

St. John the Baptist (Great Lavra)

Thursday, 04 January 2007

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The skete of

John the Baptist is a coenobitic Romanian skete. It belongs to the monastery of Great Lavra. The skete is located on the cape at the height of 250 meters.

In 1852

Moldavian monks Nifon and Nektarius bought the cell there with the funds raised by the Metropolitan Safronios. They built the katholikon dedicated to John the Baptist and the cells around it. In 1856 the Patriarch of Constantinople pronounced the skete a coenobitic one.

The skete is

constructed in the form of a classical athonite monastery with the katholikon in the middle.

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The majority

of the monks inhabiting the skete nowadays are Romanians.

Miracle-working icons held within the skete

The Theotokos

of Jassy is located in the skete's katholikon. The icon was presumably painted in Romania in the city of Jassy

in 1902. According to the myth, the painter could not portray the face of Virgin Mary and was taken by

surprise when he found that the face of the icon sheds light. The icon was conveyed to the Mount Athos.

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Treasures

kept within the monastery

The relics of

John the Baptist, the relics of the martyrs Charalampios, Mina and Victor, blood of the martyr Demetrius, a part of Christ's tombstone.

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