



Восточно-Американская Епархия Русской Православной Церкви Заграницей
Eastern American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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To Whom It May Concern

On May 21st, 2014, the eve of St. Nicholas' parish feast day, a notice was found on the door of St. Nicholas Church, in which the property's landlord – the Kuban Stanitsa of Red Bank – stated that the church was closed and that the locks had been changed. No prior notice or warning was given to the occupants of the church building, which have been holding regular services in the church for over sixty years.

The rector of the parish, Very Rev. Serge Lukianov, informed the parish attorney, the Hon. Pasquale Menna, Esq. of this injustice. His Honor contacted the Stanitsa's attorney, Karri Lueddeke, Esq., demanding an explanation and that access to the church building be restored immediately. This was granted.

Fr. Lukianov contacted the President of the Stanitsa, Mr. George Borisov, who informed the rector that the Stanitsa wants the parish to vacate the property. Because the property is officially under the Kuban Stanitsa, we have officially closed the parish and instructed the clergy to remove the contents of the church and hand them over to the administration of the Diocese of Eastern America & New York, to whom said contents canonically belong.

+ Hilarion

Metropolitan of Eastern America & New York
First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad

