

The Vasilopita

THE TRADITION - One of the more beautiful and inspirational traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church is the annual family celebration of the Vasilopita. This original event which happened in Cappadocia of Caesarea in the last half of the fourth century, is very much alive in our Orthodox homes each year.

The Greek word Vasilopita is directly translated as “Sweet Bread of Basil”. When the Vasilopita is prepared, a coin is baked into the ingredients. Sweet flavoring is added to the bread which symbolize the sweetness and joy of life everlasting. It also symbolizes the hope that the New Year will be filled with the sweetness of life, liberty, health, and happiness for all who participate in the Vasilopita Observance. When the observance begins, usually on New Years Day, the bread is traditionally cut by the senior member of the family, and the individual who receives the portion of the Pita which contains the coin is considered Blessed for the New Year.

Each portion of the Vasilopita are distributed as follows: The first portion is cut in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The second is for the Holy Mother of our Lord, The Virgin Mary. The third is for St. Basil the Great, the other portions are cut for the members of the family beginning with the eldest. Portions may also be cut for the Church, the house, the traveler, the visitor and the poor.

THE HISTORY - This age old tradition commenced in the fourth century, when Saint Basil the Great, who was a bishop, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his Diocese. He wanted to preserve their dignity, so as not to look like charity, he commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread, in which he arranged to place gold coins. Thus the families in cutting the bread to nourish themselves, were pleasantly surprised to find the coins.



To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



January 10, 2016

Sunday after Epiphany

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 521-7220 www.ssconhelhi.goarch.org
Office: saintsconstantine-helenhon@mail.goarch.org
Fr. Alexander Leong: fralexanderleong@yahoo.com

January 10, 2016

Sunday after Epiphany

Commemoration of: Gregory of Nyssa; Demetion, Bishop Melitene; Theosebia, sister of Basil the Great & Gregory of Nyssa

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

En Iorthani vaptizomenu (Feast of Epiphany) Tone 1

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

Katelisas to Stavro (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 7

En Iorthani vaptizomenu (Feast of Epiphany) Tone 1

Tou Stavrou Su (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion Tone 4

Epefanis simeron

*You appeared today to us * on earth, O Master, * and Your light was signed on us * who cry aloud to You and say * with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.*

Epistle Reading Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Activities & Announcements

Today

SUN 1/10– Sunday after Epiphany; Parish Council Oath of Office & Election of Officers (internal); Vasilopita Celebration; Philoptochos Meeting

This Coming Week

MON 1/11- Trisagion for Nadejda (Nadia) Martinez at Ballard Family Moanalua Mortuary 4 p.m.

TUE 1/12- Funeral for Nadejda (Nadia) Martinez 11 a.m. at the Church followed by burial in Kaneohe

THU 1/14– Parish Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

SUN 1/17– 12th Sunday of Luke/St. Anthony the Great; Adult Religious Education: "Slowing Down and Ordering Your Life"

Announcements

- ✦ **Nisiotes Dance Group Glendi Fundraiser at Church Hall**– Saturday, January 23rd, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$25 Adults, Children 10 and under \$10. Pre-Sold Tickets only. See Dianna, dancer or parents of dancers. Pupu's, Dinner, Dessert, Prizes, Cash Bar. Entertainment by Nisiotes Dancers and Bouzouki by Dimitrios.
- ✦ **Soup Sunday**– Sunday, January 31st, Fundraiser for the Aloha Youth Choir, delicious bowl of "FRIENDSHIP" soup and roll for \$5.

