



St. George Greek Orthodox Church Schenectady, New York



Contact: Athena Pagnotti, Parish Council President
518-708-7695 (cell)

Olga Delorey, Publicity & Advertising Chair
518-383-4737 (home) or 518-859-3600 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2016

ST. GEORGE 41st ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL

Schenectady — St. George Greek Orthodox Church will hold its **41st Annual Greek Festival Friday, September 9, 2016 through Sunday, September 11, 2016**. Festival hours are 11:00 am to 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm Sunday. The festival will take place at the Hellenic Center located at 510 Liberty Street, Schenectady, NY (telephone 393-0742 /fax 393-4093) 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 and pastries, folk dancing, arts and crafts, church tours and raffles.** Admission to the event is free.

Parish Council President Athena Pagnotti states, “we are excited about our 41st Annual Greek Festival celebration, and we have prepared a wonderful venue for your entertainment! Whether it's Lamb in the dining room or Souvlaki under the big tent, we have your favorite Greek delicacies. Come and dance along with us, to the invigorating sounds of the live Greek band *Prometheus*. Be sure to visit our Greek Imports Store and Pastry Booth where you'll find ample supplies of imported goods, Baklava and Galactoboureko (you know ...that custard dessert). Join us for church tours as we discuss the art, music and precepts of the Orthodox Christian Faith. This year's event is sure to delight everyone, and admission is free. Opa!”

The parishioners of the church have worked tirelessly to prepare for this event which features **authentic Greek food and pastries**. Inside the Hellenic Center some of the featured items will include delicious dinners of *Moussaka* (layers of eggplant, potato and sauteed ground beef topped with cream sauce), *Chicken Souvlaki Dinner* (marinated and seasoned grilled chicken pieces served with potato or rice pilaf and vegetable) and *Lamb Shanks Yiovetzi* (tender oven-cooked lamb shanks smothered in sauce) in addition to a-la-carte items featuring *Spanakopita* (spinach and feta cheese between layers of

(continued)

Local Address & Mailing Address: 107 Clinton Street • Schenectady, New York 12305 • U.S.A.

Hellenic Center Address: 510 Liberty Street • Schenectady, New York 12305 • U.S.A.

Website: www.saintgeorgegoc.com • E-Mail: office@saintgeorgegoc.com

Office Tel.: (518) 393-0742 • Office Fax: (518) 393-4093

filo dough), *Dolmades* (stuffed grape leaves), and *Pastitsio* (seasoned ground beef with pasta and grated cheese, topped with cream sauce). Also available will be Greek pastries such as *Baklava* (chopped walnuts baked in layers of crisp filo dough and honey syrup), *Kataifi* (shredded filo dough stuffed with chopped nuts and honey syrup) and *Kourambiethes* (sweet butter cookies dusted with powdered sugar -- the traditional Greek wedding cookie). Outside the Hellenic Center an outdoor barbecue area will feature *Souvlaki* (grilled pieces of marinated seasoned pork or chicken) and *Gyros* (beef) as well as *Loukoumades* (deep fried dough dipped in honey) and Greek coffee.

Starting at 5:00 pm Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday, **live Greek music** will be performed by **Prometheus** (musicians based in the Capital District). In addition, the **St. George Youth Dancers** will perform traditional folk dances throughout the three-day festival. Under the direction of dance instructor Georgia Tsakopiakos, the talented young dancers will perform 40 different dances in authentic Greek costumes representing the Greek mainland and islands. The dancers are comprised of three groups: “*Rizes*” (translation “roots”) ages 3-8; “*Paradosis*” (translation “tradition”) ages 9-17; and “*Estia*” (translation “home”) ages 17 and older. According to Ms. Tsakopiakos, “we perform because we love our church, we love to dance and it is important that we keep our Greek traditions alive. Performing at the annual St. George Greek Festival is our gift to the community at large.”

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.

Scheduled **guided tours of the church** featuring Byzantine iconography and architecture will be available to the public.

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

#