

A Church Family Picnic To Replace This Year's Greek Fest

Dear parishioners,

After a good deal of careful thought, prayer and consultation with the parish council, we have decided not to go forward with the end of July community-wide Greek festival previously announced. Instead, we are planning a picnic-style event just for our church family – to help us all reconnect after the “distancing” we’ve experienced over the past two years. It will take place on **Saturday, August 27**.

Why no Greek Fest this year? As we talked with vendors and donors from past years, a couple of troubling issues arose: (1) the cost of renting tents, tables and chairs (our major expense) would be 60 percent higher; and (2) our restaurant donors, such a big help in the past, were still struggling to bounce back from the pandemic’s devastating blow and could not offer us the same level of assistance. Since we don’t hold a raffle to guarantee profitability rain or shine, there was a good possibility we’d, at best, break even or, in the worst case, lose money on the Fest.

So, instead, we are focusing inward and planning an event strictly for our church community:

One that offers the same fulfillment of working side by side to bring an event to life – but on a more simplified, less exhausting, scale than the festival;

One that allows us to sit down as one group to enjoy our favorite Greek food, loukoumades and music, while getting to know fellow parishioners a little better;

One that brings us all together once again to celebrate our church family, the end of summer and the start of a new church year.

There are still many details to work out. (*We are still finalizing the name for the event!*) Patterned after the successful “Live in the Lot” hosted by our Philoptochos last summer, it will take place in the church parking lot (moving into the gym if rain is forecasted). Rather than a catered event, many Greek Fest favorites will be prepared and cooked/grilled by parishioners. There will be activities for children and music/entertainment for the rest of us.

If you’re interested in helping to coordinate some aspect of this event, please join us at our next planning committee meeting or reach out to either of us. Watch for further details throughout the summer.

Yours in Christ,

Christy Gouletas (cgouletas@hotmail.com)

Nick Colis (njcolis@gmail.com)

Co-chairs