



■ Our Sister Church, the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria

## **The Proclamation of the Sanctity of the Holy Protopresbyter and Confessor, Saint Evstati** † Pascha 1952



**On September 23, 2024 (Old Style)**, the Synaxarion of our Church was enriched with the Commemoration of yet another glorious intercessor before the Lord, the Holy Protopresbyter Evstati (Yankov Efstatiev), the New Confessor.

In accordance with the decision of the Holy Synod of our Sister Church, the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, taken at its meeting on August 6/19, 2024, under the presidency of His Eminence, Metropolitan Photiy of Triaditza, the Proclamation of the Sanctity and the first official Feast Day of the Saint were celebrated at the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Saturday and Sunday, September 22-23, 2024 (Old Style).

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**Our** Holy Synod accepted the invitation extended by our Sister Church of Bulgaria to participate in the solemnities, sending His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle as its representative.

On Saturday, 22 September (Old Style), Metropolitan Cyprian visited the historic Convent of the Protection of the Theotokos (in the Knyazhevo district of Sofia), which is under the direction of the Reverend Mother Serafima, and celebrated a *Trisagion* for the

repose of the convent's first Abbess, the ever-memorable Mother Serafima, and also for two pillars of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, the ever-memorable Fathers Serafim (Alexiev) and Sergius (Yazadzhiev), as well as for other reposed nuns.



That evening, His Eminence participated in the All-Night Vigil (Vespers and Matins), according to the Slavic Typikon.

His Grace, Bishop Serafim of Sozopol presided at Small and Great Vespers, and His Eminence, Metropolitan Photiy was the principle celebrant at Matins and the Hierarchical Concelebration (see photos of the [All-Night Vigil](#) and of the [Divine Liturgy](#)). In addition to Metropolitan Cyprian, Bishops Nikon of Ishim and Siberia and John of Melbourne also participated, representing Metropolitan Agafangel of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

The services were attended by a large number of devout believers and nuns, some of whom had travelled from abroad to participate.

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**The Glorification** took place during various parts of the service.

Before Vespers, the final *Panikhida* (Memorial Service) was served for the repose of the soul of the Protopresbyter Evstati Yankov.



After the Sessional Hymns at Matins, to the singing of the Magnification of the Saint, there took place the unveiling of the first Icon of St. Evstati, which was placed on an adorned Icon stand in the middle of the Church, surrounded by the Hierarchs, Priests, Deacons, and Subdeacons.



After the reading of the Matins Gospel by Metropolitan Photiy, the veneration of the Icon began, as Bishops Nikon and John anointed the large congregation with oil from the vigil lamp.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, a procession was made around the Cathedral with the Icon of the New Confessor and other Icons, while a Moleben to St. Evstati was chanted for the first time.

Metropolitan Photiy delivered a festal homily both at the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, in which he spoke about the life, spiritual gifts, and spiritual Testament of the Confessor Saint [\(see text in Bulgarian here\)](#).



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**May** the New Confessor of the Genuine Church of Christ, the “Vladyka of the Rhodopes,” St. Evstati, confirm us in genuine Orthodoxy (correct belief) and Orthopraxy (correct observance of the Faith), through his intercessions, and inspire us by his example of combining zeal with humility, and missionary activity with hesychiasm, in a life of repentance and paschal joy.

■ We will soon publish the Life of St. Evstati, whose beautiful Icon and Service dedicated to him are the work of the Sisterhood of the historic Convent of the Protection, in the Knyazhevo district of Sofia.

● **I**t is worth noting that the Genuine Orthodox Church in Bulgaria, under His Eminence, Metropolitan Photiy of Triaditza, is a vibrant and esteemed Church, bearing witness to Faith and Life through its seventeen parishes, one convent, two Bishops, seventeen Priests, and four Deacons.

■ **C**ontact information:

**a.** [inform@bulgarian-orthodox-church.org](mailto:inform@bulgarian-orthodox-church.org).

**b.** Cathedral: 0035928558134.

**c.** website: [https://bulgarian-orthodox-church.org/index\\_EN.html](https://bulgarian-orthodox-church.org/index_EN.html)

