



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

August 31, 2025

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**“Lift High the Cross!”** I just heard that our **steeple crosses** which fell to the ground last winter will be installed in mid-September, depending upon the weather! And September 14 is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross! Actually, these will be new stainless steel crosses, just in case the old crosses fell because of rust in this sea air. We still don’t know why they fell—Lightning? Ice? Rust? A new way of anchoring them to the steeples will be used, so maybe the new ones won’t fall! **Stay tuned!**—I’ll send you pictures! An alpinist has agreed to do the job, high on the steeples!

We are sure grateful to those who have donated to our **“Priests Health and Retirement Fund!”** Fr Dan Maurer wound up his time doing fundraising in America by having an operation for kidney stones in Stockton, California when he was there. Fr Marcus David has been in the hospital for three weeks in Vladivostok for pancreas problems. Fr Sebastian is doing better after having a

pacemaker put in in Nakhodka. Providently, our Fr Nikita Kushnaryev has been here for the summer from his studies in Rome, and Fr Vicky Samuel has also been here, so we three have been able to carry the load of seven parishes, with the help of our deacons. We need more vocations! Prospective seminarians write us, but seminary takes time and money. (and prayers!)

Our Primorsky Krai **karate champion**, Dmitri, the grandson of our Lesozavodsk parish trustee Vladimir, was recently baptized on Easter Sunday in Vladivostok. Now he has been invited to go to Japan to represent Russia for the international karate championships. **God speed, Dima!**



*Dmitri being anointed with chrism at his baptism on April 20, 2025*

Russia is big, and we already serve seven parishes, so we have the need of **several cars**. An anonymous benefactor has agreed to buy us a second car if our other benefactors would buy the first one! Thanks to our donors, we were able to buy the first one, a **Toyota**



*Our Toyota Passo*

**Wish!** So now we are in the process of buying the second one--a **Toyota Passo**. Don't be surprised that we buy Japanese cars! Most of the cars in our state are Japanese! Quality, and less distance to ship than from Europe or America. The quantity of Japanese cars here makes finding parts easy, and mechanics already know what to do!

Thanks be to you for your donation which we received recently! Be assured we will use your donation for the purpose you intended. And thanks to all the donors who donated to our car fund at Giving Day!! Wishing you grace and good health, and a happy Fall season, Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.

P.S. We need more **mass intentions**, too! To make a donation or order a Mass using your bank card, go here: <http://vladmission.org/get-involved/donate/>

To see *Vladivostok Sunrise 185*, go here: <https://vladmission.org/s/185>