

MONTHLY BULLETIN

greekchurchips@verizon.net | 978-356-9730 | www.greekorthodoxchurchipswich.org

January Services

Friday, January 6

Epiphany

Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Saturday, January 7

Saint John the Baptist

Divine Liturgy **9:00 am**

Sunday, January 8

Sunday after Epiphany

Orthos **8:30 am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, January 15

12th Sunday of Luke

Orthos **8:30 am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, January 22

15th Sunday of Luke

Orthos **8:30 am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, January 29

Sunday of the Canaanite

Orthos **8:30 am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Blessings of your Home

Homes are blessed with Holy Water each year to bring forth the blessings of the Waters sanctified during the Feast of Theophany.

If you wish to have Father Chris visit your home for this special blessing, please contact him at 774-372-9107 via phone or text.

Happy New Year!

Bread and Coin

The tradition of baking and cutting a special "pita" (which can mean a loaf of bread, a cake, or even a pie) each year on January 1st is observed in honor of our holy father Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappodocia-- hence its name "Vasilopita" meaning "St. Basil's Bread." This tradition is observed in both parish churches and in the homes of the faithful. What is the meaning of this tradition and how did it begin?

For centuries upon centuries, parents, grandparents and godparents have related the following to Orthodox children about St. Basil and the Vasilopita. One year, during a time of terrible famine, the emperor levied a sinfully excessive tax upon the people of Caesarea. The tax was such a heavy burden upon the already impoverished people that to avoid debtors' prison each family had to relinquish its few remaining coins and pieces of jewelry, including precious family heirlooms. Learning of this injustice upon his flock, St. Basil the Great, the archbishop of Caesarea, took up his bishop's staff and the book of the holy Gospels and came to his people's defense by fearlessly calling the emperor to repentance. By God's grace, the emperor did repent! He canceled the tax and instructed his tax collectors to turn over to St. Basil all of the chests containing the coins and jewelry which had been paid as taxes by the people of Caesarea. But now St. Basil was faced with the daunting and impossible task of returning these thousands of coins and pieces of jewelry to their rightful owners. After praying for a long time before the icons of our Master Christ and His All-Holy Mother, St. Basil had all the treasures baked into one huge pita. He then called all the townspeople to prayer at the cathedral, and, after Divine Liturgy, he blessed and cut the pita, giving a piece to each person. Miraculously, each owner received in his piece of Vasilopita his own valuables. They all joyfully returned home, giving thanks to God who had delivered them from abject poverty and to their good and holy bishop St. Basil the Great!

Bread and Coin continued

In remembrance of that miracle wrought by God as a result of St. Basil's love and defense of his people, Orthodox Christians have observed the tradition of the Vasilopita each year on January 1st-- the date on which St. Basil reposed in the Lord in the year 379.

In some places the Vasilopita is prepared as a loaf of rich bread (like that used for Artoklasia), while in other places it takes the form of a spicy sheet cake (without frosting). But no matter what form a Vasilopita may take, they all have one thing in common-- each contains a single coin. After placing the bread dough or cake batter in the proper baking pan, the baker makes with the foil-wrapped coin the sign of the Cross over it, closes his/her eyes, and then secretly places it into the unbaked Vasilopita. After the Vasilopita is baked and cooled, it is blessed and cut following Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Basil on January 1st.

-St. Raphael Clergy Brotherhood-



Bible Studies

Tuesday, January 3

6:15pm – 7:45pm

Thursday, January 5

11:00am – 12:30pm

Tuesday, January 10

6:15pm – 7:45pm

Thursday, January 12

11:00am – 12:30pm

Tuesday, January 17

6:15pm – 7:45pm

Thursday, January 19

11:00am – 12:30pm

Tuesday, January 24

6:15pm – 7:45pm

Thursday, January 31

6:15pm – 7:45pm

“Jamming with Father Chris”

"You have not had jam until you have had our jam!" Father Christopher Kolenstsas & Family

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

I invite you all to join me on **Thursday, January 26th** for a morning and afternoon of jam making, Bible study and good old fashioned para. This event is scheduled to take place in our Church Hall.

Over one decade ago my wife and I began making the finest fruit jams that you have ever tasted. Those who have tasted our fruit spreads will attest to their fine texture and mouth-watering flavor.

What makes our jam so unique is the recipe and process that we use. The recipe is simple as is the entire process. What is required is your time and patience. The process cannot be rushed.

Order of events are as follows:

11:00 am- Arrival time and fruit preparation

11:45 am – 2:00 pm - simmer the jam on low heat stirring jam constantly.

While Jam is simmering, we will take turns stirring the pot while holding our Bible study and taking lunch.

2:00 pm – ladle jam into sterilized jars

2:15 pm – process jars in boiling water

While jars are processing, we will clean up our tools and work station

3:00 pm – Finished!!

There are only 10 seats available for this class. Please RSVP to my cell phone at 774-372-9107.



In His Service,

Father Christopher Kolentsas

DONATIONS

In Loving Memory of Father John

Arthur & Nia Sotis

In Loving Memory of Connie NicholsonArthur & Nia Sotis
Cushing & Sandra Titcomb
Tina Lamson**In Loving Memory of Arthur Nahatis**Cushing & Sandra Titcomb
Andrew & Elaine Kaszuba
Katherine Georgeopoulos
George & Ann Koshivas
Tina Lamson**In Loving Memory of Arthur & Etta Sotis**

Arthur & Nia Sotis

In Loving Memory of Vivienne Argeropoulos

Peter Argeropoulos

In Loving Memory of Aristedes Nickas

Anthony Nickas

In Loving Memory of Steve Nickas

Katherine Georgeopoulos

In Loving Memory of Mark PerroneAndrew & Elaine Kaszuba
Katherine Georgeopoulos**In Loving Memory of George & Sophie**Georgeopoulos
Katherine Georgeopoulos**In Loving Memory of Sister Jonjulia Sullivan**

Katherine Georgeopoulos

General DonationsAlpha Omega Sorority
Dyer Family
Ann Phippen & Pan Manginis (Philoxenia House)
Charles & Stella Nahatis (Thanksgiving donation)**Annual Church Fund**

George & Connie Markos

Hellenic Center Building FundChristine Sarantopoulos in Memory of Arthur Nahatis
Charles & Stella Nahatis in memory of Aristedes Nickas
Charles & Stella Nahatis in Memory of Mark Perrone.**In Loving Memory of Costas Tsoutsouras**Cushing & Sandra Titcomb
Theodore Yeannakopoulos**In Loving Memory of Katherine McTeague**

Arthur Crawford

In Loving Memory of Mary Psalides

Cushing & Sandra Titcomb

In Loving Memory of Christos NahatisAlice Nahatis
Malcolm & Johanna Kadra
Katherine Georgeopoulos
Christina Nahatis Barrett
Michael & Alexandra Sweet**Christmas Donations**Christine Sarantopoulos
Nicholas & Joan Vontzalides
Stanely & Robin Treantos
John & Christine Galanis
Cathleen Chadwick
Andrew & Georgia Galanis
Joseph & Margot Ciccotelli
Nicholas Votze
George Bouziannis
Christine Spyropoulos Scopa
Harrison & Marcia Snyder
Daniel & Elaine Theriault
Aristedes & Louise Nickitopolous
Peter & Joann Lampropoulos
The Ktistes Family
Avenia Rooney
Jay & Mary Ann Tsoutsouras
Andrew & Catherine Nickas
Talia Kolentsas
Maria & Scott Todaro
James & Janet Squires
George & Ann Koshivas
Charles & Stella Nahatis
Wanda Arvanites
Antonia Baer
Gelasakis Family
Peter & Mary Manos
Kevin Donahue
Michael & Ethel Contos
Joe Spaulding
Virigina Kandris
Stella Spyropoulos
Elaine Kaszuba
Michael & Pamela Carakatsane**Donated Christmas Wreaths**

Jason & Alexander Demakis in Memory of Antonia & Timothy

Choir News

New choir members needed to join our beautiful choir. What better way to celebrate the Liturgy each week then with song!! We are also looking for people interested in being readers or chanters during the Orthros every Sunday. Please contact Paula Foukas for more information at 339-338-9367 or email at procallplus@aol.com

The Assumption Choir is happy to introduce the **Father John Govostos Church Musician Scholarship Fund**. A college scholarship will be given to church musicians that volunteer in the choir loft. If you have any questions please call or email Paula Foukas at 339-338-9367 or procallplus@aol.com

If you would like to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please make out a check to the Assumption Choir and mail to Stella Spyropoulos, 4 Bruce Road, Danvers, MA 01923.

Thank you so much for your support!!

Melissa News

Vasilopeta Happy New Year 2023

In honoring St. Basil the Great and in keeping with the tradition of the cutting of the Vasilopeta, which emanates from his blessed actions, the ladies of the Melissa Society will once again be inviting us all to partake of a special slice of Vasilopeta along with a coffee hour immediately following church services on Sunday, February 5th. Please attend to celebrate the New Year together as a parish. One lucky person will find the coin within the bread, bestowing good luck on its recipient for the year 2023.

Church Calendars

We wish to thank John Morris and his family of Morris Funeral Home for generously donating our Ecclesiastical Calendars for many years. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Melissa January Calendar Raffle

The Melissa Women's Society would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket for the January calendar raffle fundraiser. Thank you for your support. The raffle drawings will be held every Sunday in January after the Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Good Luck!

The raffle prizes were generously donated by Melissa members. We also wish to thank the following businesses who kindly donated prizes to help this fundraiser be successful; Paws With Inn and Tetrault Jewelers.

Melissa January Meeting

Happy New Year! The January Melissa monthly meeting will be held on Wed., January 4 at Tom Shea's in Essex at 6:30pm. We have recently welcomed new members. Please contact Chris Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894 or cesarantopoulos@hotmail.com to join.

Refurbishing of Church Candelabras

The large Candelabras at the front are being refurbished by the Melissa Society. Once they are returned, the group will also refinish the smaller Candelabras. The YAL also generously donated funds to support this project. We thank both organizations for continuing to beautify our beloved church.

Goya News

The Goya would like to thank everyone who bought wreaths, cookie jars and vasilopita this holiday season. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

On December 10th Goya made their annual visit to the Philoxenia House and decorated the outside of the house.

We also want to thank you for the donations of paper goods and cleaning products. Monetary donations went towards the purchase of new comforters, sheets, pillows and towels.... they were very grateful.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Saint Basils Day Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am	2	3 Bible Study 6:15pm-7:45pm	4 Melissa Meeting 6:30pm @Tom Shea's in Essex	5 Bible Study 11:00am-12:30pm	6 Epiphany Liturgy 9:30am	7 Saint John the Baptist Liturgy 9:00am
8 Sunday after Epiphany Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Goya Meeting	9 Greek School 4:00-7:00pm	10 Bible Study 6:15pm-7:45pm	11	12 Bible Study 11:00am – 12:30pm	13	14
15 12th Sunday of Luke Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am	16 Greek School 4:00 -7:00pm	17 Bible Study 6:15pm-7:45pm	18	19 Bible Study 11:00am-12:30pm	20	21
22 15th Sunday of Luke Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am	23 Greek School 4:00-7:00pm	24 Bible Study 6:15pm-7:45pm Greek School 4:00 – 6:00pm	25	26 Jamming with Father Chris 11:00 am	27	28
29 Sunday of Canaanite Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am	30 Greek School 4:00 -7:00pm	31 Bible Study 6:15pm-7:45pm Greek School 4:00 – 6:00pm				