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## **Annual festival brings tastes, sounds of Greece to Daytona Beach**

*Thousands flock to St. Demetrios Church to sample Greek delicacies*

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

The Greeks call it “kefi”, or a feeling of joy, passion and love for life- a spirit that will be alive this weekend at the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Greek Festival in Daytona Beach.

The event, run entirely by volunteers, begins November 12 and runs through November 15 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 129 N Halifax Ave.

“I’ll be frying squid all weekend,” said Kyriakos Drymonis, parishioner, and owner of Oyster Pub Grill on Seabreeze Ave., who will be working the crispy calamari bar.

“We’ve been cooking it up here for about 15 years, people always compliment us on it being the best calamari, and they look forward to it every year,” Drymonis said.

Along with the abundance of food — which will now include Greek pizza, topped with feta, spinach, and Gyro meat- the festival will feature live music by *A Night in Athens Trio*, Greek wines, dancers, and a market for dozens of vendors.

“The atmosphere is wonderful,” Dr. Athas Kometas said, a local dentist who will be serving drinks at the taverna, located on the patio overlooking the Halifax River.

“We have a lot of patrons who tell us its the best thing going on in Daytona all year,” Kometas said, who has been volunteering for over a decade.

This year the proceeds will go toward educational programs for the church's youth, as well as local and national charities supported by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Admission is free and to alleviate parking challenges, free shuttles will be transporting patrons from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on Halifax Ave.

If you save room for desert, a festival favorite is the baklava sundae, topped with wiped cream and served with the sweetness of Greek hospitality.

“It’s the one weekend out of the year that I devote entirely to the church and I find that the rewards are well worth it in the end,” Drymonis said.

For more information, visit: <http://stdemetriosdaytona.org/greek-fesitval/>