

2014 St. George Maronite Catholic Church Annual Lebanese Festival *by Joseph P. Checrallah, Jr.*

The 1st Annual Lebanese Festival was held on September 13th and 14th, 2014, at the new home of St. George Maronite Catholic Church at 1493 Cranston Street, Cranston, RI.

The Parish presented a fun filled weekend which included Live Arabic Music and Entertainment, performed by Mitchell Kaltsunas on Saturday, and George Maalouf and his band on Sunday, traditional Lebanese Dance Performances, Children's games, raffles, and a large selection of delectable Middle Eastern foods and pastries.

Alluring aromatic aromas filled the air as the Festival organizers presented a taste of Lebanon with authentic Lebanese foods and pastries, including Shish Kabob (Marinated Beef and Vegetables), Shish Tawook (marinated chicken and vegetables), Kibbee - Baked and Stuffed, Kafta, Warak Enab (Grape leaves), Hummus, Baba Ghanouj (Roasted blended eggplant mixed with spices), Tabouli, Falafel (deep Fried spiced chick peas), Chicken and Beef Shawarma Wraps, Thoum (Garlic Spread) and Tahini.



Over 4,000 visitors enjoyed the food and festivities of this family event on a picture perfect late summer weekend. Fr. Edward Nedder, Pastor, was thrilled and very grateful for the tremendous outpouring of community support, and that of the many parishioners who worked together tirelessly for many months pulling together the countless details an endeavor of this size entailed. Fr. Ed expressed his gratitude at his weekly Liturgies and thanked the organizers of the event, the attendees, and everyone who had generously donated the time, effort, resources, and gifts to bring this family event to life. The festival brought the entire community together, and introduced St. George to its new neighbors.

The Festival was a wonderful success made possible by the many parishioners and friends who always bond together to support Fr. Ed and St. George in this close knit Lebanese community. Planning for next year's event is already underway.

Festival Core Committee

Anthony "Tuffy" Budway Tony Simon Jayne Capaldi Patti Viti Georgeann Thomas Chris Thomas