



St. Raymond– St. Elizabeth Maronite Catholic Church

Most Rev. A. Elias Zaidan, Bishop of The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon

Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis

Rev. John Nahal, Rector

Downtown

931 Lebanon Drive
St. Louis, MO 63104

Tel: (314) 621-0056

Website: straymond-mc.org

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
groups/saintraymonds](https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintraymonds)

Crestwood

1420 S. Sappington Road
Crestwood, MO 63126

Tel: (314) 968-0760

Website: stelizabethhungary.org

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
sehcrestwood/](https://www.facebook.com/sehcrestwood/)

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday: 10:15am
Mon, Wed, Fri: 12 noon

RECONCILIATION:

Sunday: 9:15am
or by appointment

DIVINE LITURGY/HOLY MASS:

Saturday: 4:00pm- Roman
5:15pm— Maronite
Sunday: 8am and 10:30am—Roman
Monday-Friday: 8am
Tuesday & Thursday: 6pm

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 3:00pm; Sunday: 9:45am

MINISTERING THE SACRAMENTS/MYSTERIES

Sacrament of Baptism: call the rectory 1 month in advance to schedule an appointment and date with Msgr. John

Sacrament of Matrimony: call the rectory 6 months in advance (1 year in advance if there are canonical issues)

Visitation and Anointing of the Sick: call the rectory; Msgr. John's emergency contact is on the answering machine

Intentions for Divine Liturgy: call the rectory, mail, or email your intentions



THE EXALTATION OF THE GLORIOUS CROSS

Liturgy p. 606
Exodus 17:8-15
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 12:20-32



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 27:30-28:7
Psalm 103
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 13th, 2026

DIVINE LITURGY & MASS INTENTIONS DOWNTOWN:

Sat. Sep. 12	<i>St Kernilios, the centurion</i>
Sun. Sep. 13 10:15 am	THE EXALTATION OF THE GLORIOUS CROSS +Adel Haikal By Nina Bouhasin and Family +Ralph & Sandy Wahby By Donna and Pete Rothschild +Jack and Connie McDermott By Linda Hill
Mon. Sep. 14 12:00 pm	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> Poor Souls in Purgatory
Tue. Sep. 15	<i>Mar Shina & Mar Sassine</i>
Wed. Sep. 16 12:00 pm	<i>St Cyprian, bishop of Carthage</i> Poor Souls in Purgatory
Thurs. Sep. 17	<i>St Sofia and her three daughters (martyrs)</i>
Fri. Sep. 18 12:00 pm	<i>Memorial of the flight of Jesus Christ to Egypt</i> Poor Souls in Purgatory
Sat. Sep. 19	<i>St Gennaro (305) of Napoli</i>
Sun. Sep. 20 8:00 am 10:15 am	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE GLORIOUS CROSS All Lebanese Festival Volunteers/Workers/ Sponsors/Participants Living and Deceased Parishioners

CRESTWOOD: (RC Roman Catholic, MC Maronite)

Sat. Sept 12 4:00 pm RC 5:15 pm MC	<i>Sunday Vigil; The Most Holy Name of Mary</i> Neal, Pat & Aaron Alster Robert & Joan Blumenkemper By David & Kathy Mueckl
Sun. Sept 13 8:00 am RC 10:30 am RC	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Neal, Pat & Aaron Alster Jack & Mary Pudlowski By Linda Hill
Mon. Sept. 14 8:00 am RC	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> Souls in Purgatory by Patty Renschen
Tue. Sept 15 8:00 am RC 6:00 pm MC	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i> Neal, Pat & Aaron Alster Ruth and Jack Carnie By Linda Hill
Wed. Sept 16 8:00 am RC	<i>St Cornelius, Pope, and St Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i> Gorgan Heuer by Patty Renschen
Thurs. Sept 17 8:00 am RC 6:00 pm MC	<i>St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor; St Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> Neal, Pat & Aaron Alster Patrick Taylor By David & Kathy Mueckl
Fri. Sept 18 8:00 am	<i>St Sophia of Egypt</i> Sean McMullen
Sat. Sept 19 4:00 pm RC 5:15 pm MC	<i>Sunday Vigil; St Januarius, Bishop and Martyr</i> Casey Klipfel Subdeacon George & Marilue Simon By Patti Carnie
Sun. Sept 20 8:00 am RC 10:30 am RC	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME The Alster Family Butch Christy- For Healing

WEEKLY FINANCES 9/6/2026 ST. RAYMOND-ST.ELIZABETH:

4:00pm Saturday Loose cash Checks/Envelopes	429 2,040
7:00pm Saturday Loose cash Checks/Envelopes	8 150
8:00am Sunday Loose cash Checks/Envelopes	49 310
10:30am Sunday Loose cash Checks/Envelopes	94 510
Candles	151
Pickleball	1,185
Revenue during the week	610
Second Collection	45
Rentals	44,129.28
Online Giving https://osvhub.com/stelizabethhungary/funds	1,219.29
Expenses	\$20,451.19

ST. RAYMOND:

5:15pm Saturday Loose cash Checks/Envelopes	25 35
10:15am Sunday Loose cash Checks/Envelopes	215 958
Revenue during the week	2,240.67
Candles	115
Lebanese Festival	
Coffee hour	166
Second Collection	60
Online Giving https://osvhub.com/straymond-mc/giving/funds	2,294
Expenses	\$10,947.26





A note from the pastor

Feast of The Exaltation of The Glorious Cross September 14

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18
The Season of The Glorious Cross in The Maronite Church begins on September 14, and ends on the last Sunday of October. The Rite of The Exaltation of The Cross includes prayers of blessing the four corners of the earth. The celebrant blesses too, the water by placing the hand cross three times into the water and traces the sign of the cross with it through the water. Each time the celebrant removes the hand cross from the water vertically, as a sign of the spiritual power the cross itself has acquired through the death and resurrection of Christ. This feast is called The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, The Triumph of the Cross, or The Feast of the Glorious Cross.



According to legends that spread widely, the True Cross was discovered in 326 by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, during a pilgrimage she made to Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was then built at the site of the discovery, by order of Helena and Constantine. The church was dedicated nine years later, with a portion of the cross placed inside it. Other legends explain that in 614, that portion of the cross was carried away from the church by the Persians, and remained missing until it was recaptured by the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius in 628. Initially taken to Constantinople, the cross was returned to the church the following year.

The date of the feast marks the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in 335. This was a two-day festival: although the actual consecration of the church was on September 13, the cross itself was brought outside the church on September 14 so that the clergy and faithful could pray before the True Cross, and all could come forward to venerate it.

In the Maronite Church, as in many Eastern Churches, on the Eve of The Feast of The Glorious Cross a ceremony of religious chanting around a bonfire is celebrated. According to tradition, the bonfire commemorates how Queen Helena found with the smoke of a bonfire, where to search for the true cross in Jerusalem, or how, by a series of bonfires, she signaled to her son, Constantine, in Constantinople her success in finding it.

"In hoc signo vinces"; "In this sign thou shalt conquer"

CONTACT US:

RECTOR

Msgr. John Nahal
rector@straymond-mc.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Anthony Simon
asimon@simonlawpc.com

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Meister
williammeister@archstl.org
Subdeacon David Wahby
wahby@sbcglobal.net
Subdeacon Elie Kassab
Elie Kassab
<kassab_elie@hotmail.com>

PARISH SECRETARY

Crestwood: Pamela DiMercurio
steeliz@straymond-mc.org
Downtown: Mary Cohen-Ehlen
secretary@straymond-mc.org

PRO-LIFE COORDINATOR

Jean Flanagan
1greatflan@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION DIRECTOR

Pam Olimpio
pcatherine@att.net

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Crestwood:
Elisabeth Kenney
elisabethrkenney@gmail.com
Downtown:
Penny Arslanian
penny.arslanian@gmail.com

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 8am Tuesdays
submit to: Pam DiMercurio
steeliz@straymond-mc.org

ONLINE GIVING

Crestwood:
osvhub.com/stelizabethhungary/funds
Downtown:
straymond-mc.org/online-giving

MERCY MEAL

Kathleen Wahby 314 276 3062

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Donate or Borrow piece of medical equipment, please call
Patty Renschen 314 517 7044

PICKLEBALL

David Miller
davidcmiller60@gmail.com

ST RAYMOND'S BANQUET HALL

Cedarshall@straymond-mc.org

YOUTH MINISTER

Alex Khater <khatalexander@gmail.com>

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Carla Aouad <aouadcarla@gmail.com>
Margo Kassab

YOUNG ADULTS

Joseph Nesser



LECTORS: CRESTWOOD

Sat, Sept 12 4:00 pm	Sr. Rosalie
Sun, Sept 13 8:00 am 10:30 am	Nancy Wall Fabi Pineda
Sat, Sept 19 4:00 pm	Ralph & Margie
Sun, Sept 20 8:00 am 10:30 am	Dan & Kathleen Austin Krueger

UP COMING EVENTS

- *Sep. 18,19,20: Lebanese Festival
- *Sep. 28– Oct. 9: Trip to Lebanon
- *Oct. 17: Autumn Harvest Festival
- *Nov. 14: Vendor Fair
- *Dec. 3: Men's Christmas Dinner
- *Dec. 10: Ladies' Christmas Dinner
- *Sun Dec. 6: Breakfast with Santa

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISH

Tom Hearst	Janet Zhakaria
Victor Sciarrino	John Cleary
Rosalie Hubert	Tom Morrow
Mike McSorley Sr.	Marie Kallial
James Brumfield	Rob Turner
Cathy Seemayer	Emil Salman
Mary Lou Works	Jennifer Van Luven
Chris Nelms	Janet Emerson
Ted Arunski	Burton Droste
Dave Holdinghausen	Gabe Vollet
Michelle Bausworth	Barb Rohr
Tom Saucier	Gerry Nassif
Rhoda Simpher	Tim Gamma
Patricia Beck	Munir Matar
Don Ganim	Rima Cabbabe
John Anton	Lynn Kersting
Jim Hoffman	Mary Saucier
Richard Baker Sr	Paulette Risha
Patrick Carr	Don Works
Steve Baker	Joyce Banovz

COFFEE HOUR Sun Sep. 13

We welcome all our parishioners and visitors to the Cedars hall right after 10:15am Divine Liturgy for Coffee and donuts, prepared and served by our Young Adults. Thank you!

DABKE DANCE AT FESTIVAL

All our Children/ Youth/ Young Adults are invited to dance dabke at the Lebanese Festival. Practice every Sunday at the stage of the Cedars. For more info contact Gina Oesterlei <tohpic@sbcglobal.net> All active youth members in the youth group and other activities will have community service hours, additional point for their St Raymond's scholarship program.

YOUTH MEETING AND ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Our Youth will have their election of officers first Sunday of October.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration this coming Mon. Sep. 14, 8:30am—5:00pm, at St. Raymond– St. Elizabeth Church.

RELIGIOUS ED. PROGRAM- ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Rel. Ed. Mon. Sep. 14, at 5:45pm at St. Raymond– St. Elizabeth Church.

REGISTRATION FOR REL ED FORMATION

Registrations are open for Religious Education classes for year 2026-2027. For more information, please contact Pam Olimpio, Director, at <pamela.olimpio@johnnpaulprep.org>

LEBANESE FESTIVAL MEETING

Sun. Sep. 13, Lebanese Festival meeting for all coordinators and volunteers in charge of different booths and committees, at St. Raymond's hall-Lebanon room, at 11:30 am.

The St. Louis Lebanese Festival is on Sep 18-20, 2026, at St. Raymond Maronite Cathedral ground/ facilities. In order for the Festival to be successful, we need the help of the entire community at St. Raymond Cathedral and St. Raymond– St. Elizabeth Church, from Volunteers, to Sponsors, and Workers at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C4CA4AD2FA6F58-64694747-59th#/>

Raffle: If you would like to donate prizes for the festival raffle, please contact the church offices: 314 621 5600 secretary@straymond-mc.org or Steeliz@straymond-mc.org 314 968 0760.

For Sponsorship, contact Patti Carnie <pmsc200@gmail.com> 3143244183, or call church offices.

Sponsorship cover letter, application form, and flyer will be mailed to parishioners and friends of the Festival, for more information see our website and Facebook page.

KITCHEN SCOOP

The Kitchen will be closed for Wed. lunches Sep. 2,9,16,23, 2026. We will resume Wed. Lunch after the Leb. Fest. Wed. Sep. 30. For more info log on to Square (<http://st-raymond-cathedral.square.site/>).

Thank you!

Denise and Gina





ST. RAYMOND FOOD PANTRY & ASSSTANCE FUND:

Please consider making a monetary donation to the St. Raymond Food Pantry Assistance Fund to help with rent, utilities, and medical expenses for those in our parish who are in need. You may contribute through on-line giving or by personal check payable to St. Raymond Maronite Cathedral. If paying by personal check, please write "Food Pantry Assistance Fund" in the note section of your donation in the weekly collection or mail it to St. Raymond Maronite Cathedral, 931 Lebanon Drive, St. Louis, MO 63104. Thank you for your generosity.

COMMUNION CALLS & HOME VISITS

If you are sick or homebound and would like a Communion minister to come to your home, please let us know! Contact the church office (314) 968-0760 or email deacon Bill WilliamMeister@archstl.org

PARISH DEVOTIONS

Monday

Adoration 8:30-5pm

Tuesday

Our Lady of Perpetual Help after 8am Mass

Patriotic Rosary at 5:15pm

1st Friday

Sacred Heart Litany

4th Saturday of the Month

Rosary at noon for Intentions at Fatima

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

✠ Debra Mahanna	5-30-2026
✠ Marwan Sholy	4-13-2026
✠ Jean Brendel	4-9-2026
✠ Bro Leo Slay	3-20-2026
✠ Ralph Wahby	3-13-2026
✠ Dorothy Smith	2-25-2026
✠ Patricia Warfel	2-27-2026
✠ Ameal Nassif	2-24-2026
✠ Steven Vidra	2-2-2026
✠ Mary Ojile	1-30-2026
✠ Gloria 'Skip' Leisure	1-13-2026
✠ Christine Van Doren	11-30-2025
✠ Janet Wright	11-14-2025
✠ Gus Millati	11-13-2025
✠ Patricia Augustyniak	11-1-2025
✠ Terry Leong	10-31-2025
✠ Jad Michel Gennaoui	10-17-2025
✠ Milad Abounader	10-6-2025

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AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL

Flyers and Sponsorship information were mailed to parishioners, and are in the foyer of our church. Please, support our Festival. St. Raymond— St. Elizabeth Autumn Harvest Festival is on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 12 noon till 9pm. For volunteering or any information contact Tim Kallial at 314 761 6017 <timkallial@gmail.com>

THURSDAY CHRISTIAN DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Thursday morning videos, Thurs. Sep. 17. All welcome! At Fr Edwards Hall following 8 am Mass.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

School Supplies Drive: Over the next two weeks, we will hold a School Supplies Drive to support St. Anthony's Food Pantry. Donation bins will be placed at the back of church at both St. Raymond's and St. Elizabeth.

VENDOR FAIR

The Ladies Sodality is having a VENDOR FAIR on Saturday, November 14th from 9am-1pm at St. Raymond—St. Elizabeth Gym. If you know of any vendors or are interested in having a booth, please contact Karen Crenshaw <crenshawkfc@outlook.com> Also, we will need volunteers to set up on November 13th and take down afterwards on November 14th for the Vendor Fair. This involves tables so we are looking for some man power. Any help would be appreciated.

PROTECTION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Zoom meeting (Aug 19/20) for all Rel Ed teachers of our Eparchy, for more info contact Pam Olimpio Please, all volunteers and employees, including for Lebanese and Autumn Festivals of St. Raymond Cathedral and St. Raymond— St. Elizabeth Church have to do online training for the Protection of God's Children and Safe Environment, at <https://eparchyofourladyoflebanon.cmgconnect.org/> For any questions, please contact Msgr. John

OCTOBER: RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Since 1973, October has been honored by the Church as Respect Life Month. The Archdiocese of St. Louis will begin Respect Life Month with Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 4. On that day we will join parishes of the Archdiocese and throughout America with the Life Chain. Our Life Chain will be after 10:30 am Mass (roughly 11:30 – 12:30). We will stand at St. Elizabeth Parish along S. Sappington Rd. United in prayer for America, we have signs such as: "Life: the first inalienable right" "Pray to change hearts" "Adoption: the loving option" For all ages, including families (watch young children carefully). If you can't stand for an hour, bring a lawn chair. Also bring your rosary--October is Our Lady's month, and the rosary is our great spiritual weapon. Another Respect Life Month activity will be the fall 40 Days for Life campaign of prayer and fasting to end abortion. More details will be published later, but our parish's adopted day for prayer at the Fairview Heights Planned Parenthood facility is Friday, October 2.

The 59th Annual
St. Louis Lebanese Festival

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026, 6:00 PM — 9:00 PM
 (Friday: drink specials including imported Almaza Lebanese beer/ limited Food menu/ Music)
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2026, 12:00 Noon — 10:00 PM
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2026, 11:00 AM — 5:00 PM
 at **St. Raymond Maronite Cathedral**
 931 Lebanon Dr., St. Louis, MO 63104

Authentic Lebanese Cuisine
 Beer, Wine, and Refreshing Drinks
 Traditional Dance/Dabkeh Performances
 Live Music, Singer, Band, and Dancing

Games
 Raffle and Prizes
 Free Admission and Parking

On the Menu:
 Tabouli, Hummus, Kibbee, Beef/Chicken Shawarma, Kafta, Falafel,
 Lebanese Sweets, and other Delicious Food

Singer **Said Abi Abi**
 and Band

Hosted by **St. Raymond Maronite Cathedral**
www.StRaymond-MC.org

Pre-Order of Festival Tickets and Raffle:
 + Online Sep 13- Sep 17
<https://st-raymond-cathedral.square.site>
 + Call-In, Sep 4- Sep 17, 9am-12pm,
 Tel: 314 621 0056

You're Invited!
AUTUMN HARVEST FESTIVAL
12 NOON to 9 PM
SAVE the DATE!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
Savor Lebanese & American Cuisine
LIVE Music BY The SappingTones
BAND PLAYS FROM 5 PM - 9 PM
St. Raymond - St. Elizabeth Church
 1420 Sappington Road - Crestwood, MO. 63126
 GRILL * WINGS * BAR * SNACKS * LEBANESE CUISINE

Saint Raymond-Saint Elizabeth
 1420 Sappington Rd.
 St. Louis, MO 63126

Looking for Vendors
 Join our Annual Vendor Fair

Saturday
November 14, 2026
9:00am-1:00pm

Space rental includes a 3'x8' table and 2 chairs.
 \$60 per space (limit 2).
 Space rental will be limited to one representative per Vendor and will be on a "first-come first-served" basis.

For registration form email StRStEVendorFair@gmail.com

2026-2027 MYO MID AMERICA REGIONAL RETREAT
BACK TO THE GARDEN
 In the beginning, God created...
 Genesis 1:1

OCTOBER 2 - 4 2026	SUNSTREET RETREAT CENTER OGDEN, IA	EARLY BIRD \$210 UNTIL AUGUST 28, 2026 REGULAR \$230

Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
MYA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
OCTOBER 9-11, 2026
 Register at <https://www.ololmya.org/myareg>