DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Schenectady, New York

Protopresbyter Pat Legato

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ST. GEORGE HOLDS MILESTONE 50th ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL!

Schenectady — St. George Greek Orthodox Church will hold its **50th Annual Greek Festival Friday, September 11, 2026 through Sunday, September 13, 2026**. Festival hours are 11:00 am to 10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday and 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday. The festival will take place downtown in the Hellenic Center located at 510 Liberty Street, Schenectady, NY (telephone 518-393-0742). 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, vendors and raffles.** Admission to the event is free.

"Hospitality and good will are the cornerstone of our Greek Festival at St. George. Add some music and dance and a wide selection of Grecian delicacies, and you have the making of a lifelong experience" said parish priest, Rev. Protopresbyter Pat Legato.

"The St. George community is thrilled to bring a touch of Greece to Schenectady! Step into our Festival and experience true Greek hospitality - complete with mouthwatering food, live music, and fantastic entertainment. When you visit you will be welcomed like family so come immerse yourself and go 'Greek for a day!'" said Parish Council President Brian Goodale.

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 rice pilaf and vegetable) and the ever popular ***Lamb Shanks Yiovetsi*** (tender oven-cooked lamb shanks smothered in sauce). Also available will be a-la-carte items featuring

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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), ***Finikia*** (honey dipped walnut spice cookies) and ***Kourambiethes*** (sweet butter cookies dusted with powdered sugar). 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) 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 to adult, 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 feature three new vendors this year: Dedousis Orthodox Christian Supplies, selling icons, religious books and items; LuiAnn selling organic Greek olive oil and honey, and Lakeside Lather Soap Company selling goat milk soap and lotions.

This year's Festival will feature **two exciting raffles**. The **Grand Raffle** will offer 15 all cash prizes totaling more than $12,000, with a top prize of $5,000 and three $1,000 prizes. **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. Rev. Protopresbyter Pat Legato will be available to answer any questions about Byzantine art and architecture as well as the Orthodox faith. In **Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of 9/11**, a Memorial Service will be held on Friday, September 11 at 9:45 am, as well as a Holy Water Blessing to bless the opening of the 2026 Festival.

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