

ANNOUNCEMENT

By a decision of the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church – Bulgarian Patriarchate, the Cultural and Educational Department announces:

NATIONAL COMPETITION

"MY HEAVENLY PROTECTOR / MY ORTHODOX CHURCH" – 2025

Categories:

- **Visual Arts (Painting, Drawing or Iconography)**
- **Literature (Poetry and Prose)**
- **Photography and Information Technologies**

The competition is open to all children from 3rd and 4th group of the kindergarten and all students from 1st to 12th grade at school.

Theme:

The works should be dedicated to one of the following topics (or a combination of both):

- My heavenly protector, whom I have chosen or whose name I bear; and/or
- The Orthodox Church as a Home of God, and/or;
- A particular Orthodox church that is significant for me / for my family / for my community.

Each work must be an original creation of the participant, and its submission implies consent for participation, as well as for its evaluation and display at an exhibition or publication.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMPETITION WORKS: March 31, 2025

(This is the final date for submission via postal or courier service.)

ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION:

PENKA HRISTOVA

Cultural and Educational Department

Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church – Bulgarian Patriarchate

For the National Competition "My Heavenly Protector / My Orthodox Church" – 2025

4 Oborishte Street

Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

E-mail: skpotdel@bg-patriarshia.bg

Requirements for Competition Entries:

Each work must have a label containing the following information, placed on the back of the artwork (or on an additional sheet for literary works):

- Category / sub-category / genre
- Title of the work
- First and last name of the participant
- Age and grade
- City / town / village; school / educational club / cultural center or Sunday school / other institution
- Postal address, E-mail and Contact telephone number of the participant or his/her parent;
- Name and phone number of the teacher/mentor and his/her contact telephone number

COMPETITION RESULTS AND EXHIBITION

The winners in each category will be announced after the jury's decision on website of the Bulgarian Patriarchate, Section *News*: <http://bg-patriarshia.bg/news>, on **16th April 2025**. They will receive awards, and all participants will receive certificates of participation (only upon written request via e-mail or post). The official award ceremony will take place on **18th May 2025** after a Divine Liturgy in the Church "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" in Sofia, Bulgaria (47 George Washington Str., Sofia, Bulgaria).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An exhibition featuring the winning works will be held at the end of the competition. Selected works may be included in a **charity auction** or a **printed collection**, supporting charity initiatives for children.

"The Selection of a Heavenly Protector" is a long-standing spiritual tradition in the Orthodox faith. Let this competition serve as a way to glorify God and inspire young minds and talented participants through the support of the Church!