



## **Representatives of Local Orthodox Churches take part in the celebration of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God in the capital of Tatarstan**



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On November 4, the feast of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God and National Unity Day, church celebrations took place in Kazan.

The day before, the All-night Vigil was celebrated in the Kazan Cathedral, which was built on the site where the miracleworking icon of the Most Holy Mother of God appeared in 1579.

On the morning of November 4, a procession of the cross with the venerated Kazan icon of the Queen of Heaven went from the Dormition Cathedral of the Kazan Kremlin to the Monastery of the Kazan icon. The venerated icon was brought into the cathedral, and the Divine Liturgy began, press service of the

Diocese of Kazan reports.

The divine service was celebrated by Metropolitan Nikandr of Naro-Fominsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Finance and Economics Administration currently on a working visit to the Diocese of Kazan with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus', Metropolitans Mark of Vyatka and Slobodskoy, Kirill of Kazan and Tatarstan, Savva of Vologda and Kirillov, Ferapont of Kostroma and Nerekhta, Bishops Pakhomy of Chistopol and Nizhnekamsk, Mefody of Almetyevsk and Bugulma, Paisiy of Zheleznogorsk and Lgov; Melety of Roslavl and Desnogorsk, Gedeon (Kharon), and Gavriil of Naberezhnye Chelny and Yelabuga.

The archpastors were assisted by Archimandrite Teektist (Dimitrov), representative of the Patriarch of Bulgaria to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archimandrite Seraphim (Shemyatovsky), representative of the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Archpriest Daniel Andreyuk, representative of the Orthodox Church in America to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; hieromonk Kirill (Korytko), secretary of the Tatarstan Metropolia; hegumen Mark (Vilensky), abbot of the Monastery of the Kazan icon of the Mother of God; Rev. Nikita Kuznetsov, rector of the Kazan theological seminary, rectors of churches and abbots of monasteries of the Tatarstan Metropolia; deans of the districts of the Diocese of Kazan; clergy of the churches of Kazan, and ordained monks of the monastery.

At the end of the divine service, Metropolitan Kirill congratulated all those gathered on the feast of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God and on the National Unity Day.

Metropolitan Nikandr conveyed to all the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Rus'. The presentation of the church awards followed.

In conclusion, members of the art-group LARGO, standing on the ambo, sang "O All-Hymned Queen" canticle.

After the Liturgy, the archpastors offered a prayer at the grave of the ever-memorable Metropolitan Feofan (Ashurkov).

The worshippers were offered a repast in the monastery.

Taking part in the procession of the cross were approximately 5,000 people, and nearly 5,500 parishioners and pilgrims prayed at the Liturgy in the cathedral.