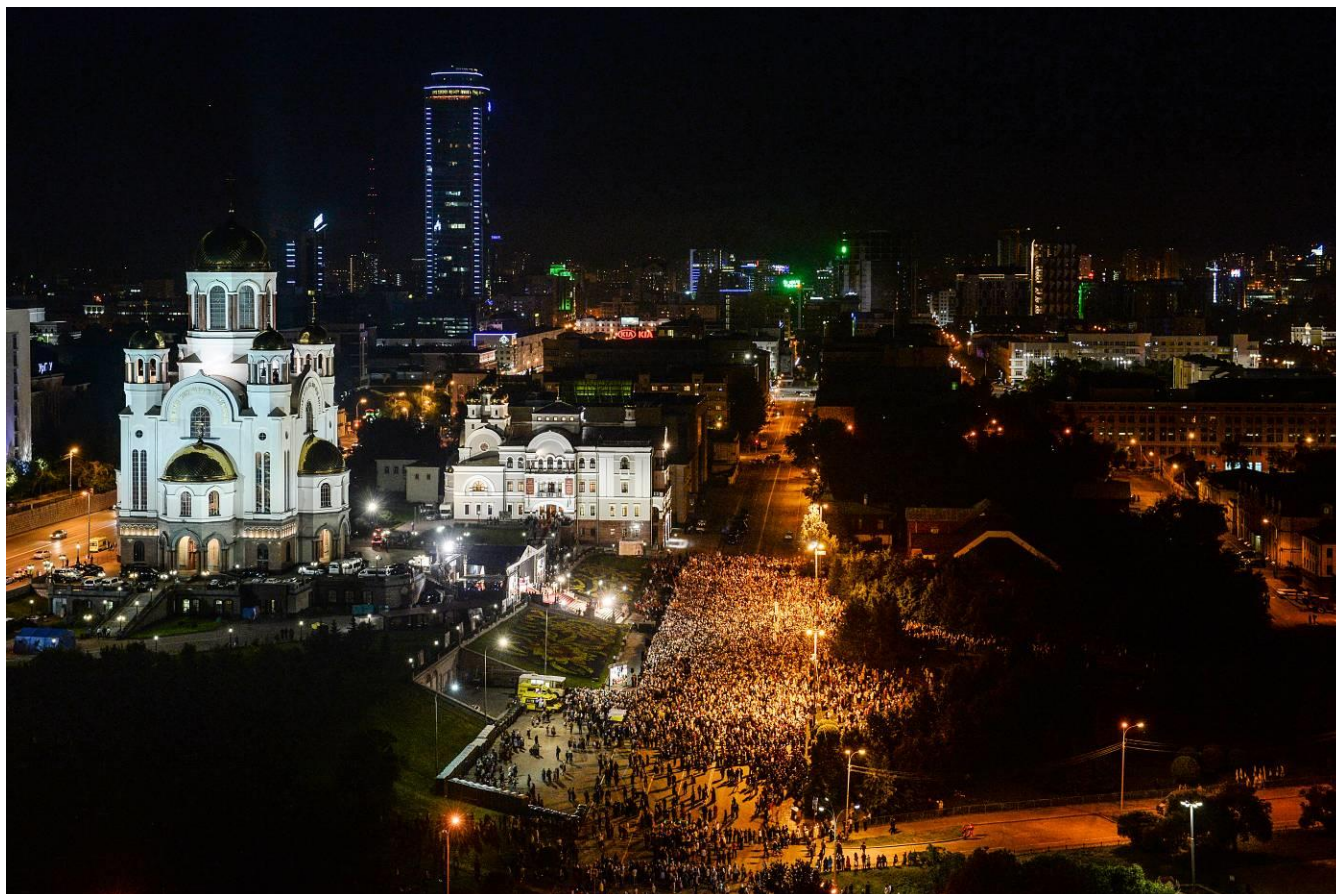
The questions were: "which emotions do you have today", opinion on the investigation of the "Imperial remains", and the conflict between Natalia Poklonskaya and Maria Vladimirovna.





## **The Primate of the Russian Church performed the Liturgy on the square in front of the Church on Blood in Yekaterinburg**

On the night of July 16 to July 17, 2018, on the one hundredth anniversary of the murder of the Imperial Family, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia celebrated the Divine Liturgy on a platform in front of the Church on Blood in honour of All Saints in the Russian Land, in Yekaterinburg. The platform was installed on the site in front of the gates of the lower church where the "Tsar Room" is located - a side-chapel in honour of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers erected on the site of the murder of the Imperial Family.



The divine service on the site of the martyr's death of the holy Royal Passion-bearers and their faithful servants was the culmination of the Tsar's Days in the Yekaterinburg metropolis, dedicated to the centenary of the tragic events.

His Holiness was co-served by Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine; Metropolitan Juvenaly of Krutitsy and Kolomna; Metropolitan of Chisinau and All Moldova Vladimir; Metropolitan of Astana and Kazakhstan Alexander, head of the Metropolitan district in the Republic of Kazakhstan; Metropolitan Vikentiy of Tashkent and Uzbekistan, head of the Central Asian metropolitan district; Metropolitan Varsonofi of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, manager of the affairs of the Moscow Patriarchate; Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations; Metropolitan Veniamin of Vladivostok and Primorye; Metropolitan of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye Kirill; Metropolitan of Ryazan and Mikhailovsky Mark, Chairman of the Financial and Economic Administration of the Moscow Patriarchate; Metropolitan of Chelyabinsk and Miass Nicodemus; Metropolitan of Khanty-Mansiysk and Surgut Paul; Metropolitan of Barnaul and Altai Sergius; Archbishop of Baku and Azerbaijan Alexander; Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Middle America; Archbishop Sergiy of Solnechnogorsk, head of the Administrative Secretariat of the Moscow Patriarchate; Archbishop of Salekhard and Novo-Urengoy Nicholas; Archbishop of Yegoryevsky Matthew; bishop of Daugavpils and Rezeknensky Alexander; Bishop of Seattle, Theodosius; Bishop George of Canberra; Bishop Nestor of Korsun; Bishop of Isilkulsky and Russian-Polansky Theodosius;



bishop Kalachinsky and Muromtsevsky Peter; bishop of Tarski and Tyukalinsky Savvaty; Bishop of Dushanbe and Tajikistan Pitirim; Bishop of Mariinsky and Yurginsky Innokenty; Bishop of Magnitogorsk and Verkhneuralsky Innokenty; Bishop Akhtubinsky and Enotayevsky Anthony; Bishop Rubtsovsky and Aleic Roman; Bishop of the North Sea and Umba Mitrofan; Bishop of Kamensk and Alapaevsky Methodius; Bishop Troitsky and Yuzhnouralsky Grigory; bishop Shchigrovsky and Manturovsky Paisii; Bishop Evgeny of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansk; Bishop of Zlatoust and Satkins Vikenty; Bishop of Serov and Krasnoturinsky Alexis; Protopriest Maxim Miniyailo, senior priest of the Church on Blood; Hieromonk Kirill (Korytko), secretary of the diocesan administration of the Yekaterinburg diocese; clergy of the Yekaterinburg metropolis.



The divine service was visited by: the plenipotentiary representative of the President in the Urals Federal District N.N. Tsukanov; Governor of the Sverdlovsk Region E.V. Kuyvashev; Chairman of the State Duma Committee of the Federal Assembly on the development of civil society, issues of public and religious associations Gavrilov; Chairman of the

Legislative Assembly of the Sverdlovsk Region L.V. Babushkina; Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society S.V. Stepashin; Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Fund "Elizabeth-Sergei Enlightenment Society" A.V. Gromova; leadership of the Sverdlovsk region and the city of Yekaterinburg; and representatives of the House of Romanov: M.V. Romanova; G.M. Hohenzollern; O.N. Kulikovskaya-Romanova; P.E. Kulikovsky; and L.A. Kulikovskaya.

During the Liturgy, residents of Yekaterinburg and numerous pilgrims who arrived in the capital of the Urals from various regions of Russia, as well as from foreign countries - Azerbaijan, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, China, Lithuania, Moldova, New



Zealand , Serbia, the USA, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, France, Estonia, South Korea, and Japan were praying.

Near the church was organized a tent camp for resting pilgrims.

Liturgical chants were performed by the choir of the clergy of the Yekaterinburg diocese (regent - priest Alexei Rusin) and the bishop's choir of the Holy Trinity cathedral of Yekaterinburg (regent - M.Yu. Litvinenko).

A live broadcast of the Patriarchal Divine service was broadcast on the Soyuz television channel and on the Patriarchy.ru portal. Numerous believers watched the broadcast on large screens installed on Tsar Street alongside the Church on Blood.

After a special litany, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church offered a prayer for peace in Ukraine.

A petition was included in the funeral litany: "We also pray for the repose of the souls of the deceased servants of God in the place of the seven murdered John, Alexis, Anna and all in the hour of persistent persecution from the atheists killed; in camps, in dungeons and in bonds from wounds, diseases and the death of those who died; in the bitter works of the tortured and all in the exploit of the confessional who laboured and about every one to forgive them every sin against the free and unwilling."

During the Divine Liturgy, about 15,000 people received Holy Communion of the Holy Mysteries. The communion was conducted from 100 bowls.



Before the Communion of the laity, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill addressed the believers with the First-Hierarchal Word.

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!  
Your Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry of Kiev and All Ukraine! Fellow archpastors! Dear brothers and sisters, gathered in a multitude this night before the place where one hundred years ago was committed a terrible crime - wholly innocent people, who had committed their lives to the service of their Motherland, were killed by the evil will of man!

This atrocity still chafes our conscience, still causes us to mentally return to that time and try to understand what happened to our country and to our people. Where did this insanity, this attack come from? Looking from a distance of one hundred years, even if we want to we cannot see all the nuances of the national life of our people, which fade from memory and are missed by even the most penetrating gaze. But such crimes, as were committed here, cannot be accidental. Something stood behind this crime; behind it is the collective guilt of our people, a turn in the historical life of Holy Rus', which led the people into a heavy, terrible impasse.



What happened to our people? After all, the country was covered with churches and monasteries, an absolute majority of the people were baptized, and the churches were filled with people. Why did it happen? Why did the murderers squeeze the trigger, without trembling at what they were doing? It means not everything was favorable. It means the sunlight reflected in the gilded domes was not always refracted into human hearts to strengthen faith in the Lord in them. And we know how over the course of at least 200 years preceding the tragedy of the Ipatiev House some changes occurred in the people's consciousness that gradually but steadily led many to a departure from God, neglect of the commandments, and a loss of spiritual connection with the Church and the centuries-old spiritual tradition.

Why did this happen to our people? Why did they at some point become like a train whose engineer didn't calculate its speed and heads into a steep turn, rushing towards an imminent catastrophe? When did we as people start this turn? We entered when alien thoughts, alien ideals, and an alien worldview, formed under the influence of philosophical and political theories, having nothing in common either with Christianity or our national tradition and culture, began to be perceived by the intelligentsia and aristocracy and even part of the clergy as advanced thoughts by which it was possible to change the people's lives for the better.

Indeed, the idea of changing the life of the people for the better arises whenever there is a plan to abruptly change the course of history. We know that the worst and bloodiest revolutions have always occurred in view of people's aspirations for a better life. The leaders of these revolutions instilled in the people that there is no other way to make life better—only by blood, only through death, only through the destruction of the existing way of life. And at some point, having abandoned their spiritual birthright, having lost their true connection with the Church and God, the intelligentsia, aristocracy, and even, as I have already said, part of the clergy were darkened in mind and infected with the thought of the need to drastically change the course of our national history and to try to build as quickly as possible a world where justice reigns, where there is no bygone separation according to material indicators, where people live peacefully and happily. As a result, many of those captured by this idea reach the point of committing crimes.



A question arises: "Is it possible through crime, through blood, through violence, and through the destruction of holy sites to build a happy life?" History clearly testifies: It is impossible! And, perhaps, the first and most important lesson that we should learn today from the tragedy of a century ago is that



no promises of a happy life, no hope for help from outside, from some supposedly more educated and advanced people should seduce our people. We must remember the tragedy of the past. We must develop an immunity to any call to attain to human happiness through the destruction of that which is. Hardly did anyone who called for the destruction of the people's lives destroy their own lives, renouncing their own wellbeing. But with what fury they proposed to do it to everyone! And the people absorbed this lie; and the crowning act of departure from the most sacred and valuable that they had was the hideous execution of the Royal Family - innocent people who had not violated the law. And what kind of law could we even be talking about if it was necessary to kill the Tsar and his family to build a happy life? We know that nothing turned out well, and taught by bitter experience, we must build a robust rejection of any ideas and any leaders who propose to strive for some obscure "happy future" through the destruction of the life of the people, our traditions, and our faith.

Today, gathered here in such a great number, we remember the tragedy of the Ipatiev House. We have lifted up prayers to the Lord, we have prayed to the Emperor and Passion-Bearer Nicholas and those who suffered with him, that they would pray in Heaven for our earthly Fatherland and for our people and strengthen the Orthodox faith in every subsequent generation of Russians; that faithfulness to God and love for the Fatherland would accompany the lives of the youth and subsequent generations, and that no tragedy of this kind would ever happen again in our land.

May the Lord preserve our Russian land and the Russian people who today live in various countries; and although they are called by various names, are the same people who came out of the Kievan baptismal font, and passing through the most severe historical circumstances, have retained the Orthodox faith until today. May God's blessing be upon our people, upon our Fatherland, and upon our martyric Russian Orthodox Church. May the life of our people be transfigured by the prayers of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church - without any upheavals or blood, but upon the firm foundation of faith and hope that God is with us!



May the Lord save us all by the prayers of the holy Royal Passion-Bearers and all the New Martyrs!  
Amen."

His Holiness the Lord donated an outward cross to the Church on Blood, for the other churches of the Yekaterinburg Diocese - 15 altar gospels.

Video - 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pau6fF1RrPc&feature=youtu.be>

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiCV-bY-Cm0>

### **His Holiness the Patriarch led the traditional Tsar's procession to Ganina Yama**

At the end of the Liturgy, His Holiness the Patriarch led the traditional Tsar's procession from the place of martyrdom of the holy Royal Passion-bearers and their faithful servants to the monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in the Ganin Yama (distance - 21 km).

The religious procession began about three o'clock in the morning after the Divine Liturgy and many bishops participated, who had served His Holiness for the Liturgy. In total, according to law enforcement agencies, about 100 thousand people took part in the procession.







The procession was accompanied by 125 people of mobile groups helping the Orthodox Relief Service, Volunteers of the Royal Days, numerous Cossacks, employees and volunteers of the Nick Foundation.



The latter gave everyone a thirsty bottle of drinking water, and sisters of mercy provided crusaders with first aid.

Route of the procession: St. Tsarskaya Str. Tolmacheva - Lenin Ave. - st. Tatishcheva - st. Bebel - st. Technical - st. Reshetskaya - Railway forest park - Shuvaqish settlement - Ganina Yama tract.

Traditionally, the procession was performed with banners and icons, including a two-meter icon of Emperor Nicholas II, created in 2017 for the church in honor of the icon of the Mother of God "Derzhavnaya" on Ganina Yama. The weight of an icon with a kiotum is about 150 kg. Since the icon is very heavy, special stretchers on wheels were made for its movement.

In the organization of tent camps in Yekaterinburg and Ganina Yama, night worship and the procession, volunteers of the Tsar Days took part. Among the volunteers are representatives of Orthodox youth associations of the Yekaterinburg Metropolia and other dioceses of the Russian Orthodox Church. Also in the organization of Tsar Days, representatives of secular organizations - the Ministry for Emergency Situations, the Union of Rescuers, the Union of Volunteers of Russia, the Sverdlovsk Regional Medical College, etc., participated.

The procession was also accompanied by 25 mobile groups of the Orthodox Relief Service, consisting of clergy, representatives of the Assumption Orthodox brotherhood of Yekaterinburg, nurses, volunteers. They helped those people who, through their weakness, could not pass the entire cross procession.

At the fence of the monastery on Ganina Yama, field kitchens and tents for pilgrims' rest were set up.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill went through the entire route of the procession.

At about 7:00 am the column of the procession, led by the clergy, reached the monastery in the name of the holy Royal Passion-Bearers on Ganina Yama. The pilgrims was met with bell ringing.



In the monastery, before the worship cross at the mine No. 7, His Holiness performed a moleben to the holy Royal Passion-Bearers.

Then His Holiness Patriarch Kirill addressed the believers with the First-Hierarchical word:

*"Most Reverend Bishops! Dear fathers, brothers and sisters!*

*With a joyful feeling I passed this sad path along with all of you on the day when we remember and celebrate the tragic event - we celebrate, because through this event the Imperial Family was ranked among the saints. And we believe that today, the family of Royal Passion-Bearers, are together with us in this prayer and in this procession.*

*While praying to the holy saints of God, we ask them to be present before God for our Russian land, for our people, for our Church, that the Lord protect our Fatherland and the people and the Church from all distemper, from divisions, splits, from all human iniquity, in order to keep to us the truth of faith and the piety of our people. We believe that if we preserve this, we will preserve Russia, and the country will be great and the people will prosper. By their prayers the Lord preserves the Russian land. Amen".*

Pilgrim groups from Serbia, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, France and New Zealand, Ukraine, as well as from many regions of Russia: Krasnodar, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Lipetsk, Saratov, Irbit, Samara, Armavir, Krasnoyarsk, Syktyvkar,



Pokrov, Sevastopol, Blagoveshchensk, Anapa, Voronezh, Kaliningrad, Belgorod and others participated.



Videos - 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry37U6BJNbE>  
2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rz2LAcnrUQ>





## Imperial remains in Ganina Yama and Porosenkov Log

On July 17, Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky went to Ganina Yama, to the mine No.7 in the Four Brothers mine near the village of Koptiyaki, 15 km north from Yekaterinburg. There the Bolsheviks after the murder of the Imperial Family in Ipatiev House, in the morning of July 17 first tried to hide the bodies.

The Church constructed the Monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers at the site in 2001. A tall cross marks the edge of the mine shaft, visible as a depression in the ground. Seven chapels were later constructed at the site, one for each member of the Imperial Family.



The Bolsheviks, realizing that the burial site could not be kept a secret, returned to the site the night after the first burial to relocate the bodies to another area. This means the remains only stayed there one day.

The second site is a field known as Porosenkov Log (or "Piglet's Ravine"), four and a half kilometers from Ganina Yama. This burial site was discovered in 1979, but it was not made public until 1989. The identity of the remains was confirmed by forensic and DNA investigation and in 1998 they were buried in Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in St. Petersburg, missing two persons. This means the remains stayed there 71 years.

A second, smaller grave containing the remains of two children missing from the larger grave was discovered in 2007. However, their remains are kept in a state repository pending further investigation.







## 100-year anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family in St. Petersburg

17 July. Hermitage - On July 17, 2018, on the 100th anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family in the Church of the Savior in the Holy Face in the Winter Palace, the Divine Liturgy was performed, headed by the rector of the Prince Vladimir Cathedral, Protopriest Vladimir Sorokin.





Participants in the choir of the clergy of the St. Petersburg Metropolitanate sang during the service. The Liturgy was attended by the Governor of St. Petersburg, G.S. Poltavchenko and members of the Romanov family.

At the end of the Liturgy, the Governor greeted the guests. He drew attention to the need to remember the lessons of history. "Under any circumstances it is necessary to keep peace and harmony in the community. To live in kindness and understand that we are one people and one country," said Georgy Poltavchenko.

In the church a gift of A.I. Vilкова to Hermitage was presented - a portrait of Nicholas II by an unknown artist of the late XIX - early XX century. The portrait, which until 1918 was in the museum of the Semenov regiment, will enter the permanent exposition of the Arsenal Division.



After the Liturgy, a solemn ceremony was held to transfer the icon "The Miracle of St. George of the Dragon" of the Stroganov school of the first third of the 18th century, in a precious salary of the beginning of the 20th century. The salary is made in the workshop of F.Ya. Mashukova in a stylized "ancient style. The history of the icon is closely related to the Old Believer tradition and according to tradition belonged to the family icons of the Romanovs. It is assumed that the "Miracle of

George of the Dragon" will be kept in the Church of the Savior Not Made by Hands in the Winter Palace.

General Director of the State Hermitage Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky gave a special commentary on this event for the radio "Grad Petrov":

M.B. Piotrovsky - "On this day, July 17, there is a moleben or the Divine Liturgy every time. Today was the Divine Liturgy, of course, today is the century. And I think that, of course, this is not modest, but, in my opinion, this is the best option and the best such point of what happened in the country in this regard. This is the Great Cathedral of the Winter Palace, the Great Church of the Winter Palace, this is the church where the walls are remembered and Nicholas, and Alexander, and children, where a lot of events happened, we know it all.

The church itself after the restoration has been turned into such a memorial, there are everywhere things that people remember, these are all things memorable or in the hands. Usually we have the uniform there, in which Alexander II was dying, now the shirt with blood, which the Tsarevich had (Tsarevich Nicholas Alexandrovich - ed.) in Japan, where he was attacked. It is such a mystical place, but mystical in moderation. There is no - as it is again politely expressed - there is no nervousness. We had such nervousness at the exhibition we did, there was a corner at a big exhibition devoted to the revolution. It was very nervous there. It's a little calmer here.



We invited guests, there were representatives of the Romanov family - the Romanov Family Association. First I will name Dorrit Romanov, the widow of Dmitri Romanovich Romanov, who was the head of the Romanov Family Association, and our great friend of the Hermitage. And then Dorrit arrives when was our reception and I told her that we would have such a Liturgy. This is done like for ourselves. And so she asked for an invitation. There was Prince Michael of Kent. There was Olga Andreevna, the current head of the Association of the House of Romanovs, and other members of the Romanov family.

On the one hand, people stood in English dressed black suits, and on the other hand - our Hermitage staff. Our employees go to this service before the opening of the museum. I must say that this is the right combination, everything turned out somehow naturally.

In addition, we were presented with the icon of St. George the Victorious, who according to legend was somewhere in the family. Very beautiful icon of Stroganov's school with a wonderful salary. This is from the Old Believers. And in the same place we exhibited another gift, too, for this day, which Anatoly Ivanovich Vilkov presented us: a Moscow collector, a portrait of Nicholas II in the uniform of the Life Guards Regiment of Semyonov, whom he was chief. Before 1907, the portrait was made, as there the uniform changed. And the portrait hung in some official rooms of the regiment, and then hung in the museum of the Semenov regiment. And after the revolution, the last regiment commander took him away with him, saved him, took him to Europe. And there this portrait was for a long time, all in poor condition, then returned to Russia, restored, and now it was presented to us just this day. This is



also a symbol. Those. such a very correct symbolism was, and everything was touching. There was a great full service, Father Vladimir Sorokin, our dean, served and a fine choir. In fact, we really get it right in all, in general cooperation, services that pass without hysteria, without superfluous people. So, I think, it turned out well, and everyone somehow was very good at heart.

- *And where you can see this portrait?*

"He's donated to the Museum of the Guard. We have the Museum of the Guards. And it is known that we want to be given to the Guards Museum the entire building of the former Headquarters of the Guards Corps, but until they give it, we have the Museum of the Guards in the General Staff building. And there is one room, where are relics from the regimental museums. This is a whole story, like people who took something from Russia, and the military took the relics away. And now some of these military relics are back, and they are there."

- We are not accidentally interested in this portrait. The fact is that now on our radio one of the best memories of the Guard - Lieutenant Semenovskiy regiment Yuri Vladimirovich Makarov "My service from the Old Guard" is recorded. He tells about the museum there when he went to the regiment in 1905.

- Ah, well, wonderful, then you just need to take more details. There is a very interesting story - the history of the uniform, history of medals, it is very interesting. And the history of the museum, respectively. I think that it was already there for sure in 1905 and, probably, was hanging somewhere in the main rooms, and then in the museum.

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## Press conference with representatives of the Romanov Family Association on July 17 in St. Petersburg

17 July. Nevsky News - The last Russian Emperor Nicholas II, together with family members, was shot on the night of July 16 to July 17, 1918. By the centenary of the death of the Imperial Family, the descendants of the Romanov family arrived in Petersburg. The delegation that visited the city on the Neva included 12 of the 30 representatives of the Romanov Association. The head of the association, the grand niece of Emperor Nicholas II, Princess Olga Romanova, the descendant of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich, Prince Rostislav Romanov, representative of the organization Ivan Artsishevsky with translator and writer-historian Zoya I. Belyakova, came to the meeting with journalists at the St. Petersburg Center for the Information Agency of Russia TASS, after the divine liturgy in memory of the Imperial Family.



The association appeared in 1979 in Switzerland, it unites all the members of the Romanov family living in different parts of the world. As the chairman of the Romanov Family Association, the granddaughter of Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich and Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna Princess Olga Romanova told at the news conference in St. Petersburg, her goal is "to unite the whole family, all the relatives who now live in the world, and to facilitate their arrival to Russia".

Members of the association, most of whom live in the UK, are distancing themselves from the well-known from the publications in the press of the "Imperial House of Romanovs".

Ivan Artsishevsky told journalists - We do not consider the issues of the "Romanovs' house", which can not be, because there is no Emperor and no Heirs. All that is called "the house of the Romanovs," may as well be called "the house of Napoleon" or "the house of the pharaohs." The family exists in a single form, the association headed by Olga Andreevna. Everything else, as they say, from the evil one."

As it turned out, neither the head of the Romanov Family Association or its members for a moment doubt the authenticity of the remains of the executed Imperial Family and do not allow the possibility that now the descendants of Nicholas II are living somewhere in the world. Let's clarify, literally yesterday, on July 16, the Investigative Committee of Russia announced the authenticity of the remains of the Imperial Family, the statement was made on the basis of the results of the genetic examination. "The family's position - all members of the family were shot in Yekaterinburg, and there are no descendants of Nicholas II," Ivan Artsishevsky commented. "We always believed in the authenticity of the remains, even when the remains on the plane were brought to St. Petersburg from Yekaterinburg in 1998. We have no doubts about their authenticity. "

"I am sufficiently aware of the authenticity of the remains. As a representative of the Association, I am absolutely sure of their authenticity," - sounded his position, Prince Rostislav Romanov.

No claims to the Russian throne, even in the infinitesimally improbable version of the revival of the monarchy in the country, the descendants of the Romanov family have - it is even spelled out in the organization's charter.

The question of Russian succession to the throne for all members of the association is closed.



"My father, Prince Andrei Alexandrovich, has always said that after the revolution the Russians will determine what they should do with the form of government of the state, we will not pretend," the answer to the question of local journalists about possible claims to the Russian throne was given by Olga Romanova.

All that the descendants of the Romanov family deserve from St. Petersburg in this visit, is to remember the executed Romanovs. Prince Rostislav Romanov, according to his confession, aspired here to "feel whole."

Today, members of the association have visited the Divine Liturgy in the morning dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family, in the Church of the Savior Not Made by Hands in the Winter Palace. During the day they will also visit the Peter and Paul Cathedral, and in the evening dinner will be held.

The head of the association Princess Olga Romanova, a British citizen, told that when she comes to in Russia, she always feels Russian.



The young Prince Rostislav Romanov, with a completely European appearance, living in the UK and not speaking Russian, shared that he was always drawn to Russia: "I'm here to understand that there is Russia." Earlier he already visited Russia, in particular, he travelled on the Trans-Siberian Railway.

"I am a representative of mixed blood. I very often think about who I am because I was raised as an English gentleman, but in me there is a Russian soul," said Rostislav Romanov.

Last year Nevsky News published revelations of the "heir to the Russian throne", ex-deputy Konstantin Sevenard. This absolutely talented person, very convincingly told about his direct relationship with Nicholas II and his right to the throne. However, he demanded not the crown, but only "the restoration of justice."

According to members of the Romanov Family Association, the flow of pseudo-Romanovs does not run out to this day. "There are a lot of people who want to be descendants of the Romanovs. Most of these people "come to the surface" on special dates, such as today," - says Olga Romanova.

"It's just a misfortune - so many "grandchildren" from Nicholas II that they simply can not count, and how many "treasures"... The family's position - all members of the family were shot in Yekaterinburg, and there are no descendants and "grandchildren" of Nicholas II - says Ivan Artsishevsky.

- Sometimes you just do not know whether to cry or laugh: who they just do not introduce themselves. There is a class of people who remember that the emperor visited Japan and travelled there through Siberia ... Sometimes after their stories, it seems that the Emperor stopped in every village and in each of them changed his Empress - very many descendants showed up. "

Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MW79vTeSqng>



## **Moleben on the 100th anniversary of the death of the Imperial Family was made in the Peter and Paul Cathedral**

17 July. "Living Water" - On the day of the 100th anniversary of the tragic death of Emperor Nicholas II and his family members, on July 17, in the cathedral of the Peter and Paul Fortress, Archimandrite Alexander (Fedorov), the rector, served the moleben of the Imperial Family in collaboration with the clergy.



Attending the service were a member of the British royal family, Prince Michael of Kent, with his wife Marie-Christine (born Baroness von Reibnitz), Princess Alexander Rostislavovna Romanova, Princess Kristia Romanova, Princess Dorrit Romanova, Princess Olga Romanovna, Princess Julia Romanova (nee Crespi), Alexandra Matthew, Prince Rostislav Rostislavovich Romanov, the Marquis of Marie-Claude Farache di Villaforesta (nee Tillier-Debesse) and the Marquis Ivan Farache di Villaforesta.

"A century ago an event took place in the world history, in the history of the Church and Fatherland, in relation to which both we and our descendants must have a true and accurate judgment," Father Alexander said in his sermon. "If we do not have it, we are not immune from the repetition of errors, to put it mildly, mistakes, and if we call things by their own names, then crimes. Such crimes are committed by diabolical instigation in order to destroy the creative fruits that the Church of Christ brought in the Fatherland for many centuries."

"The Tsar's Family was brutally destroyed," he continued, "For many years our compatriots have incorrectly assessed this event, and this is monstrous. Only in recent years, thank God, everything has changed, the Tsar and his family are ranked as saints, and now the people have a different attitude to their memory. On the night of today, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in Yekaterinburg, which was headed by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, a procession was made 21 kilometers from the Church-on-the-blood to the monastery in Ganina Yama, involving more than one hundred thousand people believers. This shows that changes are taking place in the society, and it is important for us to consolidate and remember these terrible events in connection with this mournful date, not only expressing our grief in human terms but also taking responsibility for life around us, serving the Fatherland and the Church of Christ ."



Father Alexander stressed that the Imperial Family and its servants were an example of faithfulness to Christ even to death, and that subsequently the Church was glorified by a whole host of new martyrs, among whom were representatives of the Romanov dynasty, clergymen, people of all classes. Time has shown that the destructive forces go away, and the creative forces remain and bear fruit.

After the service, the family members paid tribute to the memory of Russian Emperors buried in the cathedral.



Video - <http://www.ntv.ru/video/1618470/>

### The Romanov exhibition in the Museum-Exhibition Center Poklevsky-Kozell House



The exhibition "The tragedy of the family ... The tragedy of the Motherland ..." in the Museum-Exhibition Center "Poklevsky-Kozell House", was visited by Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky on July 17.

The guests were received by the museum's general director Natalia Konstantinovna Vetrova.

The guide Lyudmila Vladimirovna Svetova showed the exhibition, and the guest periodically shared memories and legends from the history of his family.



Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovsky, with Director Natalia K. Vetrova and Deputy Director Vladimir P. Bykodorov

The exhibition introduce unique artefacts from the collection of the State Museum-Reserve Pavlovsk, with 150 memorial items from the imperial and grand duke's palaces of St. Petersburg, each with its own legend and history!

The visit was concluded with a traditional meeting with Natalia K. Vetrova, where ideas and projects were discussed.





Left - A plate with the monogram of Emperor Nicholas II. 1913. Made in Moscow.  
 Right - A porcelain plate with a printed picture of the Lower Dacha in Peterhof. Imperial Porcelain Factory, 1908.



Above - A photo of Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna in nurse uniform with an unknown man.

Right - The icon "Divine cover of the Reigning House". Olovyanishnikov, Moscow, 1913. Was hanging in Nicholas II and Alexandra's bedroom in Alexander Palace.





## Romanovs in the international art center "Main Avenue"

Earlier in 2018 a new art space was opened in Yekaterinburg, which have no analogues so far in the capital of the Urals. The international art center "Main Avenue" is located in an old renovated factory and has several thousand square meters, with many different exhibitions. Oleg Gusev, the founder of the "Main Avenue" met Ludmila and Paul E. Kulikovskiy at different events during the "Tsar Days" and invited them to see it.

On July 17, the Kulikovskys visited and the first exhibition they saw was the exposition of the artist Pavel Ryzhenko - "Historical realism". He was a great artist, but unfortunately died only 44 years old in 2014.

Over the years, Ryzhenko created historical paintings about long-gone times, the artist created a series of works dedicated to Emperor Nicholas II, the bloody days of the Russian revolution, and the fratricidal civil war.

"I invite people to once again look at our ambiguous past, full of tragic events, in which the spirit of our people has manifested itself in fullness," the artist himself formulated his task.



The "Stone-carving house of Alexey Antonov" is both a gallery and a shop, with unique piece of stone-cutting and jewelry art. The Ural masters are the only ones in the world to continue the technique of the stone-cutting mosaic, as the successors of Faberge and Denisov-Uralsky.

The Stone Museum has a collection of more than 1000 exhibits.

A separate room is dedicated to Russia - Malachite, jasper, rock crystal. In addition to untreated samples, examples of stone-cutting artwork are exhibited here: figurines, caskets, pictures from stone and even stone pieces of furniture.

A separate place in the museum is the collection of coins issued by the Yekaterinburg Mint. And also a commemorative collection of medals made in the same place.

The paleontological exhibition deserves special attention. The collection includes samples of petrified animal remains over 400 million years old (ammonites and fragments of dinosaur skeletons).

The special pride is the so-called "Golden room". Part of the exposition is occupied by a collection of the first ore in Russia - mined at the Berezovsky mine. In addition, the room presents unique products made of precious metals and other treasures from private collections.



The exhibition "Archival photos of the family of Nicholas II" is a project dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the murder of the Imperial Family and was made by the news agency TASS jointly with the Tourism Development Center of the Sverdlovsk Region.











## All-Night Vigil at the Holy Elisabeth Alapaevsk Women's Monastery

On July 17, His Eminence Methodius, Bishop of Kamensky and Alapaevsky headed the all-night vigil with the Akathist to the Martyr Elisabeth and the nun Varvara in the new Holy Elisabeth Church of the Alapaevsky Women's Monastery.

The peculiarity of this service is that this is the first Episcopal vigil performed in this church after it was sanctified by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia on July 15.

During the service, the clergy of the Kamenskaya diocese, parishioners and pilgrims prayed at the church to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Elizabeth Feodorovna and the Alapaevsk martyrs.



## Divine Liturgy at the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Cross-procession to the mine

In the night of July 17/18, bell ringing preceded the beginning of the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapaevsk. Many pilgrims came to this service to pray, the church could not accommodate everyone who wanted to confess and receive Communion. The priests carried the Cup directly to the street.

After the end of the night Liturgy a procession began - the flow of people with banners and icons rushed first to the crypt, then went out into the main street. The first rays of the rising sun caught the pilgrims, many with white roses in their hands. And along the way, many were tearing daisies on the side of the road - also a favorite flower of the martyr. And when approaching the Monastery in the name of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church, pilgrims were also offered roses as part of the charitable action "White Flower". So everyone could thank his beloved saint and lay white flowers at the mine.



At the worship cross at the mine in the Monastery, a moleben and akathist to the Holy Martyr was served.

The anniversary of the tragic event gathered pilgrims from all over the world in Alapaevsk. They stood on the edge of the mine, with their heads bent, and some cried.



Irina Gudkova came with two brothers from France. The granddaughter of a naval officer of the White Army, the daughter of a priest of the Orthodox church of the city of Meudon near Paris. She says that in their family they always knew the truth about the tragedy in Russia - "My father has always glorified the Imperial Family, even before the glorification of the Moscow Patriarchate."

Dionysius Wilkinson lives in Washington, she came to the group of 40 pilgrims from America - "We parishioners of the Church of John the Baptist came here to go to Ganina Yama, to glorify the Imperial Family and also to remembered Elizabeth Feodorovna in Alapaevsk.

Father Andrei Zozulya brought a group of parishioners from Lugansk to Alapayevsk - "It's hard to convey all the feelings that embrace you at the mine. For what they were to kill, innocent people who have done no harm to anyone. Just imagine how they were mocked and humiliated. And how dignified they were. Sadness today is mixed with joy. It is a holiday today. The saints rejoice in heaven, seeing how many people glorify them.



Video - <https://youtu.be/yYLh0-jr0-I>







### **The Liturgy at the site of the murder of the Holy Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Nun Varvara**

July 18 in the church in honour of the icon of Our Lady Feodorovskaya, located in the monastery of the New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church, Divine Liturgy was held in memory of the 100th spiritual feat of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna and her companions.







Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye was assisted by: Metropolitan Mark of Ryazan and Mikhailovsky, Archbishop of Baku and Azerbaijan Alexander, Bishop of Feodosy of Seattle, Bishop of George of Canberra, Bishop of Isilkul and Russian-Polansky Theodosius, Bishop of Mariinsky and Yurginsky Innokenty, bishop of Magnitogorsk and Verkhneuralsky Innokenty, Bishop of Akhtuba and Enotayevsky Anthony, Bishop of Kamensky and Alapaevsky Methodius, bishop of Shchigrovsky and Manturovsky Paisiy, bishop of Nizhny Tagil and Nevyansky Evgeny, the Bishop of Serov and Krasnoturinsky Alexy, the secretary of the diocesan administration of the Yekaterinburg diocese, hieromonk Kirill (Korytko), the abbot of the monastery hegumen Moses (Pilats), and the clergy of the Yekaterinburg metropolia.

Honorary guests at the festive divine services were: ON Kulikovskaya-Romanova; L.A. Kulikovskaya; and P.E. Kulikovsky.

A special prayerfulness of the moment was emphasized by the chants of the Choir of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Kamensk-Urals, who first tested the choirs in the new church. At the recent consecration of the church in honour of the Theodore Icon of the Mother of God in the Liturgy, which was headed by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, sang the choir of the monastery on Ganina Yama. Kamensky singers successfully picked up the spiritual torch and pleased the parishioners and guests of honor with the solemnity and prayerfulness of the Divine Service.



Archbishop Alexander of Baku and Azerbaijan addressed the audience with a word in the verse. The Archpastor reminded us on what special, spiritual solemn occasion, we gathered today in the church in honour of Theodore's icon of the Mother of God. These events are connected, on the one hand, with



the death of the best representatives of the Russian society of prerevolutionary Russia - the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Romanova and the Princes of Imperial Blood.



After the sacrament, in which many pilgrims took part, a procession around the mine began, in which Alapaevsk prisoners were thrown a hundred years ago. Volunteers and pilgrims showered the former shaft with roses, which the Grand Duchess loved so much during her lifetime.

A moleben was performed at the mine, where in 1918, on the night of July 17-18, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, nun Varvara (Yakovleva), Grand Duke Sergey Mikhailovich, the Princes of Imperial Blood, John, Konstantin, and Igor Konstantinovich, Prince Vladimir Paley and secretary Fedor Remez were killed.







A "Cherubic Song" was sung and Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturys addressed the believers with an archpastoral word.

*- For us, believing people, today is the day of our personal relationship to Elisabeth Feodorovna and to all the martyrs of the Russian Church and the Russian land, who in plenty have fallen in former times and are now defending holy Orthodoxy in order for our people to live after all not under the seal of Satanism, but under the blessing of God. And when today we bow our head and the knee of our heart at this mine, we see the gentle face of Elisabeth Feodorovna and her loving heart, which forgives everyone: both murderers and their followers, and prays for all, for our people, for us and you today, so that this cruelty, this dislike, this misunderstanding of each other at last have left our life, and we again become a single, great, mighty Russian people whose name and banner are the banner of Christianity and the name of Christianity, and whose protection - these are God's servants, concluded Bishop Kiril.*

Bishop Methodius of Alapaevsky and Kamensky, who spoke next, emphasized the importance of charity and good deeds, the traditions of which were laid by Elisabeth Feodorovna, in our days. It was the virtues who helped to build two churches for Alapaevsk - Feodorovskaya icon of the Mother of God and the church in honour of martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth in the convent of Alapaevsk.

Vladimir Beloglazov, chairman of the Yekaterinburg branch of the Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society, and other benefactors received honored awards for participation in this charitable cause.







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**The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, sent a message to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill in connection with the hundredth anniversary of the martyr's death of St. Elizabeth Feodorovna**



On July 18, 2018, the day of the 100th anniversary of the martyr's death in Alapaevsk, the Martyrs of Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna, the head of the Anglican community Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby sent a message to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, in which he noted in particular: "The grand daughter of the Queen Victoria and a relative of Saints Nicholas, Alexandra and members of their family, Saint Elizabeth became an example of Christian mercy, service and fortitude."

Archbishop Justin Welby recalled that the statue of the Monk Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth was erected on the western facade of Westminster Abbey among the martyrs of the twentieth century. The head of the Anglican community also mentioned his visit to the Martha and Mary Convent, founded in Moscow by Princess Elisaveta Feodorovna. The visit took place last year during the visit of the head of the Anglican community to Moscow. "In the monastery, they greeted me and my companions with true hospitality, and I was deeply moved to see how devotedly the sisters gave themselves to the service for orphans and children with disabilities," added Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

"Your Holiness, today we honor the memory of Saint Elizabeth, and yesterday we commemorated the Russian Imperial Family. Recalling in their prayers for them and their ministry, I also pray for you, for your ministry and for strengthening the relationship between our churches," the head of the Anglican community said in a message to the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

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