

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

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St. Ann's Club readies for Feast

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St. Ann's Club readies for Feast

Hour Photo / Danielle RobinsonAt top, Dylan Ehlers 10, heads the St. Ann's Club feast procession at last year's event. Above, Ada Ruggiero and Maria Santorella prepare dough for pizza frita during last year's St. Ann's Festival.



Posted: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 1:30 pm

By **LESLIE LAKE**
Hour Staff Writer | [0 comments](#)

NORWALK--When the members of St. Ann's Club in Norwalk decided to forgo their annual feast in 2010, it appeared that the festival had become another casualty in the demise of many local carnivals and festivals.

The festival that honors St Ann, the patron saint of the Italian town of Jelsi was resurrected tentatively in 2011, with the future of the feast being uncertain. Club members have decided to bring the feast back and from July 26 though July 29 over 100 club volunteers will be serving Italian specialties, music, kiddie rides and games.

"We were happy we brought it back last year," said Pat Cutrone, Feast Chairman. "Everyone was very enthusiastic, so we are back again this year."

Known for its Pizza Frita, musical and family entertainment at the club's waterfront location on Hendricks Street, the feast has additional significance to club members.

"This festival to honor St. Ann is part of our heritage," said Cutrone. "That is part of the reason it was important for us to continue the tradition."

The club's history in Norwalk dates back to 1914, when immigrants from the Italian town of Jelsi carried on the tradition of honoring the saint.

According to the club website, "Jelsi natives celebrate the annual Wheat festival (La Sagra) that is held every year on July 26th honoring St. Ann because she saved Jelsi from total destruction during the earthquake of July 26th 1805."

The Thursday night opening ceremony consists of a procession of club members carrying St. Ann's statue to the main stage, and on Saturday morning the statue is carried to St. Thomas Church on East Avenue for a 10 a.m. mass.

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