

THE HOLY METROPOLIS  
OF DEMETRIAS

# MONASTERIES OF MAGNESIA



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## THE HOLY METROPOLIS OF DEMETRIAS



### Preface of the Metropolitan of Demetrias

We have many times emphasized how a particular feature and decoration of the God-saved province of Demetrias is its monasteries: a spiritual ark that keeps and bequeaths to our pious people a priceless heritage, through which the national particularity is rescued, a particularity which draws on hellenic-orthodox tradition.

For the promotion of this intellectual capital of our Holy Monasteries, for which we rejoice in God, we accomplished in the past the edition of the pilgrimage Guide «The Monasteries of Magnesia». That edition was of great resonance and greatly increased the turnout of devout pilgrims from Greece and abroad, who wished to get to know our sacred and historical foundations from a close distance. For that reason it quickly run out, which notably pleased us, as it constitutes a sign that modern man does not cease to seek and find in our Orthodox monasteries, and generally in the orthodox ascetic lifestyle, a source of flowing elixir of life and salvation.

Thus, our local Church proceeds this year to the re-publication of the Guide, enriched of course, as our Monasteries do not cease to grow and flourish. The volume includes old and new Monasteries belonging to our metropolitan region. Each one of them has its own color, its own flavor; one the quietness and



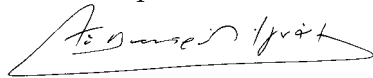
asceticism, another the mission, another the hospitality, the openness to the human being and created nature etc. All make up the beautiful mosaic of orthodox spirituality, with the various aspects of Grace in the life of the Church, in which our Monasticism plays a leading role.

At this point a clarification is needed: The title of the Pilgrimage Guide is: «The Monasteries of Magnesia» Nevertheless, in the Guide there are two of our monasteries which are not in Magnesia, but belong to our local Church. These are the men's Holy Monastery of Saint Panteleimon- The Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple and the female Holy Monastery of Timios Prodromos in Agia of Larisa, two real ornaments of our God-saved province, which, together with the rest of our Monasteries, make up the bastions and spiritual support of our people.

We owe warm thanks to the Region of Thessaly for the undertaking of the cost of re-publication. The Christ-friendly feelings, the piety, the benevolent mood of offering and cooperation of the Hon. Head of the Region of Thessaly, Mr. Konstantinos Agorastos, should perhaps be an example to follow for every state authority. For, where there is harmonious cooperation between Church and State, many good result, to the benefit of our people and our land.

Thus, this good manual «Monasteries of Magnesia» let be for everyone, locals and visitors, a mailbox of invitation to get acquainted not only with historical and ancient monuments, not only with places full of natural beauty, but mainly, with ways and convictions of Orthodox spirituality, which refer to a different state and life, to «real life».

With parental wishes



† The Metropolitan of Demetrias Ignatios

## 1. The Holy Monastery of Panagia in Upper Xenia



**T**he Monastery of Panagia in Upper Xenia was founded in the late 10th century when an icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos was found among ivy (in Greek «kissos»), after which it was named «Monastery of Kissiotisa» until the 1930's, according to the seals of the Monastery.

Particular blessing for the first monks was the arrival of the icon Panagia of Xenia which reached the Monastery by sea during the iconoclastic period. It appears that quite early on the Monastery flourished and was given the title «Royal, Patriarchal and Stavropegiac (under the Patriarch's jurisdiction) Monastery». At the beginning of the 13th century Latin crusaders slaughtered around 800 monks of the Monastery who refused to submit to papal authority. During



the Ottoman occupation, the Monastery was very active, and according to the tradition had a «secret school». Around the 1600's the new main church (katholikon) was built; the old one of the 10th century collapsed during the earthquake of 1554. The Church's iconography was painted in 1663 and by 1729 the Church was enriched with gilded, wood-carven masterpieces. Thief raids and severe winters forced the monks to build a small dependency named after Saint Nicholas between the settlements of Sourpi and Vrynena, where they settled down permanently in 1878, completely abandoning Upper Xenia. With the establishment of the first Greek State, the assets of the Monastery were confiscated. During World War II, the Italians set fire to the Monastery and only the Katholikon was miraculously saved. In 1968 a new brotherhood moved in. The present-day growth of the Monastery began in 1986 with another new brotherhood, governed by Archimandrite Nektarios Dovas, current Metropolitan of Corfu. He accomplished a remarkable work of renovation, reconstruction, organization of dependencies, and welcoming new monks, restoring the coenobitic system. The current Abbot of the Monastery is Archimandrite Nektarios Ifantidis and the brotherhood numbers 5 monks.

**The Holy Monastery of Panagia in Upper Xenia**  
 VRYNENA, ALMYROS / MAGNESIA, P.C. 371 00  
 TEL.: (+30) 24220 22413  
 e-mail: imanoxenias@gmail.com

## 2. The Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Lord in Flamourion



**S**t. Simeon, the Barefoot and Single-robed (Monochiton) of Gerakari, Agia, founded the Monastery. He was an important holy figure, with vigorous missionary and thaumaturgic activity. Last stop of his travels was Constantinople, where he healed the daughter of the Vizier; receiving expensive gifts, money and privileges, using them, when he returned, to finish the work of completing the Holy Monastery which later was recognized with the Patriarchal seal as a Patriarchal and Stavropegiac Monastery.

The Holy Monastery does not allow women, according to the rules of its holy founder. The Katholikon is a simple Byzantine church with a few frescos on the roof and the temple. The whole complex gives the impression of an ascetic, agrarian monastery that covers





only the basic needs of the monks. The Monastery is located in an inaccessible and secluded forest region, and due to snowfalls it is completely cut off from the rest of the world in the wintertime. During the civil war, rebels seized its few possessions and bombed the Monastery. The brotherhood struggled to restore the buildings. The Monastery has as a treasure and blessing the whole Honest skull of the founder, St Simeon, and the right hand of Saint Gerasimos the New. The current Abbot of the Monastery is Archimandrite Simeon Anastasiou and the brotherhood numbers 3 monks.



#### The Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Lord in Flamourion

VENETO MAGNESIA, P.C. 385 00  
TEL.: (+30) 24210 70060

### 3. The Holy Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Upper Gatzea



It is a dependency of the Holy Monastery of Great Lavra of Mouth Athos. It is situated on a hill in an impressive place with a panoramic view next to the village of Upper Gatzea. The small Katholikon is dedicated to the Holy Trinity and has its celebration day on the Monday of the Holy Spirit. Archimandrite Gregorios Hatzinikolaou is the abbot and the brotherhood numbers 5 monks.

#### The Holy Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Upper Gatzea

UPPER GATZEA, MAGNESIA, P.C. 373 00  
TEL.: (+30) 24230 22504



#### 4. The Holy Monastery of St. Seraphim of Sarov in Portaria



**T**he Monastery is currently being built in an area called «Prophet Elias», at a place provided by the Municipality of Portaria. Archimandrite Athanasios Kollas is the Abbot and pioneer of the Monastery's construction, undertaking the difficult task of erecting the new monastic complex. Already the monastery is adorned with a beautiful Katholikon, named after St. Seraphim inaugurated on July 19, 2016 by His Eminence the Metropolitan of Demetrias Mr. Ignatius.

**The Holy Monastery of St. Seraphim Of Sarov**  
Portaria MAGNESIAS, P.C. 370 11  
TEL.: (+30) 24210 40669

#### 5. The Holy Monastery of Saint Panteleimon in Agia



**T**he Monastery is located in the northeast section of Agia, two and a half kilometres from this picturesque little town close to mount Kissavos. The Monastery consists of the Katholikon dedicated to the Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple, the tower of the Abbot, the Refectory, and the wing of cells (rooms for the monks).

The Monastery's Katholikon is constructed according to the Athonite architectural style, with four pillars in the north and south aisles. It is filled with wall-paintings made in 1724 by a monk named Gabriel from the Peloponese. It has three domes, one in the centre and two smaller ones, north and south above the altar. This is the reason it was called «Koumbelis» (from «koumbes» = dome).





Certain accounts have it that the Monastery was founded in 1292. According to an inscription on a stone slab in the southern wall of the Church, 1580 was a year of large-scale work on the Katholikon. The Monastery's Refectory has wall-paintings on its eastern and western sides dating to 1616. For more than a century the Monastery was abandoned and desolate. During the 1980's a monastic sisterhood inhabited the Monastery and rebuilt the destroyed western wing. The following decade it was abandoned. In June 2005 a new brotherhood moved in. The Abbot is Archimandrite Aimilianos Kazantzidis and the brotherhood numbers 3 monks.



**The Holy Monastery of saint Panteleimon in Agia**  
AGIA, LARISSA, P.C. 400 03  
TEL.: (+30) 24940 23189

## 6. The Holy Monastery of Saint Ignatios the God-Bearer in Anakasia Volos

The Monastery is situated in the region of Anakasia, a little further away from the house of the Kontos family, where the folk painter Theophilos has left his ineffaceable touches with his brush.



The location has been used in the past for diverse purposes, changing at times its use. In the beginning, during the time of Turkish occupation, it functioned as a boarding school for girls (Parthenagogeion), while in the year 1923 it was used as a school. As it was property of the Church of Saint John the Forerunner of Anakasia, it was ceded to the Holy Metropolis of Demetrias in 1961. It functioned as a School for Deaf and Mute until 1989. For 15 years the location was in stillness and disuse, until His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Demetrias Ignatius, had the inspiration to turn this location to a place of prayer, namely to a Holy Monastery. It was at that time when Divine Providence guided to that place the steps of two Priest-monks, of Father Maximos and Father Ignatius, who settled down to the nascent Monastery, which they dedicated to Saint Ignatios the God-Bearer.

Inauguration took place by His Eminence, the Metropolitan Ignatius on July 20, 2004. Since then divine liturgies take place unflinching, while at the same time efforts for reconstruction and embellishment of the old building continue.

Abbot of the Monastery is the Archimandrite Maximos Papaioannou and the brotherhood numbers 2 monks.

**The Holy Monastery of Saint Ignatios in Anakasia**  
ANAKASIA, MAGNESIA, P.C. 385 00  
TEL.: (+30) 24210 42201

## 7. The Holy Monastery of the Annunciation in Trikeri



**T**he Monastery was founded in 1725. It is situated on the island of Trikeri at the end of the peninsula in the Gulf of Pagasitikos. The Katholikon is in the form of a cross (basilica) with cupola, dedicated to the Annunciation of Theotokos. The Monastery celebrates on September 10, the day of the finding of the Holy Icon of Panagia Evangelistria of Trikeri. During the time of iconoclasm there were seven churches in the region, which were destroyed from the iconoclasts. Later on a monk, under the revelation of Virgin Mary, found her icon.

The Monastery was build at the place of the finding and has 100 cells-guest rooms. The Church is the most remarkable in the region. It is a place of pilgrimage and it belongs to the village of Trikeri. The transportation to the Monastery is only by boat and the travel is short.

### THE HOLY MONASTERY OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TRIKERI

TRIKERI, MAGNESIA, P.C. 370 09  
TEL.: (+30) 24230 55207

## 8. The Holy Monastery of Panagia in Lower Xenia



**T**he Holy Monastery of Panagia in Lower Xenia, situated 16 kilometres from the town of Almyros, is built on a small plateau with beautiful vegetation and plentiful water.

The exact date of foundation is unknown. From the enwalled glyphs found in the apse of the altar, we conclude that it was established sometime in the 12th and 13th centuries and was initially a dependency of the Upper Monastery of Xenia dedicated to Saint Nicholas.

Tightly linked with the two monasteries is the miracle-working icon of Panagia of Xenia, remaining the protection and refuge for all of the region's faithful. Beginning in 1704, historic junctures and various needs forced the monks to move and settle in the dependency (metochi) of Saint Nicholas, bringing with them the Holy Relics and the miracle-working icon of Panagia Xenia.

As time past, the metochi experienced great spiritual and economic growth and under the title «Lower Monastery of Xenia», replaced the dominant Upper Monastery which fell into decline. During the wars of emancipation from the Turks, and more recently



from the Germans and Italians, the spiritual and social contributions of the Monastery were significant.

Until 1970 the Holy Monastery was a men's monastery; when that year changed to a nunnery.

In 1980 it was destroyed by a local earthquake, resulting in the building of a new Monastery a short distance from the old, on the hill «Kastrouli». In 1990 the New Holy Monastery had its door-opening and in 2001 the inauguration of its beautiful Katholikon. The Monastery has its celebration day on the 23rd of August, and Panagia's miraculous grace attracts a large number of faithful from the nearby vicinity and wider Greece. Mother Superior is Gerontissa Nymfodora Kouriotou and the sisterhood numbers 10 nuns.



**The Holy Monastery of Panagia in Lower Xenia**  
 ALMYROS, MAGNESIA, P.C. 371 00  
 TEL.: (+30) 24220 94265

## 9. The Holy Monastery of Saint Gerasimos in Makrynitsa



On the western side of Pelion 850 meters high and 17 kilometres from Volos, near Makrynitsa, is the Monastery of Saint Gerasimos the New from Leontari of Tripolis; it is located beneath boulders «as if wedged into a huge apse». At this place Saint Gerasimos first built a small cell and devoted himself to prayer and asceticism..

When he reposed (14.9.1740) he was buried in the narthex of the Holy Trinity Church (the Katholikon of the Monastery of Sourvia). His grave and relics caused miracles and healings leading the monks of Sourvia, where Gerasimos belonged, to build a church in his honour a year later in 1741 as a dependency of the Monastery. In 1795, when the cell of Saint Gerasimos collapsed, the Monastery of Sourvia erected a two-story building with two cells and other auxiliary areas as a place of residence for its monastics who looked after the needs of the church. Christians had a great devotion for Saint Gerasimos. That is why they asked for his skull in various regions of Thessaly in order to confront epidemic illnesses, the threat of locusts, droughts and the like. The miraculous interventions of the holy relic in Oreoi,

Skopelos, Kanalia and elsewhere remain renowned among the people.

With the first Church of 1741 and the two-storey building of 1795 as its fundamental structures, the Monastery of Saint Gerasimos was founded and was subject to all of the hardships of the 1821 and 1854 revolutions, local revolts, wars of 1912-13, and foreign occupation of 1941 to 1944. Just before the war of 1940, there was a growth of religious sentiment among many young women in Makrynitsa and the surrounding villages, which was strongly manifested in the litanies of the holy skull of the Saint. It was then that an enlightened priest, Father Dositheos Macheritsas (1895-1958), abbot of the joined Monasteries of Sourvia and Flamouri, founded the women's Nunnery of Gerasimos in Makrynitsa with the approval of the Metropolitan of Demetrias, Ioakeim; and the first four nuns were tonsured (1945) under Abbess Fevronia. More women came later, but the difficult conditions of that period and the lack of cells delayed their tonsure. The growth of the Monastery was temporarily halted after the repose of Father Dositheos, but afterwards, under the guidance of Father Gabriel, «a just and wise elder», the Monastery grew in buildings and numbers.

The Katholikon of 1741 has a wood-carved temple made in 1808 with icons of renaissance style. The icon of Saint Gerasimos, (18th century) is silver-plated. Among its relics are those of Saint Simeon and other anonymous saints. In accordance with local tradition, on the day of Mid-Pentecost following liturgy in the Church of Panagia, the icon of Saint Gerasimos is carried in procession as a blessing to the farmers' fields of Makrynitsa. While in August the same icon and holy skull are placed in the Church of the Dormition of Theotokos in Makrynitsa for veneration by the holidaymakers.

In the library (of the Monastery) there are old publications of patristic texts. The nuns engage in embroidery, knitting, the production of icons on wood, and hagiography. There is a shop and a guest house. The Abbess is Gerontissa Efpraxia Kaspali and the sisterhood numbers 14 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of Saint Gerasimos  
in Makrynitsa**  
MAKRYNITSA, MAGNESIA, P.C. 370 11  
TEL.: (+30) 24280 99171

## 10. The Holy Monastery of Pammegiston Taxiarchon on Pelion

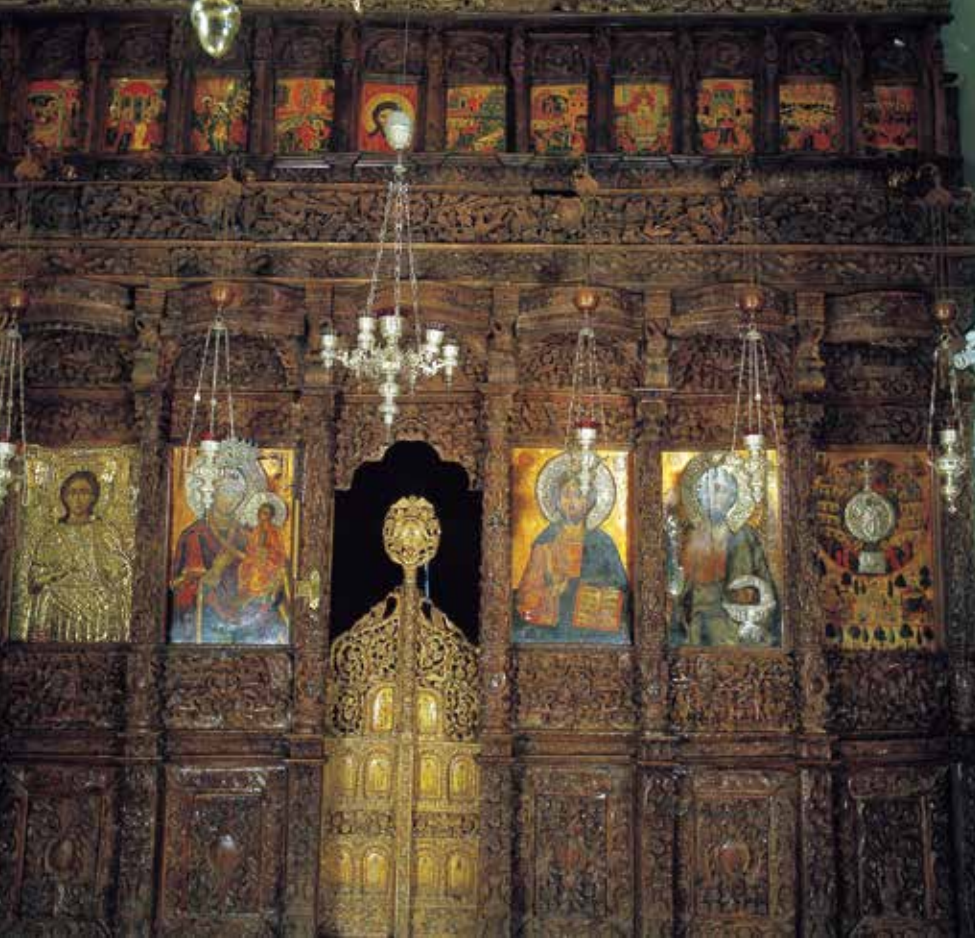


**T**he Holy Communal Nunnery of Pammegiston Taxiarchon (Most Great Archangels) on Mt Pelion in St George Nelias, is located a half hour from Volos at an altitude of approximately 650 meters, at a spectacular location with panoramic view of the Pagasetikos Gulf.

It draws its roots from the mid-Byzantine era when Pelion, known at the time as «The Mountain of cells» or «Monastery», constituted a renowned monastic centre of the Orthodox East.

The Holy Monastery flourished firstly in the 12th century. It was a men's monastery from its beginnings until 1920, and it had an eventful course through time, deeply marking the life and history of





the area as a place of pilgrimage for the whole of Thessaly, with its multifaceted ecclesiastical and national presence.

Its oldest structural restorations occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries. At that time, its devout Katholikon, honouring the venerable Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all the Heavenly, Bodiless Angels, was painted with rare frescos and adorned with an extraordinary wood-carven temple containing exceptional portable icons of folk art.

During the second half of the 19th century, it reached the peak of its glory and spiritual influence under the leadership of Hieromonk Gabriel Ioasaf, who was a significant, holy and inspirational figure of Pelion monasticism in these more recent times, spiritual offspring of the ascetic life-style of Mount Athos.

After his blessed repose in 1911, the historical Monastery was forsaken by its monks, stripped of its great wealth and numerous

dependencies (metochia), and left in a state of dereliction. Nevertheless, the miracle-creating grace of the Holy Archangels, facilitated its renewal, a first sign of which was its reopening in 1976 as a nunnery.

In 1988 the current sisterhood began to get formed, which under the leadership of Nun Nikodemi (Kissa) and the spiritual guidance of her Elder, Father Antonios (Zoupis), it continues with new pages of life and creation, the long, ascetic tradition of the Monastery, to the glory of God and His Church.

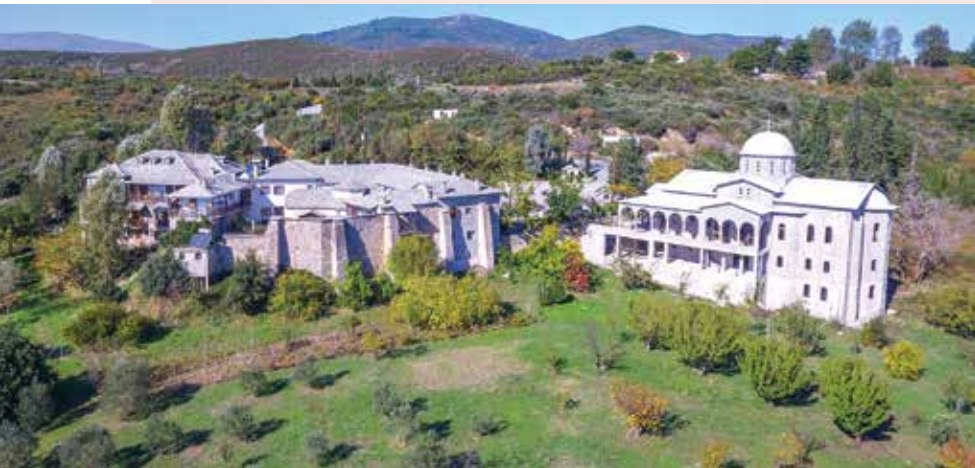
The members of the Holy Commune, alongside their struggle for spiritual erudition, they have undertaken that of the renovation of the buildings of the Monastery, which found in ruins and have now brought to a functional standard, with the grace of God and the Saints, as well as with the help of the faithful. One of the Sisterhood's last and most important construction is the building of a new, large Holy Church dedicated to the Archangel Michael, which was founded by His Eminence Metropolitan Ignatius in September 2002.

The Monastery also has a dependency in the beautiful, olive-grove region of «Kanalia» of Saint George, Nelias. It used to be an old, small monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, which during the last century has become desolate and slowly has fallen into decay in a state of semi-dereliction. Now it has been restored by the sovereign Monastery.

The sisterhood engages in typical, traditional, monastic works (diakonimata) inter alia gold-embroidery, hagiography, the sewing of vestments, incense-making and other, less typical but equally important works: one of which is the operation of the radio station «Monastic Diakonia», broadcasting at 87,5 FM all the daily church services as well as a rich and edifying 24-hour program of homilies and Byzantine music. It is a modest contribution and offering of the Holy Monastery in the field of Orthodox mission. The Abbess is Nikodemi Kissa and the sisterhood numbers 26 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of Taxiarches on Pelion**  
AGIOS GEORGIOS, NILEIAS, MAGNESIA, P.C. 373 00  
TEL.: (+30) 24280 93590  
[www.impt.gr](http://www.impt.gr) • e-mail: [imtaxiar@gmail.com](mailto:imtaxiar@gmail.com)

## 11. The Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist in Syki



**T**he Monastery is located on the southeast side of Mt Pelion. Across from the Monastery spreads the Aegean Sea, where the islands of Skiathos, Skopelos and Alonissos lie. The Monastery allegedly was founded in 1795 by Hieromonks David and Damaskinos, and the leader of the Revolution of Pelion, Stergios Basdekis.

At its beginnings the Monastery was a men's monastery with a lot of land assets – mainly gifts of the faithful – extending to the sea. The monks engaged primarily in cultivating the land and raising animals. There were about a thousand olive trees and many gardens with fig trees around the Monastery. They also cultivated grain and split peas.

The initial building consisted of a ground floor with a kitchen, an oil press – one can still see the old oil-press stones, and storage areas; and a first floor with a reception room and rooms for the monks (cells).

The Katholikon, the Holy Church of the Honourable, Glorious, Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist, is of Athonite style with

three apses and a narthex. It has a small octagonal dome without windows and the narthex's vaulted roof is made from limestone. There are inscriptions right and left of the Katholikon's entrance. The Church is built with white square stones and the walls are ornamented with embossed depictions of crosses, two-headed eagles, and saints. The Monastery functioned as a men's monastery until 1914 when it closed and remained closed for 70 years. The love of the residents of Syki for the Monastery found ways, however, to maintain it to a certain degree.

In 1984 the Monastery opened again and was converted into a women's monastery by Presidential Decree. Since then renovation of the old building took place and the building of two new wings with cells, workrooms, a reception area, and the chapel of Saint Nektarios.

New is the current view of the Monastery, the surrounding area of which is dominated by the under construction Katholikon. Alongside the main work of the nuns, which are prayer and worship, other pursuits are Iconography, Gold embroidery, Handicraft, Gardening et.al.



Miraculous is the icon of John the Baptist, who is the Great Protector of the Monastery. Within the miracle of His protection the nuns live and move. Several miracles refer to the Holy Prodomos, which is why the Monastery has become a pilgrimage throughout the south Pelion, but also in the wider area of Magnesia. Celebrates in splendour on 29 August.

The Monastery of Holy Prodomos was characterised as a heritage monument in 1976, by order of the Ministry of Culture and Science. Mother Superior is Gerontissa Agathofimi Dimou and the sisterhood numbers 12 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist in Syki**  
SYKI, MAGNESIA, P.C. 370 06  
TEL.: (+30) 24230 54826



## 12. The Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist in Anatoli



**T**he Monastery of St John the Baptist is located three and a half kilometres west of the village Anatoli, 1100 meters high on Mount Kissavos (Ossa). It was built in 1550 by Saint Damianos of Kissavos, who also organized the coenobitic monastic brotherhood that flourished up until the Second World War. Then the Monastery was deserted.

Near the original, post-Byzantine building complex, Athonite monks began to build a new wing in 1980, which they abandoned in 1985. Since July 2000, an international team of Orthodox nuns undertook the restoration of the Monastery. These same nuns also keep the Hermitage (Hesychasterio) of «Apostle Paul» in Attica. They engage in «liturgical crafts» as well as organic gardening and farming (livestock-raising).

The way this monastic community perceives the multiethnic character of the Monastery is as an international mission confirming in practice that in Orthodoxy there is no distinction between nations, races and languages. It slowly becomes known that the Monastery sells organic farming and livestock products, mainly dairy products, as a means of sustaining themselves.



The Monastery occasionally organizes meetings of groups with interests in Orthodoxy, Monasticism, Ecology and other similar subjects.

A goal of vital importance for the monastic community and the rest of the world is the restoration of the Old Monastery, a jewel of local architecture and pride for the cultural heritage of Thessaly. The Abbess is Theodekti Valianatou and the sisterhood numbers 24 nuns.



**The Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist in Anatoli**  
ANATOLI AGIA, LARISSA, P.C. 400 03  
TEL.: (+30) 24940 81289  
e-mail: [imtp.anatoli@gmail.com](mailto:imtp.anatoli@gmail.com)

## 13. The Holy Monastery of Saint Lavrentios on Pelion



**T**he Monastery is about 25 kilometres from Volos. It is situated on the east side 610 meters high, east of the village of St Lavrentios, a settlement that owes its name and establishment to the original Monastery, at an altitude of 610 meters.

Tradition has it that the founder or re-builder of the Monastery was St Lavrentios the Great, a monk of the Great Lavra. An inscription on the north wall of the Church confirms this tradition, reminding us that St Lavrentios founded the Monastery in 1378 and that the Emperor of Trapezounta, Alexios III the Great Komnenos, subsidized it.

Because of the existence of a Latin inscription on the historical building, segments of which are found on the western and northern sides of the Katholikon, it is possible that before the Schism it used to be a Latin Monastery of St Andreas with Benedictine monks from Amalfi, Italy, and that later the Monastery of St Lavrentios was founded on its ruins.

The involvement of the Monastery in the development of the settlement bearing its name (Agios Lavrentios) was significant. The Monastery's Council of Elders designated a member of the village in the various governing offices.

According to salvaged inscriptions, the current Katholikon is the product of a series of renovations, additions and repairs mainly in the 18th century, a period when the monastic community flourished. The 19th century was marked by the figure of the eminent Dositheos II, nicknamed the Philosopher. In 1819 he became abbot and founded a philosophical school at the Monastery. It is the last time in its history that the Monastery shined. It is also noteworthy that during the Ottoman occupation the Monastery ran a «secret school» in its Katholikon. The Turks ravaged the Monastery in 1823, pillaging also the village of Agios Lavrentios.

Today, the third consecutive sisterhood resides at the Monastery, arriving in 1987 and struggling to rebuild and maintain the remaining structures. The Abbess is Gerontissa Mariam Ananiadou and the sisterhood numbers 3 nuns.



**The Holy Monastery of Saint Lavrentios on Pelion**  
 AGIOS LAYRENTIOS, MAGNESIA, P.C. 373 00  
 TEL.: (+30) 24280 96226  
 e-mail: monaglapel@gmail.com



## 14. The Holy Monastery of the Birth of the Theotokos in Agios Vlasios



**I**t was founded on January 1, 1900. We do not know if it initially operated as a men's or women's monastery. We also do not know when it closed. It functioned again as a women's monastery in 1979 under the holy abbacy of the late Gerontissa Magdalini. The Abbess is Gerontissa Kassiani Pata and the sisterhood numbers 2 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of the Birth of the Theotokos**  
AGIOS VLASIOS, MAGNESIA, P.C. 373 00  
TEL.: (+30) 24280 93736

## 15. The Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist in Vrochia



**T**he life of the Monastery began just in 2000. That year, a picturesque church of the 18th century was granted from the Shrine of Saint Lavrentios and constitutes the new Katholikon of the Monastery. A small house was built to host the abbess, and that is how the life of this small but blessed monastery, honouring the Equal to the Angels St John the Baptist, began. It is yet another valuable gem that, together with the other monasteries, adorns the blessed Diocese of Demetrias. At the Monastery, Gerontissa Theodouli Malakatsopoulou lives.

**The Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist in Vrochia**  
KATO LECHONIA, MAGNESIA, P.C. 373 00  
TEL.: (+30) 24280 91095

## 16. The Holy Monastery of Virgin Odigitria in Portaria



**D**ependency of the Holy Monastery Philotheou of Mount Athos, the Monastery of Panagia Odigitria was founded in 1961, when seven nuns settled in Stagiates Pelion, led by the late Abbess Gerontissa Makrina.

Then the famous Elder of the Monastery Philotheou Ephraim, who now lives and ministers Orthodoxy in Arizona of America, took over the seven nuns. Elder Ephraim along with Abbess Makrina, for their new settlement, between Attica and Pelion chose Pelion. So the Elder, along with the seven nuns, came in Portaria in Pelion, in today's Monastery, old house of an Englishman, which was granted to them.

The hospitable monastery follows the Athonite ritual and is a spiritual oasis in today's world. Its architectural structure reflects the modern concept of monastic life.

The Monastery of Panagia Odigitria is 12 km. from Volos and is located very close to Portaria in Pelion, about 500 meters from it, at an altitude of 620 m. with view of Volos and Pagasitikos Gulf. The monastery celebrates on August 15 and 20 June. Abbess of the monastery is Gerontissa Theophano Kyritsi and the sisterhood numbers 20 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of Virgin Odigitria**  
PORTARIA, MAGNESIA, P.C. 370 11  
TEL.: (+30) 24280 99146, 24280 99140

## 17. The Holy Monastery of Panagia Gorgoypikoos in Fytoko



**I**t is located northwest of the city Volos, 8 kilometres away and 3 kilometres from the settlement of Fytoko. In November of 1995, «Panagia Gorgoypikoos» from the Holy Monastery of Doheiarou (Mount Athos) was established in Monastery at its current location, an area donated by Mr. Apostolos Hatzestamoulis. In the spring of 1996, the eastern wing of the Monastery was founded, and was completed a few years later. At the beginning of the summer of 2005 the first sisterhood comprising of four nuns settled in.

The Abbess is Makrina Varvareli and the sisterhood numbers 3 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of Panagia Gorgoypikoos in Fytoko**  
FYTOKO, MAGNESIA, P.C. 385 00  
TEL.: (+30) 24210 60011



## 18. The Holy Monastery of Saint Spyridon in Promyrion



**T**he Monastery was built in 1834; but its dedication letter mentioning the names of its benefactors written on May 21st, 1811, leads us to the conclusion that the Monastery was built before 1811, burned down during a big fire in 1824, and was built again from scratch in 1834. During the Ottoman occupation, the Monastery was of great service to the teaching of the Greek language and assisting the liberation movement. The history of the Monastery is linked directly to Mount Athos since many of its fathers moved to it from Athos, leaving the mark of their presence indelible in the history of the Monastery. In 1980 a small group of nuns moved there and renovated the basic working areas, with special emphasis on the expansion of the Church. Mother Superior is Gerontissa Anthimi Darmari and the nunnery numbers 3 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of Saint Spyridon in Promyrion**  
 PROMYRION, MAGNESIA, P.C. 370 06  
 TEL.: (+30) 24210 40021

## 19. The Holy Monastery of Panagia Lampidonos on Pelion



**I**n a natural embrace of East Pelion, below Lampinou village and almost next to the sea in a very nice and quieter environment, there is the small and humble monastery of Panagia Lampidonos.

From the stone reliefs by sculptor Miliou Zipanioti located to the lintel of the western and southern entrances of the ledger, we learn that the church was built in 1796 by popular architect dimo Zipanioti at the expense of the first rebel of Pelion Stergios Basdekis, Abbot being Ignatius Hyieromonk and Daniel Hyieromonk.

However, on a fountain in the courtyard there is an inscription with the year 1780, meaning that probably other older buildings existed.

From the old monastery survives the Katholikon, dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. On the right of the Katholikon there is a chapel dedicated to the thaumaturgic Saints Anargyroi Kosmas and Damianos. Also, surviving are the renovated west wing of the monastery and the left wing, albeit hurt from the cracks in its brickwork, waiting also for its restoration.

Today, with the grace of God, the help of Virgin Mary and the alert interest of His Eminence our Metropolitan Mr. Ignatius, a new sisterhood moved in. Abbess is Gerontissa Theognosia Tsiompanoglou and the sisterhood numbers 4 nuns.

**The Holy Monastery of Panagia Lampidonos on Pelion**  
 LAMPINOY, MAGNESIA, P.C. 370 12  
 TEL.: (+30) 6939 859079

## 20. The Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist in Vyzitsa



**T**he Byzantine Monastery of Saint John the Baptist is located at Vyzitsa on Pelion, 31km from Volos 550 m above sea level in a lush green space. The Monastery dates from the 18th century, founded by Hieromonk Parthenios according to the plate engraved on the marble of the central entrance of the Monastery's Katholikon. It was built by craftsman Dimos Zoupaniotis from Epirus in 1797. Work commenced in April 1797 and the church was completed in June of the same year. It has an impressive wood – carved temple and murals which have been preserved to this day.

By the Grace of God and Saint John the Baptist it has been operating as a Monastery since September 2017 with the blessing of the local Metropolitan of Demetrias & Almyros mr. Ignatios and God's prosperity since early September 2017 the Monastery's staffing has started with the presence of nun Markella.

The Nunnery has its celebration day on the 29th August.

**The Holy Monastery of Saint John the Baptist of Vyzitsa, Pelion**  
**VYZITSA MAGNESIA, P.C. 37010**  
**TEL.: (+30) 6906208425**

Front cover photo:

The Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Lord in Flamourion

Back cover photo:

The Holy Monastery of Panagia in Upper Xenia





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