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Press Kit: <http://sdserbianfestival.com/press/>

51st Annual San Diego Serbian Festival, Saturday, October 12, 2024

SAN DIEGO, CA—The 51st Annual San Diego Serbian Festival will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 11:00 pm at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church. This annual event is **always held on the second Saturday in October.**

It is conveniently located near I-5 & Clairemont Dr. at 3025 Denver St., in Bay Park—admission is \$5.00, Military, First Responders, and Children 12 & under FREE.

The 51st anniversary of the Serbian Festival marks a significant milestone for the over 7,500 Serbian-Americans and immigrants in San Diego County. The vibrant Serbian culture is centered on its Orthodox Christian faith, food, and music. Many Americans have come to savor the flavor of Serbian food.

Attendees will continue to enjoy some of their favorite foods, such as burek (pastry filled with meat or cheese), cevapcici (barbequed minced beef and pork sausage), and raznjici (BBQ grilled pork), sarma (Serbian cabbage rolls) plus several pastries (apple and cherry pita); pachinko (Serbian crepes), baklava, and Serbian Coffee (the Serb version of espresso). There are vegetarian options like Vegetarian Musaka and Sopska Salata (similar to a Greek salad).

NOTICE: Representatives of the Serbian Festival (such as the Serbian Folklore Group, Serbian Clergy, and/or Serbian Women's Auxiliary food demo) are available for 'in-studio' personal appearances. Please get in touch with Fr. Bratso (619) 276-5827 to schedule.

The spirit of Serbian ethnic heritage is expressed and instilled through dance, song, and music. The 51st anniversary will feature folklore dance performances from folklore groups arriving from all over Southern California, including St. George's own award-winning Morava folklore group. The ensembles' primary goal is to present Serbian folklore in as original a form as possible in the context of the Serbian cultural mosaic. Morava and other folklore groups pride themselves on preserving Serbian heritage by maintaining authentic choreography and costume design that are aligned with Serbia's different regions. Folklore dancing will begin at 2 pm, and exhibitions will continue through 8 pm. Additionally, two renowned live bands will perform Serbian music throughout the day, expressing Serbian culture through storytelling songs.

St. George in San Diego is said to be the only Church in North America completely covered in mosaic tile (from floor to ceiling). Church tours will be offered beginning at 2 pm and regular intervals until 8 pm. Vespers/Evening Service will be held at 6:00 pm. The tour will explain

church architecture, worship, symbolism, and basic precepts of the Orthodox faith. St. George uniquely has magnificent Venetian glass mosaics resplendent with color that covers the entire interior of the church. This unique architecture can only be found in southeastern Europe's cathedrals and churches, not North America. Clergy and laity from all denominations are welcomed and encouraged to share in tours.

Finally, speakers will discuss Serbian history and current culture so visitors can learn about Serbia's proud heritage and diverse regions.

The San Diego Serbian Festival started in 1972 and has been an integral part of the Southern California community. St. George Serbian Orthodox Church is the oldest Serbian Church in San Diego County founded in 1952 and is located at 3025 Denver Street, San Diego, CA 92117. Because of its beautiful mosaics, St. George is included in many historical and architectural tours of San Diego County.

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