



**SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
36<sup>th</sup> Street and Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20007  
Founded 1904

**Breaking News: May 12, 2010**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Festival Dates on May 14, 15, 16**

#### **Bio of Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral and its Greek Festivals**

Saint Sophia was founded in 1904. In the early years, we held services in rented rooms in the 9<sup>th</sup> Street area of D.C., N.W. In 1924, it completed construction of its first Church building.

In 1955, the community moved to its present location at 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Mass., Ave., N.W., President Dwight D. Eisenhower laid the cornerstone of the Building.

Since that time, the Cathedral has been visited by other Presidents, the Patriarchate from Constantinople, Ambassadors and other dignitaries.

Four years ago, the community completed construction of its beautiful Educational Center.

In 1944, Saint Sophia held its first "Greek Bazaar" at the Pythian Temple on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. N.W. It then held the Bazaar at the old Uline Arena and the DC Armory.

It was the first event of its kind. All the other Greek as well as Non-Greek Churches in the area started holding annual bazaars.

In 1956, the event was moved to the Gaithersburg Fair Grounds and consisted of a one day "Picnic."

Since 1964, Saint Sophia has held annual "Festivals" at its present location. It first featured Authentic Greek food and pastries in its indoor auditorium.

In 1973, the Festival expanded to use its outdoor grounds. A Large tent and several smaller tents offered arts and crafts vendors and grilled foods.

In 1990, its then and current Chairman, James G. Charles, Esquire, dramatically expanded the affair to include a huge 100-foot tent, a wider selection of Greek food specialties and pastries, more arts and crafts vendors, youth activities and increased publicity and promotion.

Saint Sophia's Greek Festivals have become the most popular ethnic and cultural events in the greater Washington Metropolitan area.

If you have further questions please visit our web site at [www.saintsophiawashington.org](http://www.saintsophiawashington.org) or call Mr. James Charles at 202-255-5516 or the Cathedral office at 202-333-4730.