

GOMONA CHURCH NAME SUBMISSION FORM

Each person (no age limits) in a GOMONA stewarding household had the opportunity to submit one name with a brief explanation of why this name should be the name of our Church. The following is one of those explanations.

What do you think the name of our Church should be? *(submit one name)*

St. Kassiani

Why? S.t Kassiani was a outspoken and talented woman that lived only for God and was a defender of our faith. She becaome a nun and founded a convent on one of Constantinople's seven hills. She loved Gdo foremost, and used here many talents to glorify Him.

Like St. Kassianii, everyone in our churc applies their God given talents to do His work and build our mission in His name. We all do this because of our devotion and love for God

Date this Saint or Feast Day is celebrated September 7

From Wikipedia

Kassia (also **Kassiane**, **Kassiani**, **Casia**, **Ikasia**, **Cassia**, **Kassiana**, or **Eikasia**; between 805 and 810 - bef. 867) was a Greek-Byzantine poet, composer, and hymnographer. She is one of the first medieval composers whose scores are both extant and able to be interpreted by modern scholars and musicians. Approximately fifty of her hymns are extant and twenty-three are included in Orthodox Church liturgical books. The exact number is difficult to assess, as many hymns are ascribed to different authors in different manuscripts and are often identified as anonymous.

In addition, some 789 of her non-liturgical verses survive. Many are epigrams or aphorisms called "gnomic verse". An example: I hate the rich man moaning as if he were poor.

She was born between 805 and 810 in Constantinople into an Irish family. Three Byzantine chroniclers--Pseudo-Symeon the Logothete, George the Monk (a.k.a. George the Sinner) and Leo the Grammarian--claim that she was a participant in the "bride show" (the means by which Byzantine princes/emperors sometimes chose a bride, by giving a golden apple to his choice) organized for Theophilus by his mother (rather, grandmother) Euphrosyne. Smitten by Kassia's beauty the young emperor Theophilus approached her and said, "Through a woman trickled forth the baser things [referring to the passions coming as a result of Eve's transgression]." Kassia responded by saying, "But by the birth of a woman was the birth of a new nation [referring to the blessings resulting from the Incarnation of Christ]." His pride wounded, Theophilus rejected her and chose Theodora as his wife.

The next we hear of Kassiani is that in 843 she founded a convent in the west of Constantinople near the walls of Constantine and became its first abbess.^[1] Although many scholars attribute this to bitterness at having failed to marry Theophilus, a letter from Theodore the Studite indicates that she had other motivations for wanting a monastic life. It had a close relationship with the nearby monastery of Stoudios, which was to play a central role in re-editing the Byzantine liturgical books, in the 9th century and the 10th century, so were important in ensuring the survival of her work (Kurt Sherry p. 56).

She wrote many hymns for the Christian liturgy; the most famous being the *Hymn of Kassiani* which is sung every Holy Tuesday. Tradition says that later Emperor Theophilus who was still in love with her wished to see her one more time before he died so he rode to the monastery where she resided. Kassiani was writing her *Hymn* when she heard the Emperor looking for her. She was still in love with him but now she was devoted to God and she hid away because she did not want to let her passion overcome her religious feelings, but she left her unfinished *Hymn* on the table. Theophilus found her cell and entered it alone. He looked for her but she was not there; she was hiding in a closet, watching him. Theophilus felt very sad, cried, and regretted that for a moment of pride he rejected such a beautiful and intellectual woman; then he noticed the papers on the table and he read them. When he was done reading he sat on the chair and added one line to the *Hymn* which Kassiani had started writing and then he left. The line attributed to the Emperor is the line *those very feet whose sound Eve heard at the dusk in Paradise and hid herself in fear* Legend says that as he was leaving he noticed Kassiani in the closet but he did not speak to her; he just left. Kassiani emerged when Theophilus was gone and she read what he had written and she finished the hymn.

The *Hymn of Kassiani*; chanted during Holy Week at the Orthros of Great and Holy Wednesday which is traditionally served on Tuesday Evening of Holy Week:

Sensing Thy divinity, O Lord, a woman of many sins, takes it upon herself to become a myrrh-bearer and in deep mourning brings before Thee fragrant oil in anticipation of Thy burial; crying: "Woe to me! For night is to me, a dark and moonless madness of wild-desire, an eros of sin. Receive the springs of my tears Thou Who gatherest the waters of the oceans into clouds, bend to me, to the sorrows of my heart, Thou who bendedst down the heavens in Thy self-emptying Incarnation, I will kiss with my lips Thine immaculate feet and dry them with the locks of my hair; those very feet whose sound Eve heard at the dusk in Paradise and hid herself in fear. Who shall count the multitude of my sins or the depth of Thy judgment, O Saviour of my soul? Do not ignore Thy handmaiden, O Thou whose mercy is endless".