



PETAR PETKOV SAVED THE CROSS IN THE ICE WATER OF THE MARITSA RIVER IN DIMITROVGRAD

Tuesday, 6 January 2026

Petar Petkov (38 years old, from Dimitrovgrad), saved the cross, keeping the tradition on today's great Orthodox Christian holiday of Epiphany. Petar caught the cross for the first time, although he has been jumping into the icy waters for seven years. He wished himself health and good luck. The mayor of the municipality of Dimitrovgrad, Mr Ivo Dimov, presented the winner with wine, a ceremonial cake and a cash prize, as well as the other participants in the ritual. Their number was 35, including the European wrestling champion Georgi Ivanov. The young people performed the ritual dance for health in the icy waters of the river, which has now become a tradition.

The blessing ritual was performed by Bishop Georgi Todev. Hundreds of residents and guests of Dimitrovgrad, standing on the riverbank, warming themselves with tea and red wine provided by the Dimitrovgrad municipality. Father Georgi blessed the cross and recalled the symbolism of the Christian holiday.





