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Saint Basil's Cake

Every Family has a famous recipe that holds legendary stories, heart-warming memories, secret ingredients and cherished traditions. They are passed down from generation to generation; each one, giving it their own little twist. In my family, it is a delicious cake that is only eaten on New Year's Eve. It is called "Saint Basil's Cake" or simply the "king's cake".

It is a cake that has been baked for many generations in the Greek orthodox culture with recipes varying from family to family. With some flour, sugar, orange shavings, a hint of syrup and a few eggs, my mother works her baking magic to prepare this delectable cake. While it slowly bakes in the oven, the wonderful aroma fills the house with a magnificent scent of sweetness. It is tradition to hide a coin inside the cake. After the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, the head of the household serves a slice of the delicious cake to each member of the family starting from the eldest to the youngest. The one who receives the coin is said to have good luck throughout the new coming year.

This year my baby brother won for the first time! It is a cherished recipe as well as the center of a beloved holiday tradition which always brings the family together. As previously mentioned, most family recipes have a special secret ingredient; the secret ingredient in my family's recipe, is love.