



**Established 1999**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Saint Elias will host its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival May 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020! Contact: Anthony Bolus – [anthony@fms-pharmacy.com](mailto:anthony@fms-pharmacy.com) / (205) 901-4856 or Michelle Adams – [dubois.michelle@gmail.com](mailto:dubois.michelle@gmail.com) / (205) 613-5579

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 \$553,000 given to local and national charities since its beginning, the St. Elias Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival is here again!

**When:** 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Friday and Saturday, May 29 & 30.

**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 parking will include an offsite lot 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). Free shuttle buses will run Friday evening from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Saturday all day and evening from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

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

**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 \$3.00 for most desserts to \$25.00 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 PM on Saturday, May 30.

**5K Run:** This year the Saint Elias Cedar 5K Run will be held on Saturday, May 30 at 8:00 AM followed by the Cedar Shake Fun Run at 9:00 AM. 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 6:00 PM Friday and at 12:30 PM 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 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM 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 AM until 7 PM and Self-guided tours are available from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM, both days with a 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM exclusion Saturday during the Saturday Vigil Liturgy, which all are welcome to attend.

**Delivery:** Friday lunchtime delivery will be available by 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 will become active on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and must be placed by 5:00 PM Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

*This year's festival is honoring our long time pastor, Chorbishop Richard Saad, who has served 47 of his 48 years of priestly ministry at our parish.*

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

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