

THE SACRED MONASTERY OF THE HOLY TAXIARCHS OF MOUNT PELION

The women's Monastic Coenobium of the Holy Taxiarchs (Archangels) is situated between two picturesque villages on the beautiful Mount Pelion, Agios Vlassios and Agios Georgios Nilias. About half an hour by car from the city of Volos, at an altitude of about 650 meters, the Monastery faces the Pagasitic Gulf over a spectacular natural balcony with a panoramic view.

The foundation of the Monastery is first mentioned in the 12th Cent. AD, while its reestablishment at its present higher position, in the 14th Cent. AD, is attributed to the monks of Athos.

The oldest known renovation of the Monastery was in the 18th and 19th Cent. AD. At this time, the Catholicon (Main church) of the Monastery was decorated with rare wall paintings. The wooden carved iconostasis is a fine work of art, with exceptional portable icons of 1772. One of these icons is the oldest icon of Archangel Michael (12th Cent. AD), and it has become famous throughout the centuries for its miraculous healings.

The Monastery flourished in the second half of 19th Cent., during the time of Blessed Hieromonk Gabriel Ioassaf, with a background from Agios Georgios, but a scion of the ascetic Athos.

After his blessed dormition, in 1911, the historical Monastery was deserted, robbed and despoiled, while smugglers of antiquities plundered the miraculous icon of Archangel Michael. However, the heavenly grace of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, the Monastery's Protectors, and the wishes of its previous Fathers, (whose blessed bones today rest in peace at the Monastery's charnel house), protected the rebirth of this sacred land, with its refoundation as a female monastery in 1976.

In 1988, by the blessing of Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Christodoulos, the present sororal community was established and organized under the Reverend Mother Nicodeme Kissa, who still upholds the ancient ascetic tradition of the Monastery, together with her spiritual Father Reverend Antonios Zoupis, to the glory of God and His Church.

Except from their spiritual preparation, the members of the Sacred Coenobium have also undertaken the responsibility of renovating the Monastery's complex, with the grace of God and the aid of devout people. Among the construction projects is the new Temple dedicated to the Miracle of Archangel Michael at Chonae. His Eminence Metropolitan Ignatios of Demetrias and Almyros blessed the Temple in September 2002.

The sororal community also works on traditional monasterial works, such as: ecclesiastical embroidery, hand painted icons, ecclesiastical vestments, traditional church vestments, handmade incense and pure bee wax candles, cultivation and farming of the Monastery's property, handmade traditional sweets and drinks, and the operation of the radio station *Monastic Diaconate* at FM 87.5, as a humble contribution in the field of the Orthodox Mission.

The Coenobium lives under the blessed presence of Madonna *Paramythia* since May 2005, through her Sacred Icon, which is an exact copy of the same named icon conserved at the Holy Monastery of Vatopedion of Athos. This graceful copy was iconographed by the Fathers of Vatopedion and it was donated to the Monastery by the Abbot of Vatopedion, Father Ephraim, under the holy blessing and presence of His Eminence Ignatios, Metropolitan of Demetrias and Almyros, in order for the Supreme Pure Lady of Athos to become the Protector and Mother of the Monastery, together with the Holy Taxiarchs Michael and Gabriel.

INFORMATION

Ecclesiastical Feasts of the Monastery:

September 6: Commemoration of the Miracle of St. Michael at Chonae.

November 8: The Feast of the Holy Archangels.

January 21: Commemoration of a Miracle of Madonna *Paramythia*.

May 27: Commemoration of the arrival of the Sacred Icon of Madonna *Paramythia* at the Monastery.

August 1st: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (an old traditional feast of the Monastery).

Service Schedule:

Every Day all the liturgical prayers are celebrated:
Midnight Service, Matins, The Hours, Vespers and Compline.

On Sundays and Feast Days: the Divine Liturgy is celebrated.

Every Wednesday, after Vespers: the Supplicatory Canon to the Mother of God, *Paramythia*, is celebrated.

The Monastery is closed from:

14:00 pm – 16:30 pm (September 1st until Easter)

14:00 pm – 17:30 pm (the rest of the year)

GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY OF THE HOLY TAXIARCHS
AGIOS GEORGIOS NILIAS, MOUNT PELION
P.O.B. 1894, 37300 AGRIA – VOLOS
TEL. (+30) 24280 93590, FAX (+30) 24280 94 239
SITE: www.impt.gr
e-mail: info@impt.gr

