



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saint Elias celebrates its 19th Annual Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival April 21st & 22nd, 2017! 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 \$425,000 given to local, national and international charities since its beginning, the 19th St. Elias Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival is here again!

When: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, April 21 & 22.

Where: St. Elias Maronite Catholic Church, which is located in Birmingham, Alabama (35205) at 836 8th Street, South, between University Blvd. and 10th 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 8th Street, South, (directly across University Boulevard and next to the car dealership) and from UAB parking lot 15R on 10th 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.

Ride a Zyp BikeShare: This year the Festival is excited to announce that you can ride a Zyp BikeShare bike from any of the 40 stations in Birmingham to the Festival and park it at a temporary pop up "virtual station" on the front grounds of the Festival, located at 836 8th Street South. This will be set up on **Saturday only** from the time the doors open at 10:00 a.m. until dusk that day. Look for the black Zyp tent. This is another way you can get to and

from the Festival, tour some of Birmingham by bike in the process, and work off some of the calories from the food we hope you enjoy while at the Festival.

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, kiak (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 22.

5K Run: This year the Saint Elias Cedar 5K Run will be held on Saturday, April 22 at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Cedar Shake Fun Run at 9:00 a.m. The run will benefit the SUKI (**S**preading **U**nconditional **K**indness **I**ntentionally) Foundation, an organization established to educate the community, fund local research, and help families with children diagnosed with Rett Syndrome. The race will begin at the Church located at 836 8th Street South and will run through the historic Glen Iris neighborhood. For more information and to register visit 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 for any delivery over \$100.00 to the southside or downtown area. Deliveries must be made by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, April 20th.

For more information be sure to visit www.stelias.org.