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Divine Liturgy at site where St. Astius was martyred in Durres during 2nd century



The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania's Bishop of Amantias, His Grace Nathaniel, this week venerated the memory of St. Astius, the 2nd-century bishop and martyr of Dyrrhachium, modern-day Durres.

A Divine Liturgy was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Apostles Paul and Astius in the ancient coastal city of Durres, officiated by His Grace and co-officated by the celebrating Bishop of Vilidos, His Grace Astius, along with other clerics of the Albanian Church.

After the Divine Liturgy a Holy Icon of St. Astius was conveyed in a litany outside the cathedral.

St. Astius was arrested by the Roman governor Agricola around the year 98. He was beaten with lead rods and ox hide whips, but did not renounce Christ. His tormentors crucified him for refusing to worship pagan idols. In Albania, he is commemorated on July 6.

