



St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Schenectady, New York



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. GEORGE to Hold 45th ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL In-person

Schenectady — St. George Greek Orthodox Church will hold its **45th Annual Greek Festival in-person Friday, September 10, 2021 through Sunday, September 12, 2021.**

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.

“I am very excited to experience my first festival in Saint George in Schenectady, N.Y., said parish priest, Rev. Father Neofitos Sarigiannis. “I have heard about this festival for many years from people from my old hometown in Queens, and I can't wait to experience it for myself. Many will travel from far and wide. I hear the food is the main attraction! We hope to also express our “Greek hospitality – Philoxenia” through welcoming everyone to visit our church, the jewel of our grounds and our reason, OUR WHY, for all our hard work and efforts.”

“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’.”

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,

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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 many 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 chicken or pork) and *Gyros* (grilled beef) as well as *Loukoumades* (deep fried dough dipped in honey), Greek coffee, and a lemonade stand.

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. The origins of many dances are as ancient as the Greek civilization itself. 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. New to the Festival is the **St. George Bookstore** featuring children's books and gifts and a variety of religious items to shop.

Church tours will be offered throughout the weekend. The church will be open for prayer time for one hour before 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 20th Anniversary of 9/11**, the church will hold a Memorial Service on Friday, September 10 at 5:30 pm, and a Supplication Service on Saturday, September 11 at 6 pm. All are welcome.

The St. George Greek Festival is committed to following the COVID-19 guidelines of the Schenectady County Department of Health, New York State and the CDC for those attending the Festival. For additional information and directions, please visit our website at

www.saintgeorgegoc.com.

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