



**Established 1999**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Saint Elias celebrates its 20th Annual Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival April 13th & 14th, 2018! Contact: Paul Bolus - (205) 515-9587 or Lavonne Williamson (205) 967-4345

Thousands of delicious plates of food served and delivered, hourly church tours along with traditional dance performances by the youth of the parish that will surely bring a smile to your face; and with over \$467,000 given to local, national and international charities since its beginning, the St. Elias Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival is here again!

**When:** 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, April 13 & 14.

**Where:** St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church, which is located in Birmingham, Alabama (35205) at 836 8<sup>th</sup> Street, South, between University Blvd. and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

**Admission:** FREE!

**Free Parking:** Free expanded parking will include two offsite parking lots available for use Friday evening and all day Saturday from UAB Express 1 Parking lot, located at 608 8<sup>th</sup> Street, South, (directly across University Boulevard and next to the car dealership) and from UAB parking lot 15R on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, next to Epic School. Free shuttle buses will run from both lots, Friday evening from 5 to 9 and Saturday all day and evening from 10 to 9.

**Food:** Lebanese delicacies offered during the two-day Festival include Baked Kibbee, Rolled Grape Leaves, Spinach Pies, Baked Kibbee and Falafel Sandwiches, Tabouleh (Lebanese Salad), Grilled Lebanese Lemon Chicken, Loobia (green beans), Rice, Homus and Pita Bread. Desserts include a variety of baklawa, kaak (Lebanese sugar cookie) and Lebanese ice cream.

**Prices:** Prices for food will range from \$3.00 a la carte spinach pies to plates of food for \$12.00 and up. Prices will range from \$2.50 for most desserts to \$20.00 for a dessert sampler. Debit and Credit cards Accepted!

**Silent Auction:** The silent auction will feature a variety of interesting offerings including catered Lebanese dinners, vacation packages, collector items, and many gift certificates to restaurants and events in the Birmingham area. The Silent Auction will close at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 14.

**5K Run:** This year the Saint Elias Cedar 5K Run will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Cedar Shake Fun Run at 9:00 a.m. The run will benefit The Exceptional Foundation of Birmingham. The Exceptional Foundation provides individuals with special needs a place to enjoy social and recreational activities after they reach 21 and no longer have opportunities in a school setting and for school-age individuals during after school and summer hours. The race will begin at the Church located at 836 8<sup>th</sup> Street South and will run through the historic Glen Iris neighborhood. For more information and to register visit [www.cedarrun5k.com](http://www.cedarrun5k.com).

**Dancing:** Traditional dances will be performed by youth of the Church on an indoor stage beginning at 6 p.m. Friday and at 12:30 p.m. Saturday that will continue throughout the afternoon and evening. The New York based *Amin Sultan Lebanese Band* will perform outside, on stage under a large tent from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. nightly.

**Church Tours:** Hourly guided tours, starting on the front steps of the historic St. Elias Church with its renovated interior, will be available from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Self-guided tours are available from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., both days with a 5-6 p.m. exclusion Saturday during the Saturday Vigil Liturgy, which all are welcome to attend.

**Delivery:** Friday lunchtime delivery will be available by calling at (205) 252-3867, or placing deliveries on-line at [www.stelias.org](http://www.stelias.org) for any delivery over \$100.00 to the southside or downtown area. Delivery orders must be placed by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**For more information be sure to visit [www.stelias.org](http://www.stelias.org).**