

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 5, 2026



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 4 & 5, 2026

Saturday: 5:00 PM: All people remembered in our “Books of Offering”

Sunday: 10:30 AM: Lourice F. Thomas, RIP, birthday (Lourice L. Thomas, II)

Monday, July 6: 9 AM- Fr. Dennis Rocheford, RIP

Tuesday, July 7: 9 AM- Thanksgiving for a safe trip, Bea Lucchini

Wednesday, July 8: 9 AM- The Turner Family, RIP (Craig Turner)

Thursday, July 9: 9 AM- Lynn Tech, RIP

Friday, July 10: 9 AM- Joshua Adams, RIP
(The Three Massabki Brothers)

WEEKEND OF JULY 11 & 12, 2026

Saturday: 5:00 PM: Joseph Silek, Sr, RIP (Sam & Dawn Silek)

Sunday: 10:30 AM:

Offertory— June 28- \$1,609.00



ALTAR EUCHARIST CELEBRATION JULY

In honor and memory of all Americans who make us, the United States of
America on our Nation’s 250th Anniversary
By Lourice L. Thomas, II



Daily Scripture Readings

Week of July 5, 2026

Monday: Acts 14:1-7 : Luke 10:8-12

Tuesday: Acts 14:8-18 : Luke 10:13-16

Wednesday: Acts 14:19-28 : Luke 10:17-20

Thursday: Acts 15:1-12 : Luke 10:25-28

Friday: Acts 15:13-21 : Luke 10:29-37

Saturday: Acts 15:22-30 : Luke 10:38-42

Sunday: Rom 8:1-11 : Mt 12:14-21

Book of Offering—REMINDER

As our church is sorely in need of more liturgy books (Book of Offering) we are reaching out to any and all who might want to help in this endeavor. We are offering the books to be left in church as a memorial to a loved one, in honor of a special occasion or other reason for recognition. We ask for a fee of \$50.00 and a printed announcement will be placed in the front page of the book. If someone wants to purchase a book as their own property, we also offer one for \$40.00. Please see Rima or Glenda in the Gift Shop or you can reach out to Deebie in the office for further information.



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 Thursday, July 23rd.

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

Women of Grace Retreat

This retreat is in Malvern, PA Friday July 24 through Sunday July 26, 2026.

The presenters will be Johnnette Williams, Fr. Hans Chamorro,
Dr. Robert Enright, Vivian Akel, LCSW and Gary Zimak.

The title: “Emotional Balance in an Upside Down World”

Please see the flyer on the church bulletin board with additional information

SAVE THE DATE

Please join **Bishop Gregory Mansour** at the
Eparchy of Saint Maron’s 17th Annual Benefit Dinner.

Thursday, October 15, 2026, at The Metropolitan Club.

More details to follow