



The Three Blessed Massabki Brothers

On July 10, The Maronite Church celebrates the feast of the three Blessed Massabki Martyrs.

The Massabki brothers were from a noble Christian family, they lived in Damascus in the nineteenth century and were known for their piety, generosity and Christian values.

The Massabki brothers were 3 of 6 children, Francis, Abdel El –Moeti, Raphael, (the three martyrs) Abdullah (who later becomes a priest), Mariam and Martha. They lived in a time of great persecution of Christians. There was much political and religious tension for Maronites and other Christians in both Damascus and Mount Lebanon. On July 9th, 1860 a fire broke out through the Christian area of Damascus. Many Maronite families took refuge in a Franciscan monastery along with the Massabki brothers and the Superior, Father Emmanuel.

Father Emmanuel closed the Monastery and called everyone to the church where they prayed and made their confession and received communion. While everyone took refuge on the roof, Francis one of the Massabki brothers remained kneeling at the feet of the Sorrowful Mother. Moments later the church was attacked, The Superior Father was captured and told the attackers that he would lead them to the treasure inside the church. He proceeded to the altar, where he lit the candles and took out the Eucharist from the tabernacle. Father Emmanuel was then put to death.

The attackers then noticed Francis kneeling in prayer and recognized him. They told him that the Sheikh had sent them to save him and his family from death on the condition that he deny his faith and convert. Francis answered them, "Sheikh Abdullah can take my money, he can also take my life; but my faith no one can make me deny. I am a Christian and in the faith of Christ, I will die." Francis was then put to death.

The attackers then confronted Abdel El –Maoti in the convent yard and also asked him to renounce his faith to escape death; He refused and was also martyred.

Raphael, who was hiding inside the convent was offered the same as his brothers, but also refused and was also martyred. According to witnesses, the three Massabki brothers were buried in the convent along with the eight martyr priests and others who had sought refuge there. On October 7, 1926, His Holiness Pius XI proclaimed the beatification of the three brothers.

On 18 December 2022, the Maronite patriarch [Bechara Boutros al-Rahi](#) announced that the Massabki Brothers would be recognized as saints without the need for a miracle because they were martyrs of the faith.

The Massabki brothers are great role models for Maronite families. Although they were rather wealthy, they remained faithful and humble. We ask for their intercession to help us live our lives as honest Christians, and we pray for all those who are being persecuted around the world. May they find refuge and comfort in you Lord. Amen.

**ST. ELIAS MARONITE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
4730 COVE ROAD, NW, ROANOKE, VA 24017

July 6, 2025



Massabki Brothers

Pastor: Fr. George Zina

Emails: Fr@steliashurch.org
secretary@steliashurch.org

Office: 540-562-0012

Web Site: www.steliashurch.org

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 10:30 am

Weekdays: 9:00 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Friday following the 9:00 am
Liturgy until 5:00 pm

Mystery of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:00 PM to
4:40 PM and Sundays from 9:45 AM to 10:15 AM
or by appointment

LITURGY INTENTIONS

WEEKEND OF JULY 5 & 6, 2025

Saturday: 5:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory

Sunday: 10:30 AM: June Ferris Radford, RIP (Sam & Dawn Silek & Joe & Jane Silek)

Monday, July 7: 9 AM- Pearl Cavin, RIP

Tuesday, July 8: 9 AM- Priscilla Casil, birthday (Aileen Fleming)

Wednesday, July 9: 9 AM- Charlotte Metzler, RIP

Thursday, July 10: 9 AM- Souls in Purgatory

Friday, July 11: 9 AM- Peter Sanderson, RIP

Offertory— June 29, 2025 - \$2,554.00



SECOND Collection: next weekend, 7/12 & 13 for the needy

ALTAR EUCHARIST CELEBRATION July

The wine, bread & candles are being offered
in honor of Wynn timer & Conrad Shroades'
50th wedding anniversary and Wynn timer's birthday
by Mickey Thomas



Daily Scripture Readings

Week of July 6, 2025

Monday: Acts 9:19b-30 : Matthew 10:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 9:31-43 : Mark 13:9-13

Wednesday: Acts 10:1-10, 19-23a : Mt 10:21-26

Thursday: Acts 10:23b-27, 34-43 : Mt 10:27-33

Friday: Acts 10:44-48 : Matthew 10:34-39

Saturday: Acts 11:19-30 : Matthew 10:40-11:1

Sunday: 1 Cor 12:12-13, 27-30 : Mt 10:16-25



DONATIONS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

We are in need of flowers to decorate the image and relics of
St. Sharbel on his feast day which falls on Tuesday, July 23rd.

If you are willing to donate, please let Fr. George or Deebie know.

ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Roanoke Catholic School in Roanoke, Virginia is seeking a full-time High School English Teacher for the 2025-2026 School Year. The qualified candidate will need to possess a VDOE license and endorsement in this field. A Master's in English is preferred. To apply, please send a Cover Letter and Resume to Megan Potter, Principal and Head of School. Roanoke Catholic School, 621 North Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA 24016

mpotter@roanokecatholic.com

SAVE THE DATE Benefit Dinner

To support the **Mission of the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light**

Saturday October 4, 2025

5:30PM - 9:00PM

St. Anthony of the Desert Church Hall

300 N Eastern Ave.

Fall River, MA

\$75.00 ticket/35.00 per child under 12

Special guest: Bishop Gregory J. Mansour

Gourmet Dinner/Cash Bar

Entertainment

Silent Auction/Wine Pull/50/50

All proceeds will assist the Sisters to continue their mission and outreach
in the community.

Maroniteservants.org Ph. 508-996-1753

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 22, 2025 –

Please join Bishop Gregory Mansour and friends for the **16th Annual Benefit dinner for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn**. The event will be at the Metropolitan Club in NY. Details to follow.