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Opa! Fest is truly a labour of love, made possible because of thousands of volunteer hours, and generous financial support from individuals and businesses. The festival helps preserve and pass down the traditions of the Greek culture, but Opa! Fest is also the single largest fundraising event of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, providing capital to fund a plethora of philanthropic initiatives. Their participation and support is deeply appreciated, and we hope you’ll support the businesses and acknowledge the individuals that make Opa! Fest an overwhelming success year after year!

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Welcome to our 26th Saint Nicholas Opa! Fest

We are very pleased that you have come to help us celebrate our silver anniversary! OPA!

Thank You!

We are very pleased that you have come to help us celebrate our 26th anniversary! OPA!

It is hard to believe that 26 years have passed so quickly. Thank you to everyone who have supported us throughout these years and allowed us to share our rich heritage and faith. Especially, we welcome everyone who is visiting us for the first time. Please enjoy!

For our 26th Opa! Fest, we will have many of our usual foods including a sumptuous lamb shank dinner, keftedes (Greek style meatballs), lamb sliders, cheese and spinach pies, and much more to please your palate. We continue with our live entertainment, featuring the Levendes Band, cooking demonstrations, hundreds of costumed dancers, and the “Greek Iron Chef Competition”. This year, we are happy to have Maria Benardis, the Gourmet Winning Author, join us, demonstrating and teaching about our Greek cuisine and wellness!

As always, we invite you to indulge in our sweet pastry delicacies, delicious food, ample drink, and please visit our place of worship, our beautiful Byzantine Style, Saint Nicholas Church

Finally, to complete your evening, please enjoy a relaxing cup of coffee or frappe, some mouth-watering pastries, and our honey-drenched loukamades (honey puffs).

Thank you for your tremendous support! A special thanks to our Opa Fest sponsors.

God Bless You, always!

Father Stratton

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MAD DOG TECHNOLOGY
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Congratulations St. Nicholas on your 26th Annual Opa! Fest

Welcome to the St. Nicholas Opa! Fest 2019. As members of the Troy (hint, hint) community for over 25 years, we are pleased to bring you our thematic rendition of Homer epic poem, The Odyssey. The Odyssey is the first in a series of two epic poems attributed to the poet Homer near the end of the 8th century B.C.E. The epic poem focuses on the Greek king of Ithaca who and finally defeating back to Ithaca and people and creatures some important Odysseus’ journey in which he fights figuratively) back wife, Penelope, and deal with their own

In Western literature, the Odyssey is fundamental to modern Western canon as it is the second oldest extant work of Western literature (The Iliad is the first). The epic poem continues to be read in the original Homeric Greek as well as translated into modern languages around the world. The thematic elements of the epic poem e.g. homecoming, friendship, omens, tests and trust offer lessons and understanding to modern audiences.

Therefore, here at St. Nicholas, we invite you to embark upon your own journey by following in the footsteps of the epic hero Odysseus. Begin at the entrance where the defeated Trojans gaze at Odysseus’ cunning marvel, The Trojan horse. From there, pick up a passport which maps out 11 of Odysseus’ most recognizable stops on his epic quest to return home. At each station, you will learn more about Odysseus’ experiences during his journey as well as sample the marvels, delights and everything else that makes the Opa Fest here at St. Nicholas, EPIC! We hope to see you there.

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### OPA! FEST 2019

There is always something to celebrate at Opa! Fest and this year that long-standing tradition continues!

The Troy St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church will once again be hosting the 26th Annual Opa! Fest, which is the largest on-going Greek festival in the Metro Detroit area, with over 10,000 attendees enjoying the culture, cuisine and Philoxenia (hospitality) of Greece. Friends, families, neighbors – young and old – are all invited to experience the tastes, smells, sounds and overall celebration of life that is held so very proudly by our Greek Orthodox Community.

OPAfest is set to be held this year over the three-day weekend of June 21-22-23, 2019 (Friday – Sunday), at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 760 W. Wattles Road, in Troy.

Opa Fest always enchants its visitors with Greek music, traditional folk-dancing, and food, as well as, goods for sale at the Agora (marketplace). Each Opa! Fest day is filled with live Greek music and dancing.

The cooking stage will provide demonstrations of classic Greek foods, and cook-off competitions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There are also pastry shops that will be serving traditional sweets such as Kourambiethes, Koulourakia and Baklava and much more.

We invite you to take a tour of our church, enjoy a presentation about our Greek culture and Eastern Orthodox Christianity, or take the time to offer a quiet prayer.

Admission to Opa Fest is $2 for adults or you can donate three canned goods, which will benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan while admission for veterans and children under 12, is free.

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Proud Sponsor of the 26th Annual OPAfest
Welcome to Opa Fest 2019! We are looking forward to hosting you during our annual celebration occurring the weekend of June 21-23! This is that singular time of the year when we open the doors of our church and its surroundings for all our friends and neighbors to join us in partaking of our faith, culture, and history. We are thrilled that you will be able to join us and know that your stay with us will be both exceptional and enjoyable.

You will have an opportunity to tour our beautiful St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Orthodox Churches have a unique architectural style that is rooted in the Eastern Roman-Byzantine Tradition associated with the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkan, Russian, Near Eastern, and Anatolian locales where Orthodoxy Christianity took root and blossomed. These holy structures are traditionally fashioned with one or more domes and are built in the shape of a Cruciform (Greek Cross or Cross-in-Square), a circular rotunda, or a basilica design.

Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church follows this custom and was constructed based on a “Neo-Byzantine” architectural plan. It consists of a modified rotunda, similar in nature to the Great Patriarchal Church of Hagia Sophia (The Church of “Holy Wisdom”) located in Constantinople (modern day Istanbul).

As with many Michigan Eastern Orthodox Churches, St. Nicholas houses one of metro-Detroit’s most exceptional collections of Byzantine Iconography, set in a beautiful Orthodox Church interior; a sight not to be missed! Similar to the early Christian and Medieval icons and mosaics of Greece, Turkey, Russia, The Balkans, and Italy, St. Nicholas’ icon collection tells the story of Christ, His Life, and Christianity through breathtaking images and illustrations. Join us for an excursion into the evolution of Eastern Christianity and the foundational beliefs of the Greek Orthodox faith.

Come tour the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church during festival hours. The church will be open for public visitation during all three days of the festival, from event opening through 9:00 PM on Friday and Saturday and event opening through 6:00 PM on Sunday. There will be formal tours presented by a knowledgeable lay parishioner and one of our Greek Orthodox priests during the following dates and times:

- Friday 21 June at 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM
- Saturday 22 June at 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM
- Sunday 23 June at 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM

Take a break from the outside Opa! festivities by joining us inside for a tour of our church’s Holy Images and Holy Space. We hope to see you there.
DKMS is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against blood cancer and blood disorders by: creating awareness; recruiting bone marrow donors to provide a second chance at life; raising funds to match donor registration costs; supporting the improvement of therapies through research; and supporting patients from day one of their diagnoses.

GET SWABBED When you register as a bone marrow donor, you take the first step toward providing a patient with a second chance at life. Registering is fast and easy to do at our festival.

Stop by the registration table inside the Marketplace.
Friday, June 21 4:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, June 22, 4:00pm – 9:00pm
Sunday, June 23 12:00noon -7:00pm

In the Footsteps of Christ:
Saints in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition

Christianity was first nurtured and evolved within the lands and seas associated with the Roman Empire. When early Christians began to construct their churches, or convert pagan temples for Christian worship, they filled these holy structures with images and icons of Christ, the Theotokos (Virgin Mary), and the Saints. From the origins of Christianity, commencing with the Twelve Holy Apostles, there have been men and women who because of their holiness or special “understanding” of Christ and His Teachings became Saints of the Church. The Eastern Orthodox Church honored these Christians and desired that the faithful learn about their deeds and the holiness that they possessed. The use of icons within the Orthodox Church was an excellent guide for the faithful in their quest to understand and comprehend God, Jesus, and the Christian tradition.

Within Eastern Orthodox Churches, the lives and teachings of the Saints are revealed through the “writing” and viewing of icons. All Orthodox Churches demonstrate the workings of these key Christians and illustrate their teachings as guidance for what Christians can and should do in their quest for the Kingdom of Heaven.

This year, we take an in-depth look at the Saints of the Orthodox Church. This will be illustrated for you through iconography as the icon is a key interpreter for the life and times of the saints. The exhibit will illustrate how various cultures have interpreted the saints, all within the Byzantine tradition, including ancient, medieval, and modern renditions of icons associated with the saints.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, a saint is defined as anyone who is in Heaven, whether recognized here on earth, or not. By this definition, Adam and Eve, Moses, the various prophets, are all given the title of “Saint”. Sainthood in the Orthodox Church does not necessarily reflect a moral model, but the communion with God: there are countless examples of people who lived in great sin and became saints by humility and repentance, such as Mary of Egypt, Moses the Ethiopian, and of course Dysmas, the repentant thief who was crucified with Christ.

Our exhibit will take you on a fascinating tour of the most famous Orthodox Christian Saints. We begin our tour with a brief look at the art and techniques of icons across time. You will understand how icons are created and transformed from simple wood, paint, and plaster into refined Holy Images.

Cultural Exhibit Continued on Next Page
CULTURAL EXHIBIT INFORMATION

< Cultural Exhibit Continued from Previous Page

Next, our exhibit will offer a “mini tour” of the various regional Orthodox or Byzantine-inspired icons of the saints beginning in the Western portion of the Roman Empire with a look at icons from Rome, Ravenna, and Venice.

We will then move on to Sicily, Greece, and Constantinople with a panoramic view of icons which incorporate the meaning and function of Eastern and Western styles of art. The tour will include examples of Orthodox Saints from the Balkans, Russia, and the Near East. The exhibit will culminate with an assessment at how saints continue to influence Orthodox art and worship in the modern period.

Experience Orthodox Christianity as early Christians did so many years ago yet appreciate its relevancy for today. In a world, which is ever changing, understand the power and beauty of Christianity as told by the saints through their Holy Images.

Lastly, we invite you to examine the importance of saints in the Orthodox Church through the eyes of our parishioners. Each parishioner is baptized and named for an Orthodox Saint and through a collection of photographs and iconography, we present to you a lasting message of faith, hope and love.

The exhibit will be available for public visitation in the church, from festival opening until 9:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, and until 6:00 PM on Sunday. Guides will be available to answer your questions as well as offer additional insights into the various aspects of the Greek Orthodox Faith and these historical Christian icons. We look forward to seeing you!

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WISHING ST. NICHOLAS ALL THE BEST
FOR THEIR
26TH ANNUAL OPAFEST

Ahepa Alpha Chapter #40
**THE HISTORY OF OPA! FEST**

**ST. NICHOLAS TROY OPA! FEST 1993-2019**

*Opa! Fest* is the longest consecutive running Greek Festival in the Detroit Metropolitan area. This year, we celebrate 26 years of our Hellenic heritage and Orthodox faith with the community.

In 1993, a few parishioners who worked for many years on the Ethnic River Festival said, "we need to start the Greek Festival again". Sitting in the lobby of our new home in Troy, Happy Methodakis, Mary Ball, Fran Eldis, Fr. Nicholas Harbatis, Ann Feles, Steve Lionas, George Parks and Karen Cosmos, gathered thinking not only how to achieve this goal but what should we call it. After tossing around many ideas, they decided on "St. Nicholas Greek Opa! Fest"

That was our beginning and with only tents and refrigerated trailers. With help from parishioners who had restaurants, the many ladies baking our pastries, to the workers grilling over the hot grills in the sun and cutting salads; the dream had been achieved.

Since those early days, we have progressed with our kitchen and facilities to help make planning easier, in order to offer our Greek treats and hospitality.

*Opa! Fest* has been a major fundraiser for our community focusing on our mission of promotion Hellenism, Orthodox education, philanthropy, civic responsibilities, and family values.

*Opa! Fest* also supports local organization such as Focus Detroit, Gleaners, Red Cross Blanket Drive, Judson Center, Children’s Hospital of Detroit, Ann Arbor Mott Children’s Hospital and Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center and Work It Out to name a few.

With this said, we are indebted to all the people, organization for their unconditional physical, and financial support to fulfill our mission. And to our greater community, to all our patrons and friends THANK YOU for your unconditional and continued support of St. Nicholas Opa! Fest.
OUR CHURCH HISTORY

1936 THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE NORTH SIDE
The Greek Orthodox Church of the North Side, as St. Nicholas was originally named, came to fruition at a meeting on March 9, 1936 at the home of Gust Petropoulos in Detroit, MI. In addition to Mr. Petropoulos, the gentlemen present included Messrs. W. Barr (Barbatiotis), E. Broussalis, G. Caralis, G. Conn (Kalopesis), G. Demetriades, J. Dritsas, S. Efthiman, K. Giannios, G. Kalyvas, N. Kyriakou, M. Mihalakis, A. Paterikes, C. Stamos, and B. Stathakis.

1937 ST. NICHOLAS HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
In 1937 a building located at the corner of Tuxedo and Hamilton in Detroit was purchased for $18,000 and was named the St. Nicholas Hellenic Orthodox Church. The growth of the parish prompted the purchase of land in 1943 in the Palmer Park area of Detroit for $25,000. The first phase of the church construction, the building of the lower level, where church services were to be held until the church was completed in 1951. The architects of Phases I and II were Alexander K. Eugenides and Harold Fischer, respectively.

1985 A MEMBERSHIP CRISIS
The church continued to grow, however; as early as 1985 the parish council was facing some pressing problems including a decrease in membership from 800 to 350 families, primarily because of the mass exodus from Detroit. Shortly thereafter, the parish council voted in favor of relocation and the drafting of the master plan ensued. Included in the plan were: a church edifice; a chapel for weekday services and baptisms; an administrative area; classrooms; social center; gym; and a retirement complex. A minimum of 10 acres of land was needed.

1987 TROY LAND PURCHASE
An 11 acre tract of land in Troy, was located and purchased with the approval of the Parish Assembly and blessings of His Grace Bishop Timothy.

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OUR CHURCH HISTORY

1990 TROY GROUND BREAKING
Constantine Pappas was chosen to be the architect by the Building Committee and was commissioned to draft the plans for Phase I. Phase I was limited to the building of a church, administrative building and classrooms. A budget of $1,500,000 was established and the ground-breaking ceremonies were held in the spring of 1990.

1992 AUXILIARY FACILITIES HOST SERVICES
In 1992, the administrative/classroom building was completed and church services were held in the south wing of the building. The marble fixtures, including the liturgical altar, pulpit, baptismal font, and prayer stands (proskinitiria) as well as the iconography from the Detroit church were transplanted into the new church.

1994 CHURCH OPENING DOOR CEREMONIES
Opening Door ceremonies for the church were held in 1994 with Bishop Timothy presiding. The marble fixtures had been installed and an artist was hired to handle the touching-up and installation of the iconography.

1994 TO 2019
Since the move to Troy, St. Nicholas has grown and served the community. GOYA has provide assistance and food the local shelters. The Dance Group, 250 plus strong, has performed at many of the local events, Philoptochos has grown to over 150 members and is serving the needs of the needy. Faith, family and community service has continued in the way the St. Nicholas founding fathers vision was back in 1936 as they sat around that small table. In 1996, Phase II began with the construction and completion of our present Cultural Center.

For eighty-three years, we have been abundantly blessed by Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ offering a spiritual and sacramental life, Hellenic culture and language, social and philanthropic activities spanning the breadth of our St. Nicholas Community and beyond.

... and the rest is history!
**OPA! DANCERS SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY JUNE 21, 2018**

6:00 pm  *Opening Ceremonies* / OPA Dancers: Preschool
6:30 pm  Opa! Dancers: Kindergarten – 1st Grade
6:45 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 2 & 3
7:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 4 & 5
7:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 6 & 8
8:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 9 thru 12
8:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - The Omega Dance Group
9:00 pm  *Open Dancing* (until 11 pm)

**SATURDAY JUNE 22, 2018**

5:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - Preschool thru 1st Grade
5:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 2 & 3
6:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 4 & 5
7:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 6 thru 8
7:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - The Omega Dance Group
8:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 9 thru 12
8:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - The Omega Zorba Dance
9:00 pm  *Open Dancing* (until 11 pm)

**SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2018**

1:00 pm  Guest Dance Group
2:00 pm  Guest Dance Group
3:00 pm  Guest Dance Group
4:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - PreSchool
4:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - Kindergarten – 1st Grade
5:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 2 & 3
5:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 4 & 5
6:00 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 6 thru 8
6:30 pm  Opa! Dancers - Grades 9 thru 12/The Omega Dance Group
7:00 pm  *Open Dancing* (until 8pm)

*ALL SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

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A variety of Orthodox icons, books, & gifts are available in our new parish bookstore located in the Administration lobby before the side entrance of the Church.

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www.greekalicious.nyc // www.mariabenardis.com
New cookbook: My Greek Family Table

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019
6:30-10:00pm: Learn to cook like a Greek with Chef Maria Benardis

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2019
5:00-6:00pm: Learn to cook like a Greek with Chef Maria Benardis
6:30pm: Cooking Demonstrations
7:15pm: Cooking Demonstrations
8:00pm: IRON CHEF COOK OFF
SS. Constantine & Helen, Westland vs St. Nicholas, Troy
Come and cheer on the Yia Yias and see how all those ladies create the delicious dishes we all grew up eating. Yia Yias can make a great meal out of anything - just ask them!!!

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019
1:00pm: Louise Wibbelman and Nikki Rallis
2:00pm: Angeline & Eugenia Economos
3:00pm: The battle of the “GOLDEN KOUTALI”
St. George, Bloomfield Hills vs St. Nicholas, Troy
The “Golden Koutali” competition is a stylized cook-off featuring guest chefs challenging our own St. Nicholas chefs. It is a timed cooking battle built around a specific theme ingredient. The chefs will be judged on taste, presentation and the best use of the secret ingredients.
4:00pm: Sam Backus
5:00pm: Orestes Katsounis

ALL SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Proud to be a sponsor of the 26th Annual St. Nicholas OPAfest

Proud to be a sponsor of the St. Nicholas 26th Annual OPAfest

Enjoy Greek Festival
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Congratulations,
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Best wishes on your 26th annual Opa! Fest

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Best Wishes to our St. Nicholas Family on their 26th Anniversary of Opa! Fest

The Andreopoulos Family
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Enjoy Classic Greek cuisine, pastries and the Kafenio (Greek Coffee House)
• Learn to prepare classic Greek foods at daily cooking demos
• Welcome Maria Benardis, a globally recognized Greek Chef and founder of the Greekalicious Cooking School
• Vote at this year’s Iron Chef Competition as it heats up between The Detroit News and St. Nicks! (Saturday at 8:00pm)
• Shop the Greek marketplace, discover Greek culture and religion, tour our beautiful Saint Nicholas Church
• Greek dance performances, Live band, “THE LEVENDES”, kids’ area, raffles & prizes
• See YiaYia’s cook-off between St. George Bloomfield Hills and St. Nicks (Sunday)

Admission is $2.00 for adults, children 12 and under are free or bring three canned goods donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.
Proud to support the St. Nicholas 2019 Opa! Fest

Wishing St. Nicholas a successful OPAFESt

For 40 year, Telly’s Greenhouse has developed and prospered with our community. We grow our own annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, bonsai, and roses each season. We are proud to offer a unique selection of these, as well as tropicaIs, houseplants, pottery, garden care products and more. Our experienced staff is dedicated to providing the right product and the right information for your gardening success.
Best wishes for a successful 26th Opa Fest!

STEVE VLAHAKIS F & AM
CELL: 734 216-3198

A LEADER IN OUR INDUSTRY.

Seaway Painting L.L.C., a national industrial painting company, has been serving our customers since 1964. We are a single source contractor responsible for painting, sand blasting, water blasting, deep cleaning, tank linings and lead abatement projects.

Seaway Painting offers more than 50 years of supreme knowledge in the industrial and commercial painting industry. Seaway provides exceptional service that goes above and beyond their clients’ expectations. They have built strong partnerships with clients who know they can trust them to do what it takes to get the job done right while meeting deadlines. Through constant investment in their equipment and employees, Seaway Painting continues to set standards for leadership and professionalism every day.”

George Vlahakis - Founder
KOUZINA - MAIN FOOD TENT

Lamb Shank Platter - $16.00
Kouzina Platter - $12.00
Chicken Kabob Platter - $12.00
Opa Gyro Bowl (with rice & veggies) - $12.00
Pastichio a la carte - $8.00
Kefetehes a la carte (4) - $7.00
Dolmathes (vegetarian) a la carte (6) - $6.00
Spanakopita Triangle a la carte - $4.00
Tiropita Triangle a la carte - $4.00
Greek Salad (Large) w/Pita - $7.00
Greek Salad (Small) w/Pita - $4.00
Gyro Plate with Fries - $10.00
Gyros Sandwich - $8.00
Saganaki - $5.00
Chicken Nuggets with Fries - $5.00
Greek Fries - $4.00
Chili Dog - $3.00
Rice Pudding - $3.00
Ice Cream Novelties - $2.00
Baklava Sundae - $2.00
Cookie Package - $5.00
Assorted Candy - $1.00
Bottled Water - $2.00
Pop - $2.00

All platters include rice, Greek potato, peas, small salad and pita bread.

TAVERNA - BEER & WINE

Craft or Greek Bottle Beer - Varies  Bottle of Wine - Varies
Aluminum Bottle Beer - $5.00  Ouzo - $4.00
Premium Wine, 5 oz - $6.00  Bottled Water - $2.00

KAFENION - COFFEE HOUSE

Greek Coffee - $3.00  Loukoumathes (Large) - $6.00
Frappé - $4.00  Loukoumathes (Small) - $4.00
Coffee - $1.00
Spanakopita
Spinach, feta cheese and eggs baked in filo pastry

Tiropita
Feta Cheese, cottage cheese and eggs baked in filo

Baklava
Layers of buttered filo with walnuts, almonds, sugar and spices topped with honey syrup

Kataifi
Shredded filo filled with nuts and spices topped with honey syrup

Galaktoboureko
Delicately flavored custard baked in filo pastry and topped with syrup

Thiples
A crisp pastry coated with honey, cinnamon & ground walnuts

Karithopita
A honey walnut cake flavored with orange

Pantespani
Lemon sponge cake

Kourabiethes
Butter cookies sprinkled with powdered sugar

Melomacarona
Cookies dipped in a light honey syrup and sprinkled with nuts

Koulourakia
Braided butter cookies, traditional for Easter

Koulourakia Package

Paximathia Package
Greek biscotti

Assortment Packages

Greek Bread

Tsoureki Bread
A braided sweet egg bread

Brownie Package

Coffee

Recipe Book
Complete book of Opa! Fest recipes

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C and N Party Rentals is a full service rental center providing special event products and services to residential and commercial customers.

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Royal Oak, MI 48073
(248) 435-3580

www.cnparty.com
A special Thank You! to all of our wonderful volunteers.