



HOLY TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH

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For immediate release

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Holy Transfiguration Church Hosts 28th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on Labor Day Weekend: September 4 & 5

McLEAN, Va., July 28, 2021 – Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church will host its 28th annual **Middle Eastern Food Festival**, September 4 and 5, on the church grounds -- 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean, Virginia.

To provide everyone a safe and enjoyable experience, this year's menu will be a simplified, limited one that will be served outdoors. Guests can expect to enjoy the following traditional favorites: *Hummus; Baba Ghannouj; Spinach Pies and Meat pies; Mujaddara* (rice with lentils); and the following sandwiches: *Falafel; Kafta; Chicken Shish Kebab; Chicken Shawarma and Beef Shawarma*. A variety of home-made, pre-packaged Middle Eastern pastries also will be served.

In years past, the festival featured children's games and a petting zoo, along with a variety of vendors. This year, to promote social distancing, the children's activities will not take place, nor will vendors be on hand. Instead, attendees are invited to enjoy their meal and then consider taking a tour of the church, where they can learn about the Liturgy, icons and the church's traditions. The hope and expectation are to bring back a full array of activities at the 2022 festival.

This year's event is a special one, as Holy Transfiguration is celebrating its 50-year anniversary as a Melkite parish in the Washington area. "For the past several decades, our parishioners have volunteered countless hours to put on this festival as a way to let our local community know who we are," said Father Mark Melone, pastor of Holy Transfiguration. "As Christians who have our spiritual roots in the Holy Land, we have a wonderful opportunity to exercise our most Middle Eastern of charisms – hospitality."

The festival will be held from 11-8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 4 and from 12:30-5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5. It will be held rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. To learn more, call 703-734-9566 or visit www.MiddleEasternFoodFestival.com.

Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church is the local parish of the Melkite Eparchy of Newton (Massachusetts). "Melkite" is used to refer to those Catholics whose ancestry is Middle Eastern and who follow the Byzantine Tradition in worship, theology, and spirituality.

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