

# Standard Star

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YOUR WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

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6 Thursday, September 12, 2002

COMMUNITY

Standard Star

## Taste the traditions of Greece

By Amy Faith Lionheart

New Rochelle will experience the sights and sounds of a Greek village this weekend. And the best part is that it doesn't require a trip to the Greek islands.

Experience the joy of Greek hospitality. Indulge in a culture rich with tradition and beauty at this year's New Rochelle Greek Festival where visi-

tors can play games, eat homemade mouth-watering food and drink, listen to live music and dance in a traditional taverna style tent, and shop for jewelry, crafts, giftware, and oriental rugs.

"It's one big great time," said Greek community member George Manolakis.

According to Costa Papademetri-

ou, co-chair of the festival, "There are over 500 active families in the community that help to put this event together."

As he spoke, several women filed back and forth through the church's kitchen, helping to roll dough and heat oil to fry diples, a crispy honey-flavored pastry. Volunteers begin preparing desserts for the event two weeks ahead to ensure that no mouth goes unfed.

The Rev. Nicholas Ancil, pastor of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, said, "People should come hungry and be prepared for some delicious homemade food."

He urges non-Greek friends to try the loukoumades, a traditional Greek dessert prepared like doughnut holes and laced with syrup and cinnamon.

More than 13,000 people attended last year's event over four days, which raised more than \$54,000. Proceeds from the 2001 festival were donated to the September 11 Relief Fund.

Festivities will run from September 12-15, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, at 10 Mill Road.

This year's Greek Festival will focus on the family. According to Ancil, "All the European and Mediterranean countries find family to be their most grounding resource of life."



Fresh loukoumades were for sale at last year's annual Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Rochelle. Ava Crockett/ File photo

### If you go...

A \$1 donation is requested to enter the festival. Children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. Parking is available at the Ursuline School and Anne Hutchinson School lots, where a free shuttle bus will be available. The Greek Festival will be held rain or shine. For more information, call 235-6100.

According to volunteer Georgia Lyras, co-author of "Yes You Can Cook Greek," an anthology of traditional Greek recipes that have been handed down through the years, "With the Greeks," she said, "(eating) not only a nationality, it's an entire tradition which involves our language, our customs, that held us together

through the best of times and the worst of times. Eating is an event. People just don't eat and run in Greece."

Roasting herb-flavored lamb has been a long-time practice of Greeks. "We are going to cook three lambs on Friday, three on Saturday and two on Sunday. It is a great thing! The lamb is prepared on a spit and it is a beautiful Greek tradition where our men turn the lambs over a hot open fire for hours and hours until they are cooked. The cooking takes place right outside my office window, so my office smells for about six weeks, but it's a beautiful thing," laughed Ancil.

**Festival Coupon**  
**\$100 off or \$200 off**  
A Food Purchase Over \$7  
A Food Purchase Over \$15

**Sept. 12-15 • Holy Trinity Greek Church**  
**10 Mill Rd. New Rochelle**

One coupon per customer per order. Not to be combined with any other offers. (N)