

Kimolos

The island - The churches - Saint Methodia



Municipality of Kimolos

July 2013



KIMOLOS

A brushstroke of silver in the Aegean Sea

Venetians and Franks called it “Argentiera”, because of its silvery grey rocks. Yet for thousands of years it has been known as Kimolos to its inhabitants, an indication of their undying admiration for this unique place that manages to capture their hearts and minds.

It is often said that a place largely defines a person's character and disposition. This seems to hold true for Kimolos: its beauty - not in an excessive, overwhelming sense but in a human, approachable and simple way - wins you over effortlessly and quietly like a good friend.

Proud, white rocks, etched with fine, grey lines, rise up towards the clear blue sky. Grey - blue hillsides sweep gently down to the sea, ringed with the dry stone walls which stand as a testament to the hard struggle for the “daily bread”. Stone in every possible and unimaginable hue - the product of volcanic anger, shimmering pebbles and golden sandy beaches sparkling in the sun, all ornamented with a scattering of humble vegetation which, like the people here, are stoically engaged in the battle for survival. Dark green olive trees and sweet - smelling lentisk, slender vines whose golden fruit sweeps to kiss the ground, aromatic herbs and delicate flowers, brilliant white lilies growing in the sand and prickly bushes, heather and tall reeds, nesting grounds for God's feathered creatures, and low - lying caper bushes with dainty flowers, all form part of the stage setting for the islanders' arduous life.

Here you will find whitewashed houses with basil-fragrant courtyards standing side by side like good neighbors, low walls beckoning to tired passersby, arches and covered passageways, winding streets with flagstones outlined in white. And all of this, natural and man made, are embraced by the shining salt - smelling sea: an uncut diamond left confidently in God's hands. «Kimolos, my paradise» say the people of Kimolos wherever they find themselves, never missing a chance to go back home to their beloved island for a visit.

The faith of the Kimolos Islanders

In Greek culture, geographical location is not an abstract concept, but rather represents a place signified by specific collective memories and experiences. The churches and chapels on the island bless the ground and define the villager's space and time, taming the nature and blessing his labor. Mainly built following a vision, a dream or other signs, each church often belongs to a family, its care passed on from generation to generation. The saint protects the faithful and they gratefully light a candle, paint his church, hold a festival during the saint's name day, and maybe name a place and their children after him.

It is no surprise that Kimolos, despite its small size, is studded with churches. This quiet type of beauty, which is itself a form of warm prayer, can bring anyone closer to the Creator. The island has more than eighty churches, built with the islanders' hard work and devotion, who have ornamented them not only with carefully chosen and beautifully executed icons, iconostases and religious works of art of great value, but also with their every-day expressions of reverence and faith. Some churches are grand and imposing, while others are charmingly humble; some are in the heart of the village and others are caressed by the waves or serenaded by the wind on the hilltops. In and around the main village, Chorio, you can find your way by following the crosses and white belfries that invite you to explore roughly thirty churches, many of which are of unique architectural interest and contain equally unique iconostases and icons.

Most of the icons are the work of either the "Defterevon" of Sifnos, Father Agapios Prokos, or the priest Emmanuel Skordilis, a Cretan icon painter who founded a school in the 16th century that acted as a leading institution throughout the 17th and 18th century. These icons were painted during the late 18th and early 19th century and were found in many Kimolos' homes.

The icons depicting Virgin Mary, the protector of the island, are considered to be particularly impressive and skillfully crafted works of art. The people of Kimolos celebrate her feast days with many festivities. Some of the most important dates are the Dormition on August 15th, and the Presentation on November 20th and 21st, which people celebrate both on the island and in Piraeus at the church of St. Sofia. These celebrations embody a traditional cultural form which has remained unchanged for more than 100 years.

Most of the older churches in the Cyclades Islands, like those on Kimolos, were built in the 16th and 17th centuries. These historic establishments owe their existence to special privileges granted by Sultan Murat III in 1580 and are famous for their exceptional post-Byzantine icons. During the same period, travelers mention the existence of belfries in Kimolos' churches.





According to a report by Antonio Justiniani, the Latin bishop of Syros who visited Kimolos in 1700, there were 18 churches in Chorio and 63 in the countryside.

Although there is strong evidence for the existence of catacombs in the Limni region (the original location of the ancient town) and at Marinous in Panokima, no exploratory excavations of the Early Christian and Byzantine sites have been performed yet in Kimolos.

It is also worth mentioning that more than ninety artifacts (utensils, vestments, books, icons, two "Epitaphios" bier canopies, documents, etc.) from churches in Kimolos were donated in July 1904 and can be found today in the Byzantine Museum in Athens.

Fotis Kontoglou, one of the most important Greek artists and icon painters of modern Greece, mentions: «The people of Kimolos are hospitable, hard-working and religious... This little village has eleven old churches, all decorated with ancient icons... The most important of all the icons are those of Virgin Mary. The oldest one, "Panagia Odigitria", can be found in the great parish church, huge and silver, with blackened face and hands, like all old icons. The artistry suggests that it came from Constantinople or Thessaloniki. I think it is one of the oldest icons of the Virgin Mary to be found in Greece and one of the most unusual».

The Blessed St. Methodia was born and bred in this delightful place, together with these simple people, and was eventually sanctified. People of Kimolos, both in the island and round the world, tenderly express their love and respect for the two mothers who affectionately watch over them: St. Methodia and the Virgin Mary.





The Metropolitan Church

PANAGIA «ODIGITRIA» (VIRGIN MARY, THE GUIDE): It took 7 years for the construction workers to build the building to their liking, as they could only work during the summer. Magnificent and imposing, the Panagia Odigitria church stands over Chorio and can be seen from a long distance, even by those sailing into the island's port, Psathi.

The Metropolitan Church of Kimolos, Panagia Odigitria was built between 1867 and 1874 and is honored at the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the same place lied before St. Nikolas, a 17th century three - aisled, flat - roofed basilica dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary and St. Spyridon, which also had a small chapel dedicated to St. Andreas.

The church was built thanks to the islanders' diligent and unpaid labour contribution. Therefore, the funds required to complete the building amounted to a sum of only 34,568 drachmas, an amount covered through the financial support of native and immigrant Kimolians, and other people, not directly related to the island.

The church contains many old icons of interest, a number of which come from older, now ruined, churches. The most beautiful is the icon of Panagia Odigitria, which dates back to Byzantine Palaeologan times (15th century) and probably came from Constantinople or Thessaloniki. According to traditional stories, during pirate raids the islanders removed the silver layer from the icon and kept it hidden. This valuable silver cover was crafted in Smirna, Asia Minor.

Among other items, the church contains an Epitaphios bier canopy painted with scenes from the Passion, a work of the "Defterevon" of Sifnos. There is also a shrine, covered with pictures of the healing of the blind man, of Thomas touching Christ's wounds and of the fiery ascension of the Prophet Elijah, among others. These pictures are all the work of Nikiforos, a monk from Cyprus. There is also an icon depicting the Presentation of the Virgin, the work of Fotis Kontoglou. One thing is certain: one must devote quite some time in order to fully appreciate the artistic richness of this church.

Each of these churches is like a museum

The next eight churches are considered to be important archaeological and historical monuments and are protected by the Ministry of Culture. Seven of the churches are located in Chorio: one is inside the Medieval Castle's walls, while six can be found around its perimeter. The eighth church is on the top of Xaplovouni Hill.

GENISSI CHRISTOU (NATIVITY): The oldest of the eight churches is dedicated to the Nativity of Christ and St. Eleftherios. It was built in 1592, as indicated by an inscription on a marble wall plaque next to the south door of the church, and is located in the inner courtyard of the castle. It is a two-aisled, flat-roofed basilica with a painted iconostasis and magnificent icons. The people of Kimolos used to take refuge in the church during pirate raids.

The Byzantine Museum of Athens houses an extremely interesting small icon from this church (Christian Archaeological Society XAE inventory no. 4779, dating back to the late 17th or early 18th century. It depicts what is thought to be a portrait of the founder's grandson (a sailor by profession) and a schematic view of the Medieval Castle, with the Church of the Nativity in its centre, and a windmill on its left side.



CHRISSOSTOMOS (ST JOHN THE SWEET-TONGUED): To the north of the Castle, built in the late 17th century, stands St. Ioannis Chrissostomos. Legend has it that it was built by a widow woman named Chrissi. Later on, she supposedly destroyed an original icon of Chrissostomos, an early 18th century work. It is said that she smashed it with the heel of her shoe when her son, a priest, drowned on Lazarus Saturday on his way home from a service at Poliegos (an island to the east of Kimolos). The church has two aisles of unequal width and is dedicated to St. Nikolas and St. Sozon. The iconostasis is twofold and extends across both aisles. It is made of carved wood, an outstanding example of traditional craftsmanship with icons of exceptional artistry. The church used to be the Metropolitan church. A finely worked 17th century icon from the church, - depicting St. Ioannis Chrissostomos, the removal of the Relics of the saint, and the widow's vineyard - is on exhibit in the Byzantine Museum (XAE inventory no. 4806).





PANAGIA KONOMOU (THE DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN MARY): “Panagia Konomou”, named by the locals, is a 17th century Church of the Dormition of the Virgin, located to the west of the castle. It is a one-aisled church with a dome, an iconostasis decorated with inscriptions and wooden-carved sanctuary doors. The icon depicting the Dormition of the Virgin on the iconostasis is a 16th century work. The church contains icons which are Cretan works of art as well as works by the “Defterevon” of Sifnos. The Episcopal throne comes from the old church (17th century) of “Panagia Odigitria”. In the grounds lies a vaulted tomb where its founding priests were buried (last burial in 1894).



TAXIARCHES (THE ARCHANGELS): Close to “Panagia Konomou”, to the south-west of the Castle, stands the Church of “Taxiarches”, a late 17th century building. It is a one-aisled, domed style of church, with many remarkable icons, an iconostasis dating back to 1686, yet still in excellent condition, fragments of frescoes and an icon of “Panagia Odigitria” set in the north wall and painted on an undamaged Early Christian marble altar. The icon is of Cretan workmanship, a very rare example of a portrayal of the Virgin on a marble surface. An inscription to the right of the icon states that the marble was discovered on the islet of St. Efsthathios (to the south of the port of Psathi).



CHRISSOPIGI (THE SOURCE OF LIFE or GOLDEN SOURCE): The 17th century Church of “Zoodochos Pigi”, better known as “Chrissopigi”, is located between the two aforementioned churches near Chorio’s High School. It is a one-aisled, flat-roofed basilica with a narthex, wood-carved iconostasis and icons of great artistry.



SOTIRA (THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE SAVIOR): On the west side of the castle and parallel to “Panagia Konomou” stands the 17th century Church of “Metamorphossi tou Sotiros”, better known as “Sotira”, a one-aisled, flat-roofed basilica with a narthex. The iconostasis bears remarkable 17th century icons depicting Christ enthroned as the Great High Priest, the “Metamorphosis” (Transfiguration) and the “Vaioforos” (Palm-bearer).

STS ANARGIRI: In front of “Kato Porta” (southern gate) of the Castle stands the church of Saints Anargiri, a late 17th century one-aisled, flat-roofed basilica with a narthex, wood-carved iconostasis and outstanding icons, mostly Cretan works of art.



PANTOKRATORAS (THE ALMIGHTY): The “Pantokratoras” Church, at the top of Xaplovouni Hill, is a two-aisled, flat-roofed basilica which is also honored with the name “Saints Pantas” (All Saints). The church features a collection of exceptional Cretan icons, some completely original compositions, and others created by the “Defterevoon” of Sifnos. However, its greatest beauty lies in the magnificent view from its courtyard, featuring Chorio, Rema, Goupa Karas, as well as the islands of Sifnos, Poliegos, Milos and, weather permitting, Paros and Antiparos . While standing on the low wall, you can imagine holding the whole expanse of sea and sky in your arms. People say they feel like they are standing on God’s balcony.



...In and around Chorio

There are many old and new churches, in and around Chorio, each one unique in its own way.

In the primary school square



ST MATRONA

ST MATRONA: Presumably built during the 17th century, it stands below the School square. It is a one-aisled, flat-roofed basilica, which probably belonged to the island's episcopacy. The icons depicting the life of the Virgin, are outstanding Cretan works of art, in exceptionally beautiful colors and are preserved on the iconostasis.

ST ANNA: The church of St. Anna stands to the right of the school square. It is mentioned in a document dated 1727.



ST ANNA

Inside and at the Pano Porta (Northern Gate) of the Castle

PANAGIA ELEOUSSA (OUR LADY OF MERCY): This church stands next to the Church of Nativity in the inner courtyard of the castle and is also dedicated to St Methodia, as it was built in 1962 on top of her ruined hermitage.



PANAGIA ELEOUSSA

ST NIKOLAOS: Built in the mid-17th century, this is a one-aisled, domed basilica which stands in front of the "Pano Porta" (Northern Gate). Its iconostasis displays icons showing scenes from the life of the saint and his miracles, an icon depicting the Presentation of the Lord ("Ipapanti") and rare icons representing the Articles of the Creed.

ST GEORGIOS: An 18th century building situated a short distance away, opposite the Church of St. Nikolaos. It is a flat-roofed basilica and the outstanding icons on the iconostasis are works dating back to the 17th century. Inscribed on the church's oil lamps are the dates 1706, 1721, 1725.

In the Kampos Square

ST SPIRIDON: Located opposite the children's playground, this church dates back to the late 17th century. The old church was renovated several times -1814, 1873 and 1901- before the present building was completely rebuilt in 1956. It has two aisles, the south aisle being dedicated to "Saints Tessarakonta" (40 saints), whose former church, situated to the south of St. Spiridon, is in ruins since 1867. During renovation work in 1814, the iconostasis was decorated by the "Defterevon" of Sifnos with representations of the "Dodecaorton" (The Twelve Great Feasts) and the Archangel Michael. Together with other fine examples of Cretan origin, these depictions have been preserved on the present church's iconostasis.



ST NIKOLAOS

ST IOANNIS: Completely rebuilt 61 years ago, it stands next to the children's playground. The old church, built in the 18th century, collapsed in 1932. Only a few remarkable icons, the work of the "Defterevo" of Sifnos, have survived from the wooden-carved iconostasis dated 1825.



ST SPIRIDON

EVAGELISTRIA (ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY): Built in 1608, the "Evagelistria" Church, on the northern side of Kampos Square, stands where there was a forest of holm oaks and cedars. It is said that the icon of "Evagelistria" could be seen on Paliokastro Hill during the day, while at night the islanders would see it miraculously hanging from an oak tree in the forest. Therefore, the church was built on this site as the will of the Virgin indicated. It is a simple church, to which a chapel dedicated to St. Artemios was later added on the northern side, with an entryway through the narthex. The church –apart from its exceptional icons, many of which are Cretan works of art- had an Eptaphier canopy "Kouvouklio" portraying the scenes from the life of the Virgin, a work of the "Defterevo" of Sifnos. This piece is one of a kind and can be found today in the Byzantine Museum in Athens (XAE inventory no. 4775). An exact copy is now kept in the church.



ST IOANNIS

On the west-southwest exit from Chorio

ST CHARALAMPOS: Should you continue past the two old ironstone windmills after leaving Karkani, you will encounter the church of St. Charalampos. It was rebuilt by the Municipality of Kimolos in 1893 on the site of an older church dating back to the 18th century. Two icons are preserved on the iconostasis, one from the old church of "Odigitria" and one of St. Charalampos from the old church of the same name.

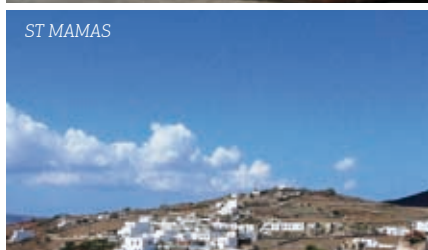


EVAGELISTRIA

ST MAMAS: This church has given its name to the quarter which can be seen to the south of St. Charalampos. It stands at the top of the hill, which shares the same name and has a magnificent view. It was completely rebuilt 105 years ago. A document dated 1699 mentions the existence of an old church here.



ST CHARALAMPOS



ST MAMAS

ST SOZON



ST SOZON: Built during the 1990s, it stands by the side of the road leading out of Chorio. It is a short distance from the quarter of St. Mamas, at Fanara.

ST MODESTOS: It was completely rebuilt about 90 years ago on the site of the old church, which was thought to date back to the 18th century. It is located in Fanara, to the southwest of St. Sozon.

ST TRIFON: Built in 1903 in the spot known as Stenta, near the island's helipad.

On the south-southeast exit from Chorio

ST SIMEON



ST SIMEON: This church is situated in the Provarma area, to the left of the old footpath which starts at Mizithrou. It was built in the mid-19th century.

ST GEORGIOS: This is the church in the grounds of the Cemetery. It was built in 1895 by Kimolos' great benefactor, Georgios Economou Afentakis.

On Xaplovouni Hill

ST PARASKEVI



ST PARASKEVI: On the way up to Xaplovouni Hill, maybe to see the windmills or to visit the Church of "Pantokratoras", you will find the church of St. Paraskevi. Built in 1880, it is a two-aisled basilica with a flat roof and is dedicated to St. Konstantinos and St. Helen. The two iconostases are originally from the old churches of "Odigitria" and "Sts. Tessarakonta".

To the North of Chorio

THEOSKEPASTI



THEOSKEPASTI (PRESENTATION OF THE LORD): In 1953, the islanders built a new church, on the site of the old Church of the Presentation of the Lord ("Ipapanti"). It stands on the main street in Chorio, a little further up from Georgila Square which has a well in the centre.

STAVROS (THE HOLY CROSS): It stands near “Theoskepasti”, to the right looking northwards. It was completely rebuilt on the site of the old church in 1891.

PANAGIAS ENIAMERA (NINE DAYS AFTER THE DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN): Built 95 years ago, it stands in the area known as Xirokampus, near “Theoskepasti”, to the left looking northwards.

ST ELEFTHERIOS: Located in the same area and a little higher up from the church of the Dormition of the Virgin. It was built about 145 years ago.

ST IOANNIS PRODROMOS (ST JOHN THE BAPTIST): It can be seen on the left, on the Bisani hill, after leaving “Theoskepasti” behind and continuing on the main road towards the North. It was built about 105 years ago.

ST EFSATHIOS: Completely rebuilt in 1896 on the site of the old church mentioned in a document dated 1775. It stands on the northern edge of Chorio, at the end of the main street.

ST ATHANASSIOS: It stands a short distance from St. Efstathios, to the right and further north. It was built 87 years ago adjacent to the old cave church of the same name, no longer in existence today.

ST DIMITRIOS: It stands to the left and further north of St. Efstathios church, at Labounia area and it was built 90 years ago.

In the villages and the countryside

From Psathi (the port) to Chorio

ST VARVARA (ST KALI): The church is dedicated to St Varvara and St. Kalliopi. Also known as St. Kali, it was built in 1955 and stands to the right above the pier where the ferry docks.

ST IAKOVOS: Built in 1963, it is also dedicated to the St Matthew. It stands on the left side of the cobbled footpath leading to Chorio.



PANAGIAS ENIAMERA



ST EFSATHIOS



ST ATHANASSIOS



ST VARVARA
(ST KALI)



ST FILIPOS

ST FILIPOS: This church can be seen a little further up to the right on the same footpath. The construction was completed over the last few years.



ST MARINA

ST MARINA: It stands at the end of the cobbled footpath leading uphill. It was built 53 years ago in place of the old church of the same name, which now lies in ruins in the cemetery. It is also dedicated to St. Savas.



ST NIKOLAOS

ST NIKOLAOS: An 18th century building, it stands among the houses on the left as as you enter the port of Psathi.



ST GEORGIOS

ST GEORGIOS: A new church, also dedicated to St. Ekaterini, stands on the left hand side at the beginning of the road that leads to Alik.

From Rema and Goupa to Prassa



ST EKATERINI

ST ANTONIOS: Renovated about 125 years ago by the Municipality of Kimolos, it stands above Rema, on Afalatosi hill.

ST EKATERINI: Built in the mid-19th century, it stands to the left of the downhill road towards Rema-Goupa.

ST GERASIMOS: Built in 1960. It stands on the right, above Goupa, at the end of the road going downhill towards Kara.

ST NEKTARIOS: Built in 1971, it stands on the road to Kara, a short distance from St. Gerasimos.

ST NIKOLAOS: An 18th century building standing on the eastern side of St. Nikolaos' bay.

SOTIRA (THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE SAVIOR): Located at Klima, it was built in 1960. It is dedicated to the Second Coming of Christ.

ST MINAS: It stands to the right of the main road, in the leeward harbor of the same name and was renovated in 1887 by the Municipality of Kimolos.

ST FANOURIOS: Built in 1964, it stands at the entrance of Prassa, to the left of the main street.

ST NEKTARIOS: Built in 1971, it is located in Prassa, to the north of St. Fanourios.

ST GEORGIOS: Featuring a spectacular view, it stands on the headland of the same name at a short distance from Prassa beach. It was built in the early 20th century.

From the north of Chorio to Monastiria

TAXIARCHIS (THE ARCHANGEL): Built in 1955 at Panoklima.

AGIO PNEVMA (THE HOLY SPIRIT): Completely rebuilt in 1920 on the site of the old church. It is located in Panoklima.

AGIA ZONI (THE HOLY BELT): Built in 1955, it is located at Kafkares.

ST FOTINI: Built in 1925 at Kokina.

STS APOSTOLI: Featuring a spectacular view overlooking the east and north of the island at Kafkares, it was built in 1895.

ST KIRIAKI: The church, which has given its name to the area, was built 75 years ago on the site of an old church mentioned in a document dated back to 1727.

ST GERASIMOS



SOTIRA



ST MINAS



ST GEORGIOS



ST FOTINI



STS ANARGIRI





STS ANARGIRI: Located in Xevri, it was built at the end of the 18th century.

PROFITIS ILIAS “O Ekso” (PROPHET ELIJAH “the one outside”): This 19th century church stands on top of the hill of the same name. It was renovated in 1965. The iconostasis in the church was brought from the old church of St. Spiridon (17th century) in Chorio.

ST VASSILIOS: To the north of the “Outer” Profitis Ilias, it was built about 100 years ago.

PROFITIS ILIAS “o Messa” (PROPHET ELIJAH “the one inside”): Built in 1880, it is located on the eastern side of Sklavos hill, at Perou.

ST EKATERINI: Located in the same area, next to the “Inner” Profitis Ilias. It was built in 1958.

ST GRIGORIOS: Built at the end of the 19th century in Choni.

GENISSI THEOTOKOU (BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN): An old monastery with a cave church, founded in 1703, in Chimeli.

KIMISSI THEOTOKOU (DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN): Located at the bay of Monastiria, this renovated church has survived from a now ruined monastery, thought to be pre-18th century

From Pirgos to Zefokalamo

ST IOANNIS KLIDONAS (NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST): Located at Pirgos, it was built in 1960.

ST ELEFThERIOS: Built 91 years ago on the site of the old church, it stands in the area of Aliki.

ST PANTELEIMON “O Ekso” (ST PANTELEIMON “the one outside”): Built 145 years ago and renovated in 1902. It can be found in Mavromouri, to the north of Aliki.

ST GEORGIOS: A 19th century building located on the headland of the same name, in Kalamitsi.

ST KONSTANTINOS AND ST ELENI: Built in 1955 at Chionous, to the west of Dekas.

ST THEODOSSIOS: Near Dekas, built in 1960.

ST VLASSIOS: A church that was completely rebuilt in 1953 on the site of an older church mentioned in a document dated 1727. It is located in Dekas.

TAXIARCHIS (ARCHANGEL) MICHAIL: An old monastery church, built in the 17th century and renovated in the early 19th century, located in Dekas.

ST ANDREAS: Built in 1954 in the area of Ellinika. The ruins of the old church can be found on the islet of the same name opposite of Elinika Beach, where the acropolis of the ancient town also stands.



STS THEODORI: A new church situated at the beach front of Mavrospilia.

ST PANTELEIMON “O Messa” (ST PANTELEIMON “the one inside”): Built in 1953 on the site of an old church, it stands on a hill in the Mavrospilia area.

PANAGIAS ENIAMERA (NINE DAYS AFTER THE DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN): Old cave church located in the Zefokalamo area.

...On the islands and islets of Kimolos

ST EFSTATHIOS: A church built in 1919 on the site of an older church. It is on the islet of St. Efstathios, to the south of the port of Psathi.

ST GEORGIOS: The church, built on the small islet of St. Georgios to the south of St. Efstathios, was part of an old monastery founded before 1700.

KIMISSI THEOTOKOU (DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN): A monastery church built in 1622 near the “Panagias t’ avlaki” beach on the island of Poliegos. The church was built after the domed basilica architectural style.

NOTE:

Nowadays, two more churches are under construction: Saints Petros and Pavlos at Aliki, as well as Panagia Eleoussa at Kampos square, Chorio.

Saint Methodia

Saint Methodia was born in Kimolos in 1861. She was the third of the eight children in her family.

After her husband was drowned at a shipwreck, she became a nun. She was living in a small, plain room next to the church of “Genessi Christou” (Nativity) in the Medieval Castle: she used to provide shelter for women from Kimolos and other islands. She was studying, praying and helping people face life’s difficulties.

She died on October 5th 1908 and sanctified in 1991. Her feast day is on October 5th. A small church has been built on the ruins of her room dedicated to “Panagia Eleoussa” and St. Methodia.

REFERENCES

This short presentation of the religious life of Kimolos is the second, updated edition of the Greek edition and the first English edition. As we have noted in the previous edition (October 2008, Municipality of Kimolos), in order to create this publication we used:

- Information from some of our previous works, such as the latest Kimolos tourist guide and the publications of patriotic association of Kimolian in Piraeus and Athens.
- Information from the KIMOLIAKA series, vol. B by Ioannis Ramfos (priest), "The Christian monuments of Kimolos and surrounding islands" and the 1996 publication of Kimolos' high school students "Churches, chapels and the environment in Kimolos".

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