



NEWS AGENCY

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REVIEW



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## Scientific session | ‘The Union of the Romanian Principalities: the foundation of the 1918 Great Union’



The Patriarch of Romania, the President of Romania, the President of the Romanian Academy, academicians, professors, clergy and other officials were among the attendees of the Wednesday, January 24, scientific session ‘The Union of the Romanian Principalities: the foundation of the 1918 Great Union’ that took place at the Patriarch Teoctist Aula of the Patriarchal Palace, the place where the Elective Assembly of Wallachia gathered under the chairmanship of Metropolitan Nifon on 24 January 1859.

His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel presented his speech entitled ‘The building where the Union was decided’, in which he pointed to the importance of the commemoration of the ‘Fundamental Union’.

[Full text ►](#)

*‘The day of 24 January 1859 represents a fundamental moment in which the hierarchs and clergy of the Church, politicians and the people, gathered on the Hill of the Metropolis, had a decisive role for the Union of the Romanian Principalities’*

### BUCHAREST

#### Theology professors, students in Bucharest prayerfully celebrate the Three Holy Hierarchs

The professors and students of the Patriarch Justinian Faculty of Orthodox Theology in Bucharest on 30 January prayerfully celebrated the feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs, the patrons of theological education. Celebrating the Divine Liturgy at the Faculty’s St Catherine Chapel was His Grace Bishop Varlaam of Ploiesti, who conveyed the blessings and congratulations of Patriarch Daniel of Romania. ►



### PRO LIFE

#### 2,000 candles being lit in Moscow in honor of abortion victims



Activists of the All-Russian ‘For Life!’ public movement lights 2,000 candles Thursday, 11 January 2018, in memory of children who have lost their lives to the terror of abortion. According to official statistics, 2,000 abortions are performed daily in the Russian Federation. In 2017, over a million signatures were collected, calling for a legislative ban on abortion. ►

### CULTURAL

#### National Poet Mihai Eminescu prayerfully commemorated at Bellu Cemetery

Romania’s National Poet Mihai Eminescu was prayerfully commemorated during the Divine Liturgy celebrated on Monday at the Bellu Cemetery Chapel in Bucharest on his 168th birth anniversary. Mihai Eminescu is considered Romania’s greatest poet. He was also a novelist and an important journalist of his time. To honor his memory, Romania celebrates the National Culture Day on January 15. ►



## Romanian Patriarchate declares **2018 Solemn Year of Unity of Faith and Nation, Commemorative Year of the 1918 Great Union Founders**

At the end of St Basil's Divine Liturgy celebrated Monday at the Patriarchal Cathedral, His Grace Patriarchal Auxiliary Bishop Varlaam of Ploiesti read out the synodal document by which the Romanian Patriarchate officially declares 2018 Solemn Year of the Unity of Faith and Nation, and Commemorative Year of the 1918 Great Union Founders. Patriarch Daniel addressed those present stressing that 'ever since the appearance of the Romanian people, Christian faith has been the main constituent element of Romanian self-consciousness, and Romanian identity, along with Latinity or Romanity.' ▶



**Patriarch Daniel: 'It is an incontestable historical reality that Romanian ethnogenesis, or the Romanian people's formation, and its Christianization were two concurrent and convergent processes.'**

## Novak Djokovic: "Before I am an athlete, I am an Orthodox Christian"

If we had to make a list of top athletes whose generosity is beyond question, then Novak Djokovic's name would certainly be on it.

The former number 1 tennis player in the world is an Orthodox Christian, and he does not hesitate to say it publicly. It is not uncommon to observe Novak Djokovic invoking Christ during a meeting or wearing a cross around his neck to witness to his faith.

For him, his religious beliefs come before his 68 titles, including 12 Grand Slam tournaments earned since the beginning of his career.

"This is the most important title of my life, because before being an athlete, I am an Orthodox Christian," he said in April 2011, when he received the order of St. Sava in the first degree from the hands of Irenaeus, the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church. ▶



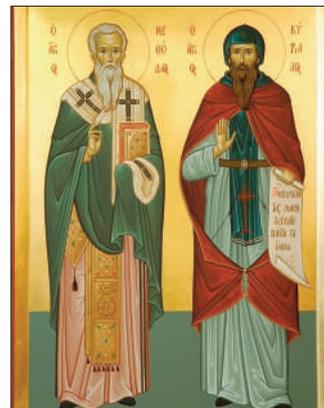
## First Orthodox Chapel in Iceland consecrated

The consecration of the temporary chapel of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker took place on 10 January 2018, in Reykjavik at the construction site of the future site of the first Orthodox church in Iceland, the Russian embassy in Iceland.

Representatives of the Orthodox community, as well as the Russian Ambassador to Iceland Anton Vasilliev took part in the ceremony of the consecration of the cross, which was led by parish rector Archpriest Timothy (Zolotusky) of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Fr. Timothy called the erection of chapel a milestone for the Orthodox community in Iceland, thanking the Russian embassy in Iceland for its long-term support of the construction project. ▶

## Day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius to become official holiday in Serbia



Minister of Culture and Mass Communications Vladan Bukosavlevic says he is certain that Serbia will celebrate the day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius this year as an official state holiday, thereby, he emphasized, "filling the cultural gap" between Serbia and other Slavic nations. ▶

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