

Annual Vasilopita Breakfast Fundraiser – January 7th Immediately After Divine Liturgy in the Hellenic Hall

Please mark your calendars to attend this year's 2024 celebration and help us raise funds for St Basil's Academy in Garrison N.Y. This beautiful center houses orphans, unwanted children, children from broken homes as well as children that families cannot economically or emotionally provide for – these children are all Orthodox, not necessarily of Greek heritage. This beautiful institution located on the Hudson River is owned and operated by the National Philoptochos Society and this event helps to raise the needed funds to care for the children – please plan on attending!

Do you know the history of Vasilopita?



According to legend, it is believed the vasilopita was introduced by Saint Basil, and to understand why, we must delve into the story of his life.

Born in Caesarea, Cappadocia in 330 AD, St Basil was born into a wealthy family. He went on to study theology in Constantinople, and built the Basilica church outside Caesarea of which he became Bishop. His philanthropic nature led him to distribute his wealth among the poor.

One day however, a siege was brought upon the city. With no wealth to hand over to the enemy as ransom, St Basil had to call upon the community for their help. They jumped at the chance, handing over anything of value they had, including gold and jewels. The enemy was so touched by their generosity, he withdrew his threats.

But where does the Vasilopita come into this you may ask?

Once the treasures had all been mixed, it was difficult to know who owned each piece of gold and jewels. So to make it fair, St Basil requested that his deacons bake small loaves of bread, placing a piece of treasure at the center of each. Miraculously, the recipients each ended up with the treasures that were rightfully theirs and peace was once again restored to the region.



venmo

You may also make donations to this worthwhile cause **ahead of time**

by giving cash to a Philoptochos Board Member after church,
scanning this code with your Venmo account

or by mailing a check made out to:

St George Philoptochos 7727 Davin Park Drive, Bakersfield, 93308,

On the day of the event, you may donate with cash, checks, Venmo or use our credit card machine which will be made available for this worthwhile charity.