

## **Panagia Ypapanti, Protectress of Kalamata**



“Ipapanti tou Sotiros” is one of the largest cathedrals in Messinia and celebrates its Feast Day on February the 2nd.

Built in 1839 and consecrated in 1873, the layout is traditional Byzantine style and inside the church resides the ancient and miraculous icon of Panagia Ipapanti, Protectress of the city of Kalamata.

When visiting Kalamata, in the Peloponnesse, the emblematic Cathedral stands out in the historic centre of the city. People from all around the world come here to pilgrimage, pray and enjoy its magnificent architecture.

The large exterior leads to many important icons inside, with the most prominent one being that of Panagia Ipapanti, who is known to have helped heal people.

On the 2nd of February, there is normally a great celebration in Kalamata since Panagia Ypapanti protects the entire city.

People from all over Kalamata and the villages nearby, as well as many from across the country, come here for the special Church service and the Icon of Panagia is taken outside for all worshipers to be able to come close to the icon and pray.

In the town centre, people gather to eat local dishes, listen to traditional songs of







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