



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Schenectady, New York



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. GEORGE HOLDS 47th ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL

Schenectady — St. George Greek Orthodox Church will hold its **47th Annual Greek Festival Friday, September 8, 2023 through Sunday, September 10, 2023**. Festival hours are 11:00 am to 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday. The festival will take place at the Hellenic Center located at 510 Liberty Street, Schenectady, NY (telephone 518-393-0742) which is directly opposite the Schenectady County Public Library. The church is located at 107 Clinton Street directly across from the rear entrance of City Hall. **The three-day event will feature live music, ethnic Greek food, beverages and pastries, folk dancing, arts and crafts, and raffles.** Admission to the event is free.

“We are all very excited for our upcoming Greek Festival. It will be my family's third festival with the Schenectady community of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church” said parish priest, Rev. Father Neofitos Sarigiannis. Our legendary “Greek hospitality – Philoxenia”, Greek pastries, spinach pie, and hot food await you. Say a prayer in our church while enjoying a tour of our unique grounds filled with iconography, rich history, and ancient church architecture. We look forward to another record-breaking year and with our exciting, new Grand Raffle (more cash and prizes than ever!), we hope to attract an even bigger crowd. This is our main fundraiser for our parish and on behalf of all our ministry leaders and families, we thank you in advance for your beautiful presence and patronage. May God bless us and guide us all into His loving Embrace.”

“For the members of our St. George community,” Parish Council President Brian Goodale says, “this event is about family. When you come to our festival, we hope you will feel like you are stepping into our home filled with delicious food, great music and wonderful entertainment. Immerse yourself in our culture and our religion and go ‘Greek for a day’.”

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The parishioners of the church have worked tirelessly to prepare for this event which features **authentic Greek food, beverages and pastries**. Inside the Hellenic Center dining room, some of the featured items will include delicious dinners of *Moussaka* (layers of eggplant, potato and sautéed ground beef topped with cream sauce), *Olympian Kotta* (chicken with Greek seasonings and lemon, served with oven roasted potatoes and vegetable) and *Lamb Shanks Yiovetsi* (tender oven-cooked lamb shanks smothered in sauce). Also available will be a-la-carte items featuring *Spanakopita* (spinach and feta cheese between layers of filo dough), and vegan offerings of *Dolmades* (stuffed grape leaves) or *Stuffed Peppers* (with rice and fresh herbs). The Hellenic Center will also feature a bakery section offering traditional Greek pastries such as *Baklava* (chopped walnuts baked in layers of crisp filo dough and honey syrup), and *Kourambiethes* (sweet butter cookies dusted with powdered sugar -- the traditional Greek wedding cookie). Under the big tents, an outdoor barbecue area will feature *Souvlaki* (grilled pieces of marinated seasoned lamb, chicken, or pork) and *Gyros* (grilled beef) as well as *Loukoumades* (deep fried dough dipped in honey) and Greek coffee.

Starting at 5:00 pm Friday and throughout the day Saturday and Sunday, **live Greek music** will be performed by **Prometheus** (musicians based in the Capital District). In addition, the **St. George Hellenic Dancers** will perform traditional folk dances throughout the three-day festival. This talented group of young dancers, ranging in age from 5-25, will perform a variety of dances representing the Greek mainland and islands. Every dance has a story to tell, and with authentic Greek costumes, the performances will be both colorful and inspiring.

The **Agora Marketplace** will sell arts and crafts and religious items as well as Greek food specialty items such as olive oil, grape leaves and Kalamata olives. The **St. George Bookstore** will feature children's books and gifts and a variety of religious items to shop.

This year's Festival will feature **two new raffles**. The **Grand Raffle** will offer \$6,750 in cash prizes with a top prize of \$3,000. Additional prizes include a 58" 4K Roku UHD TV, Proctor's Ticket Package, Craftsman Snow Blower, Bicycles, HP Chromebook, Dining Gift Certificates and many others. Tickets will be sold on festival grounds at a cost of \$100 each. **50/50 Raffle** tickets will also be available with drawings held at the end of each festival day.

Church tours will be offered throughout the weekend. The church will be open for prayer time during each scheduled tour. Father Sarigiannis will be available to answer any questions about Byzantine art and architecture as well as the Orthodox faith. In **Commemoration of the 22nd Anniversary of 9/11**, the church will hold a Memorial Service on Friday, September 8 at 10:30 am, as well as a Holy Water Blessing to bless the opening of the 2023 Festival.

For additional information and directions, visit website at www.saintgeorgegoc.com