



ST. ELIAS MARONITE CHURCH

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NEWS FLASH — PRESS RELEASE

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Birmingham Christian Lebanese Community Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary Festival!

St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church is extending an invitation to the public to attend its Tenth Annual Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival to be held on Friday, April 11, 2008 and Saturday, April 12, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. both days. There is no admission charge. The public will have an opportunity to taste the food and experience the atmosphere of this Lebanese Maronite Catholic Church — the only one in the State of Alabama.

Several exciting events are being planned to commemorate the Tenth Annual Festival including a cookbook entitled *The Lebanese Palate: Recipes and Traditions* from St. Elias Maronite Church, an updated Heritage Room, a commemorative advertising book, an expanded Silent Auction and more.

Some of the Lebanese delicacies that will be offered during the Festival will include: Baked Kibbee, Rolled Grape Leaves, Spinach Pies, Baked Kibbee and Falafel Sandwiches, Tabouleh (Lebanese Salad), Grilled Lebanese Lemon Chicken, Homus and Pita Bread. For dessert the public can sample Lebanese sweets including a variety of baklawa, kiak (Lebanese sugar cookie) and Lebanese ice cream.

Many cultural events explaining the rich history and tradition of the Maronite Catholic faith, which originated in Lebanon, will be held during the two day event. Some of the cultural events will include a Heritage Room explaining the history of the Birmingham Lebanese Community and cultural displays from Lebanon. Also, daytime tours of the Church will include a discussion of the famous stain glass windows surrounding the Church and the use during Church services of Aramaic, the native language spoken by Jesus.

Nightly entertainment will again feature the extremely popular world renowned Amin Sultan Band from New York outside in a tent with music and dancing from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The public is also invited to attend our Liturgy service which will start at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday (this is the Catholic Sunday Vigil Liturgy (or Mass) service held weekly). Inside the main Hall, Friday night and Saturday, on stage, our youth will perform traditional Lebanese dances.

Beginning on Friday night and concluding Saturday at 8:30 p.m., a Silent Auction will take place featuring: Party for 30 at B&A Warehouse (\$1025 value); 19" Samsung flat screen high definition TV from Front Row Media Systems (\$600 value); Pearl 5 ft Whirlpool from V&W Supply (\$1000 value); A Bosch Dishwasher (\$1700) value) from BRESCO; Best Buy Gift Card (\$500 value) and a one night stay, breakfast and spa or golf package at Ross Bridge.

Twenty-five percent of all proceeds for the Festival will go to local and national charities other than St. Elias. In the last nine years St Elias has donated over \$147,500.00 to other charities from Festival proceeds.

Starting Monday, April 7, 2008 and ending Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., advance **delivery** food orders may be requested by ordering on-line at: www.stelias.org or by calling **252-3867**, for orders greater than \$75.00 to the downtown and Southside areas. Walk up take out orders are available throughout the Festival and no advance orders are needed for takeouts or dining in during the Festival. Shuttle service to one of the main entrances of the Festival will be available on Friday and Saturday nights from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. from the Epic School parking lot.

St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church is located at **836 8th Street South** directly **across from Epic School and Bessie Estell Park on the southwest side of the UAB Campus** near the corner of University Boulevard and 8th Street South.

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