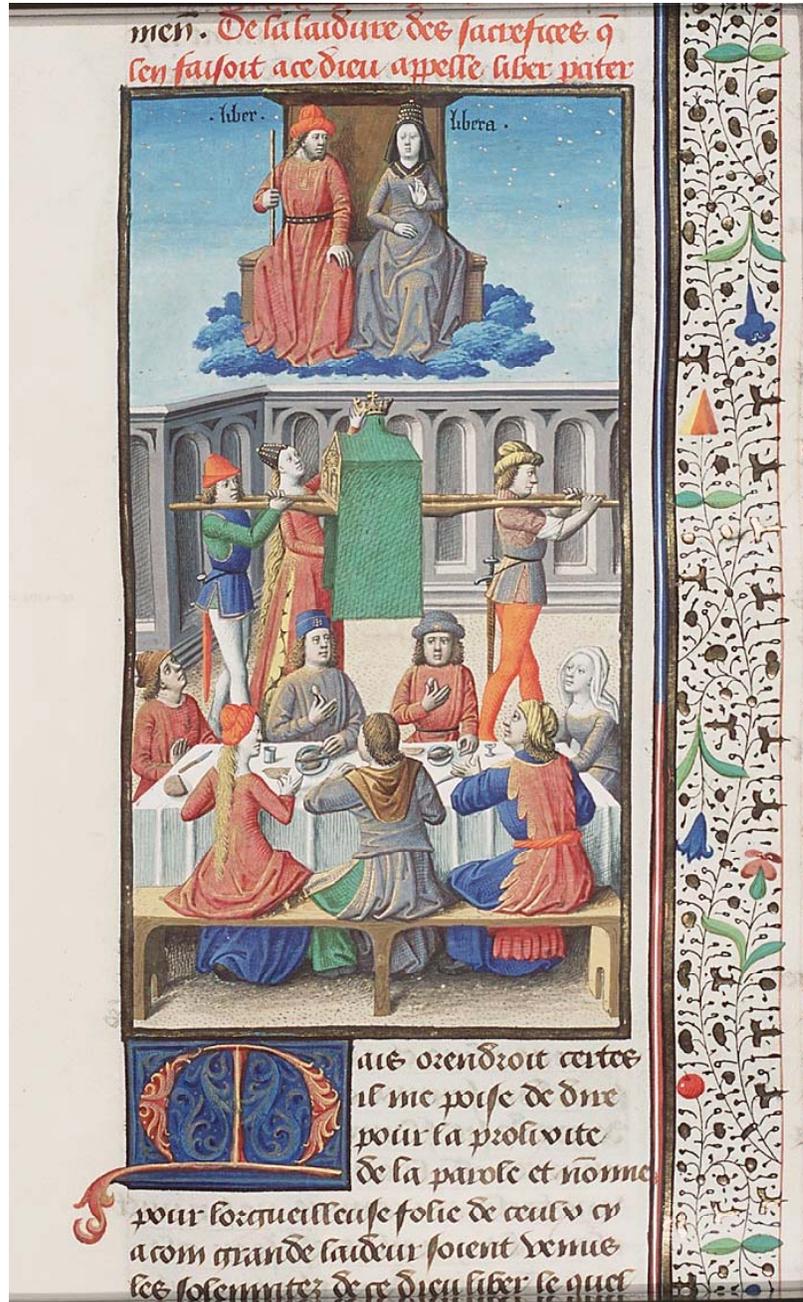


# Il Tempo

Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto—Volume 17, Issue 1 ☞ January 2008

Barony of Ponte Alto, January 2008, Chroniclers 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition\* Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dothor



Banquet and festival, Maître François, illuminator.

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Courtesy copies of Il Tempo are provided to Their Majesties of Atlantia, Their Highnesses, the Kingdom Chronicler, and the Kingdom Seneschal, in either electronic or paper format, as requested. All Kingdom Chroniclers are welcome to peruse the electronic version of Il Tempo, posted on the Baronial website.

# Table of Contents

From the Chronicler.....	iii
Baronial Officers.....	4
Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto.....	4
Seneschal (President).....	4
Chamberlain.....	4
Archery Marshal.....	5
Minister of Arts & Sciences.....	5
Chatelaine (Newcomers).....	5
Gold Key (Loaner Costumes).....	5
Herald.....	5
Minister of the Lists.....	5
Chronicler (Newsletter).....	5
Web Minister.....	5
Members of the Baronial Guard.....	5
Baronial Noteables.....	6
Monthly Calendar.....	7
Events.....	8
Baronial Progress for January.....	8
Weekly Activities.....	10
the Real Middle-ages.....	12
Twelfth Night.....	12
History and Origins.....	12
Traditions.....	12
Arts and Sciences.....	14
King Cake.....	14

# From the Chronicler...

*The holidays have come and gone, the decorations are packed away for another years and the kids are back in school. It's time for everyone to resume a normal life again. With that said, let's look at January events as well as plan on the most important in Ponte Alto for February.*

*Kingdom Twelfth night is in Salisbury, NC this year on the 12th. Within an easy driving distance, Ice Castles in Bland, VA on the 26th, Inter-Baronial Twelfth Night in Williamsburg, VA on the 26th and Midwinter's Revel in Lothian, MD as well on the 26th.*

*Looking forward into next month, our own Investiture will be on February 23rd. It will be held at the Loudoun County Fairgrounds this year, and we will again have the indoor facility for both heavy and rapier fighting, just in case the weather doesn't want to cooperate. Remember, even though this is indoors, it is an unheated arena, and as anyone who attended the last two events held there will attest, it can get quite nippy! So dress warmly.*

*As our Baroness and Baron, Belphoebe and Marcellus step down, we will welcome Flora and Jurgen. A full day of activities is planned, so come out, participate and have a wonderful time. There will be music, A&S displays and competitions throughout the day.*

*Get your reservations in early, as we will be having a wonderful Italian feast for 100. See the flyer included in this issue for more information.*

*As always, if you have information, articles or photos you would like to share, please send them to my attention as we would love to "show off" all our talented and gifted artisans.*

*Lady Wulfwyn AElf wines dohtor  
Chronicler, Barony of Ponte Alto*

# Baronial Officers

## *Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto*

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Lord Geoffrey Clywd  
Myghell O'Kelly

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---

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**Baronial Archery Champion**, ????

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bard AT [pontealto.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:pontealto.atlantia.sca.org)

# Monthly Calendar

January 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	4 4:30 pm Archery Practice	5 Yule Revel	6 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice
7 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	8 7 pm Scriptorium 7 pm New Comers Meeting	9 7pm Weaving night	10 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	11 4:30 pm Archery Practice	12 Kingdom 12 <sup>th</sup> Nigh	13 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice
14 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	15	16	17 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	18 4:30 pm Archery Practice	19 Midwinter's Tale 2008 (H) Fool's Twelfth Night	20 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice
21 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	22	23 7pm Armoring night	24 6 pm Rapier Practice 6 pm Heavy Weapons Practice	25 4:30 pm Archery Practice	26 Ice Castles (R,H) Manannan mac Lir Inter-Baronial Twelfth Night Midwinter's Revel	27 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice 6 pm Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting
28 7:30 pm Alle Psallite	29	30	31 Noon Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice			

\* = Baronial Progress

# Events

## Baronial Progress for January

Date	Event
12	Kingdom Twelfth Night (R,H)

## January 2008 Calendar of Scheduled Events

Date	Event	Group	Location
5	Yule Revel	Storvik	College Park, MD
12	Kingdom Twelfth Night (R,H)	Salesberie Glen	Salisbury, NC
19	Midwinter's Tale 2008 (H)	Border Vale Keep	Augusta, GA
19	Fool's Twelfth Night	Crois Brigte	Winston Salem, NC
26	Ice Castles (R,H)	Black Diamond	Bland, VA
26	Manannan mac Lir	Tear-Sea's Shore	Cordesville, SC
26	Inter-Baronial Twelfth Night	Tir-y-Don	Williamsburg, VA
26	Midwinter's Revel	Lochmere	Lothian, MD

**Ponte Alto Baronial Investiture**  
**February 23, 2008**  
**Barony of Ponte Alto**

The time is Italy in the mid-14th century. Come join us for a day celebrating the joys of this time. Display your expertise in the arts; demonstrate your music and storytelling skills. Join others on the fighting field and pledge your devotion to your lord or lady.

**Martial Activities:**

Armored and rapier fighting will take place in the Equestrian Barn throughout the day. This is an enclosed building, but dress for warmth.

**Arts & Sciences Activities:**

Lady Wulfwyn will be sponsoring a competition for all things in the 14th-century Italian style. There will also be an open display for all items. Please have your items entered by 12:00 and picked up by 4:30 to allow time for setup of the main hall. Lady Renata will be holding a "Bring Out Your Best" display for all Ponte Alto residents. Our Artisan, Lord James de Bibleworth, artisan@pontealto.atlantia.sca.org, and Baronial Bard, Lady Talitha, bard@pontealto.atlantia.sca.org, will also be holding competitions during the day to choose their replacements for the coming year. Please contact them for further information.

**Cost:** Adult, Member: \$ 11.00 Day-Trip \$ 8.00 Feast  
 Adult, Non-Member: \$ 14.00 Day-Trip \$ 8.00 Feast  
 Child (6-17): \$4.00 Day-Trip \$ 7.00 Feast  
 Child (0-5): \$ 0.00 Day-Trip \$ 0.00 Feast

**Make Checks Payable To:** Barony of Ponte Alto, SCA, Inc., SCA, Inc.

**Site:** Loudoun County Fairgrounds, 17558 Dry Mill Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175-7007. Trol opens at 9:00 am and closes at 4:00pm; site closes at 11:00.

**Site Restrictions:** No open flames, no alcohol. Dogs are not allowed in the feast hall. Dogs are welcome in the barn, but must be leashed and cleaned up after.

**Feast:** Meistr Gruffudd ap Cadfael will be preparing a 14th-century Italian feast for 100. Contact Meistr Gruffud with any dietary concerns at charris@gruffudd.com. A fundraising luncheon will be offered for \$5.00 a plate, and a Children's Corner will be held from 2-4 pm.

**Merchants:** Merchants are welcome. There is no additional merchanting fee and the spaces are approximately 10' x 10'. Merchants MUST present proof of a VA sales tax number to the autocrat. Please contact the autocrat to register for space

**Autocrat's Information:** Lady Wulfwyn AElfwynes dohtor (Patty Cheshire), 14521 Skipton Court, Centreville, VA 20121. (703) 830-7576. Email: snoleopard4@aol.com .

**Reservations:** Lady Celia of Rosedale (Tamara Brown), 3714 Sudley Ford Ct., Fairfax VA 22033 (703) 378-2441. Email: psallite703@msn.com.

**Directions:**

**From Points North, South, and East**—Take your best route to the Dulles Toll Road/Greenway (Rt. 267) off of the Washington Beltway (I-495). Go through the toll booth(s) past Dulles Airport. Merge onto VA-7 W via EXIT 1A on the LEFT toward LEESBURG/WARRENTON. Take Route 9 West exit (stay in left lane of exit). At STOP sign at end of exit, turn left and proceed over bridge that crosses Route 7 (stay in the left lane). Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left.

**From Points West of Leesburg**—Take Route 7 East (Harry Byrd Hwy) towards Leesburg, VA. Take Route 9 Exit. At STOP sign at end of exit, turn right and immediately get into the left lane. Proceed to STOP sign and turn left onto Dry Mill Rd. Travel approximately 1 mile to Fairgrounds entrance on left.

# Weekly Activities

Weaving night will resume in March on the Second Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

Armoring night will resume in March on the Fourth Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

SUNDAY	
<b>Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting</b>	Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December) The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idlywood Rd., Falls Church. Take your best route to I-66. Get off at the exit for Route 7 West (Tysons Corner). Turn left at the first light after the interchange onto Idlywood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.
<b>Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</b>	Weather permitting, Noon - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for information. Sunday Fight Practice Directions. Practice is behind the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). The library is on the left about 1 mile. Park in the library lot and go down the hill to the park.
MONDAY	
<b>Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)</b>	Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon. Contact Mistress Anne of Carthew (anne AT ravenstreet.org) For more information or directions. Music files can be found at <a href="http://www.ravenstreet.org/Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm">http://www.ravenstreet.org/Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm</a> and on the Yahoo Group AllePsallite.
TUESDAY	
<b>Ponte Alto Scriptorium</b>	Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for information and directions.
WEDNESDAY	
<b>Weaving Night</b>	Second Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions.
<b>Armoring Night</b>	Fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (jcfrench AT mac.com). Contact Lord Jürgen van der Vols for information and directions
THURSDAY	
<b>Rapier Practice</b>	Every Thursday at Shreveewood Elementary school from 6-9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information. Indoor Rapier Directions. This is a school location activity.
<b>Heavy Weapons Practice</b>	Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6-9 pm. Practice is geared to developing beginning and intermediate fighters through intensive hands on training with experienced instructors, as well to providing ample opportunity for more advanced fighters to sparr with knight level combatants. All are welcome. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for more information. Indoor Heavy Directions. This is a school location activity.

## FRIDAY

<b>Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice</b>	Fridays from 4:30-8 pm, the indoor season archery practice site is Bull Run Regional Park's shooting center. Archery Practice Directions. Practices are jointly held with Stierbach. You may also contact the Baronial Archery Marshal for carpool or other information. Contact and practice time/location information for Stierbach practices can be found at the Stierbach Archery website: <a href="http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html">http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html</a> .
<b>Ponte Alto A&amp;S Night</b>	May meet on a Friday during the month, as posted at the top of this page. Contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (dwatsonirwin AT cox.net, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for information and directions.
<b>Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic</b>	Come and share your songs and stories! Meets the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Contact Baroness Briana Maclukas (darbyjanieAT hotmail.com) for information.

## MONTHLY

<b>SCA Newcomer Meetings</b>	Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony. Contact the Baronial Chatelaine for information, or check out the top of this page for the recently posted information.
<b>Embroidery Night</b>	Their Excellencies of Ponte Alto host a monthly embroidery night starting at 7:30 pm. Contact the Baron and Baroness for more information, or check out the top of this page for the recently posted information.

\* **Note on school locations for activities:** There will be no activities at schools during school holidays or on other days when Fairfax County schools are closed or all nighttime school recreational activities are cancelled. Notification of cancellation or alternate site location will be posted on the web as soon as possible. You can visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Emergency Announcement page for school closure status: <http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm>

# the Real Middle-ages

## Twelfth Night

\*The source of this article is Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. The text of this article is licensed under the GFDL.



A Tortell de Reis.

Twelfth Night is a holiday in some branches of Christianity marking the coming of the Epiphany, concluding the Twelve Days of Christmas, and is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "the evening of the fifth of January, preceding Twelfth Day, the eve of the Epiphany, formerly the last day of the Christmas festivities and observed as a time of merrymaking".

In some traditions it is taken to mean the evening of the Twelfth Day itself, the sixth of January. This apparent difference has arisen probably due to the old custom of treating sunset as the beginning of the following day. Therefore, according to confluent ancient traditions of the tides of time, Twelfth Night would have been celebrated as occurring on the twelfth day as different to the present custom of celebrating the day prior.

The celebration of Epiphany, the adoration of the Magi, is marked in some cultures by the exchange of gifts, and Twelfth Night, as the eve or vigil of Epiphany, takes on a similar significance to Christmas Eve.

### History and Origins

In Tudor England, the Twelfth Night marked the end of an autumn/winter festival that started on All Hallows (also known as All souls) Eve — which is now celebrated as Halloween. The Lord of Misrule symbolizes the world turning upside down. On this day the king and all those who were high would become the peasants and vice versa. At the beginning of the twelfth night festival twelfth cake which contained a bean was eaten. The person who found the bean became king of the bean and would run the feast. Midnight signaled the end of his rule and the world would return to normal. The common theme was that the normal order of things was reversed. This Lord of Misrule tradition can be traced back to pre-Christian European festivals such as the Celtic festival of Samhain and the Ancient Roman festival of Sturnalina. The Winter Solstice (December 21st) marks the 1st day of many Pagan Winter Festivals. The 12 nights following and including the solstice represent the 12 zodiac signs of the year - and the 12th Night (New Years Day) is a culmination and celebration of the Winter Festivals.

The Lord of Misrule, known in Acotland as the Abbot of Unreason and in France as the Prince des Sots, was an officer appointed by lot at Christmas to preside over the Feast of Fools. The Lord of Misrule was generally a peasant or sub-deacon appointed to be in charge of Christmas revelries, which often included drunkenness and wild partying, in the pagan tradition of Saturnalia. The Church held a similar festival involving a Boy Bishop. The celebration of the Feast of Fools was outlawed by the Council of Basel that sat from 1431, but it survived to be put down again by the Catholic Queen Mary I in England in 1555.

While mostly known as a British holiday custom, the appointment of a Lord of Misrule comes from antiquity. In ancient Rome, from the 17th to the 23rd of December, a Lord of Misrule was appointed for the feast of Saturnalia, in the guise of the good god Saturn. During this time the ordinary rules of life were turned topsy-turvy as masters served their slaves, and the offices of state were held by slaves. The Lord of Misrule presided over all of this, and had the power to command anyone to do anything during the holiday period. This holiday seems to be the precursor to the more modern holiday, and it carried over into the Christian era.

### Traditions

The foods and drink are the center of the celebrations in modern times, and all of the most traditional ones go back many centuries. The punch called wassail is consumed especially on Twelfth Night, but throughout Christmas time, especially in the UK. Around the world, special pastries, such as the tortell and king cake are baked on Twelfth Night, and eaten the following day for the Feast of the Epiphany celebrations. In English and French custom, the Twelfth-cake was baked to contain a bean and a pea, so that those who received the slices containing them should be designated king and queen of the night's festivities.

Some believe Twelfth Night is when all Christmas decorations should be removed so as not to bring bad luck upon the home. In colonial America, a Christmas wreath was always left up on the front door of each home, and when taken down at the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas, any edible portions would be consumed with the other foods of the feast. The same held true in the

1800s - 1900s with fruits adorning Christmas trees. Fresh fruits were hard to come by, and were therefore considered fine and proper gifts and decorations for the tree, wreaths, and home. Again, the tree would be taken down on Twelfth night, and such fruits, along with nuts and other local produce used, would then be consumed. In some countries, and in the Catholic religion worldwide, the Twelfth Night and Epiphany marks the start of the Carnival season, which lasts through Mardi Gras Day.

Tortell is a typically O-shaped pastry stuffed with marzipan, that on some special occasions is topped with glazed fruit. It is traditionally eaten on January 6, at the conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas. The tortell de reis contains two hidden surprises: a dried field bean, and a little figurine the same size. The person who gets the figurine in their cut gets to wear the paper crown. The person who gets the dried fava bean in their cut gets to pay for the tortell. A similar tradition in and around New Orleans, Louisiana is the kings cake.

# Arts and Sciences

## King Cake

By Lady Wulfwyn Ælfwines dothor

(A little something extra for our Atlantian bakers...)

1/2 c. warm water

2 packages active dry yeast

1/2 c. plus 1 tsp. sugar

About 4 cups of flour, more or less as needed

1 tsp. nutmeg

2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. lemon zest

1/2 c. warm milk

5 large egg yolks

1 stick plus 2 T. butter, cut in slices and softened

1 egg slightly beaten with 1 T. of milk

1 tsp. ground cinnamon mixed with 2 T. sugar

1 tiny plastic doll (about 1 inch in size), optional

### *Cream Cheese Filling:*

1 8-ounce pkg. cream cheese

1 c. confectioner's sugar

2 T. flour

1 tsp. vanilla extract

a few drops of milk

Pour the warm water into a small shallow bowl and sprinkle yeast and 2 teaspoons of sugar into it. Allow the yeast and sugar to rest for several minutes, mix thoroughly. Set yeast mixture in a warm place for 10 minutes. Combine 3 and 1/2 cups of flour, remaining sugar, nutmeg and salt, and sift into a large mixing bowl.

Stir in lemon zest. Separate center of mixture to form a hole and pour in yeast mixture and milk. Add egg yolks and using a wooden spoon, combine dry ingredients into the yeast and milk mixture. When mixture is smooth, beat in 8 tablespoons butter, 1 tablespoon at a time and continue to beat 2 minutes or until dough can be formed into a medium soft ball.

Place ball of dough on floured surface and knead, gradually adding 1/2 to 1 cup more of flour. When dough is no longer sticky, knead 10 minutes more until shiny and elastic.

Using a pastry brush, coat the inside of a large bowl evenly with one tablespoon softened butter. Place dough ball in the bowl and rotate until the entire surface is buttered. Cover bowl with a heavier kitchen towel and allow dough to rise in a warm place for about 1 and 1/2 hours or until it doubles in volume.

Coat a large baking sheet with one tablespoon of butter and set aside. After the first rising, place the dough on a floured surface and punch it down with a heavy blow. Spread cream cheese filling evenly and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture, then roll and shape the dough into a long 'snake' or 'cylinder'. Form a twist by folding the long cylinder in half, end to end, and pinching the ends together. Then twist the dough. Form a ring with the completed twist and pinch the ends together.

Place the completed ring on the buttered baking sheet, cover it with a towel and allow it to rise for 45 minutes or until double in volume. After the second rising, brush the top and sides of the cake with the egg and milk wash. Bake in a preheated oven at 375 degrees for 25-35 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack and hide the plastic baby inside the cake (or just place on the top of cake to avoid someone biting into it)

### *Poured icing:*

3/4 c. confectioners sugar

1/4 c. lemon juice

3 - 6 T. of water

Mix all ingredients until smooth and pour over cooled cake. Traditionally, the cake is then sprinkled with colored sugar, in alternating patterns of green, yellow and purple, but this is purely optional.

Enjoy!!