



Greek Festival

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Contacts: Stacey Stathulis 614.296.6351
John Bizios 614.406.3002

A Labor Day Weekend Tradition

Food, Dancing, Music and Cooking Highlight 4-Day Festival

Columbus, OH – On Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 2-5) at the gateway of the Short North and downtown Columbus, the 39th annual Greek Festival carries on its tradition as *the* end of summer celebration in central Ohio. The Greek Festival takes place at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral at the corner of High St. and Goodale Blvd.

Experience a taste of Greece through authentic, hand-made food delicacies, tour the cathedral that is reminiscent of Orthodox churches in Greece with its pristine marble and carefully crafted mosaics and take in an artist's show case that includes painters, illustrators, sculptors and more.

The gourmet food menu includes pastitsio (Greek lasagna), moussaka, grape leaves, cheese and spinach pies (tyropites and spanakopites) and much more. Festival goers can also enjoy a gyro, souvlaki, loukaniko or Greek pizza. Among the selection of pastries are baklava and baklava sundaes, loukoumades (honey puffs) and more.

After the delicious food whets the appetite, discover the secret of preparing delicious Greek cuisine. Festival patrons can attend numerous cooking demonstrations to learn how to prepare Greek food at home – and find the necessary ingredients at the Greek grocery store nearby. A cookbook of Greek recipes will also be available to keep the experience alive long after the festival ends.

Complementing the food is the culture of Greece. Patrons have the chance to learn traditional Greek folk dances that they will see performed by costumed children and adults from the community's dance troupe. The dancers are joined by the Hellenic Singers, who serenade the crowds with folk songs from the Greece of days gone by.

This year's festival will feature more imported items from Greece including clothing, handmade jewelry and accessories and imported olive oil-based Greek bath and beauty products. There will also be fine art on display and available for purchase from a number of Greek painters, photographers and illustrators (some local to our own parish) who are showcasing their original water colors, clay pottery, photographs, oil paintings, ceramics and beautiful Byzantine-styled iconography.

New for this year is a focus on the culture and history of Greece. Professors from the Modern Greek Studies program at The Ohio State University will be hosting lectures throughout the weekend on Greek history and traditions. In addition, there will be exhibits on Greece in the new cultural wing of the Cathedral complex.

Touring the Cathedral and witnessing its beautiful mosaics and pristine marble is a way to experience the living faith of Orthodoxy. And the Orthodox Christian bookstore has so much to offer. Visiting monks from the St. Theodore monastery will be hold an evening prayer service each evening of the festival weekend.

Festival hours Friday and Saturday are from 11 a.m. to midnight; Sunday the festival is open from noon to midnight and Monday it is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission tickets – good for all four days of the festival – are \$5, \$4 for senior citizens while children under 12 are free. More information is available on the Cathedral's Web site.

- www.greekcathedral.com -