

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

January 10, 2016

Sunday after Theophany

SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	Ephesians 4:7-13	Page 127
Gospel Reading	Matthew 4:12-17	Page 128
Creed		Pamphlet
The Lord's Prayer		Page 26
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 29-30
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		Pages 33-34
Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.		
Memorial Service		Page 164

Today's Calendar

- Cutting of the Vasilopita and Coffee Hour are being sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society.
- Parish Council members on duty: Charles Hondros, Paris Karahalios, Angelos Kokkinos, Anna Manetta

This Week

Thursday, January 14 - Parish Council Meeting – Parish Hall – 6:30 pm

For Our Edification

House & Business Blessings

During the weeks following Holy Theophany, Father Nick will be blessing homes and businesses. Please call the office at (978) 458-8092 to schedule an appointment.

Pan Laconians to Meet

Pan Laconians are planning to meet on Sunday, January 24, 12:00 pm, at the Olympia Restaurant. The cutting of the Vasilopita will take place at this time.

HAA Parents to Meet

The Hellenic American Academy will be holding a Parent's Meeting on Thursday, January 21, 6:00 pm, in the Church hall.

Coffee Hours Available

Hosts for the following Coffee Hours are needed: January 24 and January 31. Please call the Church office at (978) 458-8092 to schedule. Take this opportunity to provide fellowship following the Divine Liturgy. This is an excellent way to meet with old friends and to make new acquaintances.

Philoptochos Note

There will be no meeting of the Philoptochos in February. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 7.

Pastoral Visits

Please call the office at (978) 458-8092 to arrange a hospital or nursing home visit by Father Nick. Privacy issues preclude hospitals from informing us of a loved one's admission.

GOYA Winter Camp

This year's GOYA Winter Camp will be held from February 12-15 at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, NH for campers ages 12-18. Scholarships are available. Call (603) 746-4400 or email mbcamp@tds.net for more information.

Legend of the Vasilopita

The Vasilopita commemorates a miracle performed by St. Basil while serving as a bishop. The legend varies as to how he became the guardian of the gold, silver, and jewelry of the people of Caesarea. Some say thieves had taken the valuables from the village, and they were recovered. Others say it was a tax the government asked St. Basil to collect, but then decided to cancel. In either case, he became responsible for returning the riches to the people. However, they could not agree on the rightful owners. St. Basil suggested that the women bake the valuables inside a large pita. When he cut the pita, each owner miraculously received the right valuable. Today a single coin is baked inside each loaf to honor this miracle, and the recipient has good luck for the coming year.

Vasilopita may be either a bread or a cake, depending on the region of Greece from which your family originated. Some regions use the recipe for Easter bread but decorate the top differently. Others make a rich, sweet cake. All versions are round and include a lucky coin.

-A Guide to Greek Traditions & Customs in America by Marilyn Rouvelas