## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY ANCESTORS OF GOD AT THE PATRIARCHATE

On Sunday, September 9/22, 2019, the Patriarchate celebrated especially the commemoration of Saints Joachim and Anna, whose prayer was answered by God and granted them Maria as their child, and made them Ancestors of God, and their daughter the Mother of God, because she was predestined to bear in the flesh His Only Begotten Son the Saviour and Redeemer of the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This feast was celebrated by the Patriarchate at their ancient Holy Monastery, which is adjacent to the interior wall of the city of Jerusalem by St. Stephen's Gate, or Lion's Gate.

Vespers in the evening and the Divine Liturgy in the morning were officiated by the Most Reverend Metropolitan Joachim of Helenoupolis, with co-celebrants Archimandrite Kallistos and Deacon Hader, at the chanting of monk Raphael with the help of Archimandrite Eusevios, as the service was attended by many faithful Christians and monks from Jerusalem.

The Officiator of the D. Liturgy and the Congregation were offered a hospitable reception at the Hegoumeneion after the D. Liturgy by the Hegoumen Archimandrite Meletios.

From Secretariat-General