GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!



GLORY FOREVER!



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

19 W. Bruce Ave. Gilbert, AZ 85233
Mailing Address: *P.O. Box 667 • Gilbert, AZ 85299-0667*
Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM • Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Please give a courtesy call or send an email before coming to the parish to make sure someone is in the office.
Office: (480) 497-6726 • Fax: (480) 907-7819 • Pastor's Email: saint.thomas.pastor@gmail.com
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stabcc.org

Served by:
Father Michael Bezruchka, Pastor • Deacon Michael Sullivan

Parish Advisory Board:
Vince Antonios • Danny Forbes • Emma Gilsdorf • Cal Karnya
Cathy McCormick • Charlie Rawlins • Jeff Sims • Liz Zackowski

Sunday Divine Liturgy:
Vigil Vesper Liturgy (Saturday) at 5:00 PM
Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM • Divine Praises at 9:45 AM

Matins/Morning Prayer:
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00-9:00am unless noted otherwise in bulletin.

Holy Mystery of Penance:
Confessions are heard starting one hour before the scheduled Divine Liturgy
is to begin for a total of 35 minutes. Confessions also available by appointment.

Chaldean Catholic Holy Liturgy: Sunday at 6:00 PM

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE!

Our parish community welcomes all those visiting with us today. We thank you for joining our community in praising the Lord as we remember His great love and mercy for us. We hope that you will join us again soon and bring a friend. If, per chance, you are looking for a spiritual home based on the Sacred Scriptures, the teaching of the Apostles, the ancient Church Traditions in the context of a liturgical life and fellowship, please consider our parish! Speak with Father Michael or Deacon Michael if you would like more information.

Liturgical Schedule

Akathist Saturday
Saturday **April 1**
Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
Akathist 9:00 a.m.
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by the Bullock family

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast
Memory of Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
Sunday **April 2** **Tone 5**
Venerable Father Titus the Wonderworker
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29; Mark 10:32-45; Luke 7:36-50
Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday **April 3**
Matins 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday **April 5**
Matins 8:00 a.m.
Confessions 5:30-6:45pm
Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Holy Martyrs Theodulus, Agathopodes and their Companions
Intention - + Geri Fellin by the Fellin family

Friday **April 7**
Matins 8:00 a.m.
Confessions 5:30-6:45pm
Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Venerable Father George, Bishop of Mitylene
Intention - President Donald Trump by the Bullock family
After Presanctified Liturgy, soup fellowship in hall.

Lazarus Saturday
Saturday **April 8**
Confessions 8:00-8:30am
Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Hebrews 12:28 - 13:8; John 11:1-45
Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by the Bullock family

Confessions 3:30-4:30pm
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - Gail & Jan Person by Doreene Stacy

Palm (Flowery) Sunday
Sunday **April 9** **Festal Tone**
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m.
Philippians 4:4-9; John 12:1-18
Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

HOLY WEEK

Great and Holy Monday April 10
Little Hours 8:00 a.m.
Confessions 6:00-6:45pm
Bridegroom Matins 7:00 p.m.

Great and Holy Tuesday April 11
Bridegroom Matins 7:00 p.m.

Great and Holy Wednesday **April 12**
Bridegroom Matins 8:00 a.m.
Confessions 6:00-6:45pm
Presanctified Divine Liturgy with Holy Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick 7:00 p.m.
Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by the Bullock family

Great and Holy Thursday **April 13**
Matins 9:00 a.m.
Confessions 5:30-6:30pm
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 7:00 p.m.
Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

Great and Good Friday April 14
Matins with 12 Gospels 12:00 p.m.
Confessions 5:30-6:45pm
Entombment Vespers 7:00 p.m.
Confessions following Vespers

Great and Holy Saturday April 15
Jerusalem Matins 9:00 a.m.
Confessions following Matins until noon

Confessions 3:30-4:30pm
(No more Confessions afterward until Bright Monday)
Vigil Vespers St. Basil Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
15 Old Testament Readings
Romans 6:3-11 & Matthew 28:1-20
Intention - +Fr. Wes Izer by Fr. Wes' estate

PASCHA!!! CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!
Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ
Sunday **April 16** **Festal Tone**
Paschal Matins with Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Acts 1:1-8 & John 1:1-17
After Divine Liturgy: Fellowship, eating and sharing baskets
Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

BRIGHT WEEK

Bright Monday April 17
Matins 9:00 a.m.
Church office closed today
Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26; John 1:18-28
Intention - Joe Leaser by Fr. Doug & Nancy Lorig

Bright Wednesday April 19
Matins 8:00 a.m.

Bright Friday April 21
Matins 8:00 a.m.

Saturday April 22
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by the Bullock family

Thomas Sunday
Sunday April 23 Festal Tone
Holy Glorious and Victorious Great Martyr George the Wonder-worker
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Acts 5:12-20; Acts 12:1-11; John 20:19-31; John 15:17 - 16:2
Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas
Potluck in honor of St. Thomas after Divine Liturgy

THOMAS WEEK

Monday April 24
Matins 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday April 26
Holy Martyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea
Matins 8:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Acts 4:13-22; John 5:17-24
Intention - Joe Leaser by Fr. Doug & Nancy Lorig

Friday April 28
Matins 8:00 a.m.

Saturday April 29
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by the Bullock family



Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers
Sunday April 30 Tone 2
Holy Apostle James, Brother of John the Theologian
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Acts 6:1-7; Acts 12:1-11; Mark 15:43 - 16:8; Luke 5:1-11
Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

WEEK OF THE OINTMENT-BEARERS

Monday May 1
Matins 8:00 a.m.

CALENDAR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent: Presanctified Liturgies at 7pm. Please come as often as you can.
- April 1: Akathist at 9am. Kolache baking in hall afterward.
- April 8: Divine Liturgy at 9am. Pascha bread baking in hall afterward.
- April 10-15: Holy Week. See liturgical calendar. Come often, especially at least once each day from Holy Thursday through Pascha Sunday.
- April 16: PASCHA. The Resurrection of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.
- April 23: Thomas Sunday Potluck celebration after Divine Liturgy.
- April 29: Rosca de Reyes party after Divine Liturgy around 6:30 or 7:00pm in the church hall.
- June 19-23: Clergy Conference in Phoenix. (Fr. Michael & Dcn. Michael less accessible)
- June 23-25: Myrrh Bearers Retreat for moms and daughters in Phoenix.
- July 6-9: Alive in Christ Camp for dads and sons in Prescott, AZ.
- October 21: Oktoberfest celebration at Church hall.
- October 23-27: Clergy Retreat in Carefree, AZ. (Fr. Michael & Dcn. Michael less accessible)
- November 4: Eucharistic Procession beginning at 9am from St. Anne's to St. Thomas and back.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BISHOP'S APPEAL: We are making progress. As of March 27, we have raised $6,285.00 for our Bishop's Appeal. Our goal is $16,775.00 and if we reach it, our parish will receive a 30% rebate! Please donate what you can. Our deadline of May 31 is coming up so please do not procrastinate. We have passed about half of the time period of fundraising for this appeal and yet we are only about a third of the way to our goal. YIKES!!! If you did not receive a mailing from Bishop John regarding the Bishop's Appeal and would like to make a donation to it, please let Fr. Michael know. Thank you!

SPECIAL COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY: This year on Good Friday, April 14, a special collection will be taken up at St. Thomas as it is in many other Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working with Christians in the Holy Land. For more info, visitwww.myfranciscan.org /good-friday/ or read what the Catholic News Agency records about it on its website.

COFFEE SOCIAL ALTERATIONS: For those of you whomissed the informational session on March 12 toward the end ofour parish potluck, there are a few changes to how we handlecoffee socials. Cathy McCormick is our new coordinator for thesesocials. Please call her if you are interested in helping but not sure of the procedures or simply forgot to sign up for a task on aweekend: (480) 888-2414. The sign up list now has three separateslots for setup, bringing snacks, and cleanup. (There is no longerany commitment which lasts a whole month.) Here are a few points made at that session:

- Those who volunteer are appreciated for what they do. There is to be absolutely NO criticism of anybody for bringing simple snacks (bagels, muffins, and/or donuts) instead of something more elaborate such as sandwiches and warm meals. In general, simple food is good at these socials and we appreciate what others bring.
- People can choose any combination of ways they might sign up. One person could do all three tasks on a given weekend or three different people each sign up for different tasks. People can get into teams. The current list has more flexibility for these options.
- If Cathy gives you a phone call or taps your shoulder after church about helping on a particular weekend, please seriously consider helping if you are able. Coffee socials benefit our friendships with one another and help visitors feel welcome.
- Cathy is NOT responsible for signing up for slots if not enough people are volunteering. She coordinates the schedule and is welcome to volunteer as much as other volunteers. She will not pick up the slack in the schedule if that becomes the pattern.
- The hall will be open if there is no food or coffee on a Sunday. But any time there is food or coffee, somebody needs to be signed up for cleanup.
- Thank you very much to all of you who volunteer on a regular basis to help with the coffee socials!
- It is great to see all of us enjoying spending time with one another as a church family after Divine Liturgy and these socials help promote that.

Please note: As of March 31, nobody is signed up for setup, snacks, or cleanup on Palm Sunday, April 9. Please sign up ASAP.

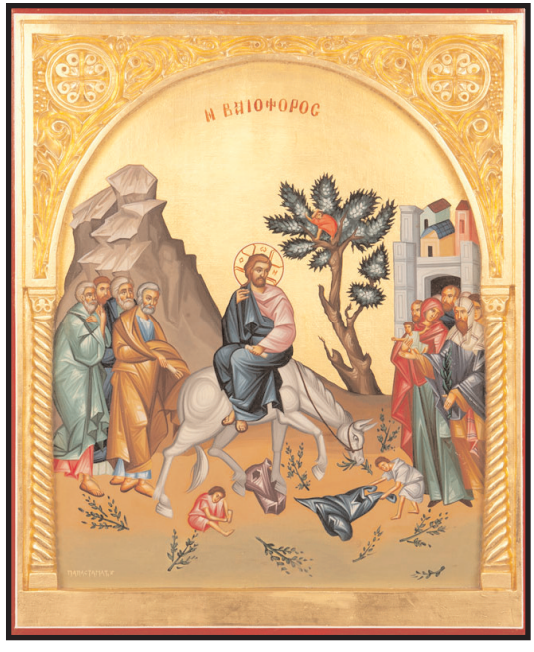
Possible future development: To simplify things, we would like everybody to consider committing to a particular weekend once a month or once every other month. If one person or family takes care of setup, snacks, and cleanup on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th (when it occurs) Sunday of the month, sign ups will become unnecessary. If there was a set of 10 individual or family volunteers who rotated every two months, then every family would only have to take care of everything six times a year. If something came up in which you could not do it, then you would need to find a substitute. (Cathy McCormick will be glad to help). So far, money counters commit to a particular Sunday(s) of the month and find a substitute if they cannot for some reason. Please consider letting Cathy know if you'd be willing to make a commitment for a particular weekend (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th) of the month or every other month. Thank you!

HEALING IS FOR ALL OF US! Once a year in our Byzantine tradition, the entire body of the Christian faithful is invited to receive the Holy Anointing on Great and Holy Wednesday (4/12/2017), on the eve where the Christian people celebrate the Paschal victory over sin, suffering, and death. After the homily, olive oil is blessed and the prayers for the Anointing of the Sick are prayed. It is our way of entering – of preparing ourselves to enter – into the great mystery of divine mercy, healing, and restoration to fullness of life.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOLY MYSTERY (SACRAMENT) OF CONFESSION: During Holy Week, there are more times scheduled for Fr. Michael to witness your private Confession and bring the Lord's forgiveness to you (see the liturgical calendar). If none of these times work, you can also make a special appointment. No Confessions will be heard except for real emergencies from Holy Saturday evening until the morning of Bright Monday. Please be sure to avail yourself of the opportunity to receive this great Holy Mystery (Sacrament).

THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME: HOLY WEEK! Our whole faith and salvation is rooted in Christ's work of redemption and restoration for us. Through His passion, death, and resurrection, we are set free from the ancestral sin (original sin) of Adam and are able to be partakers of the divine life. Because of Holy Thursday at the Last Supper, we are nourished by Our Lord's body and blood for the spiritual journey just as the manna nourished the Israelites with physical food for their journey through the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. Let us come as much as possible to all the church services offered during Holy Week. It may be tiring, but it will strengthen our faith and relationship with the Lord. Then our Paschal (Easter) experience will be more joyful and meaningful.

PASCHA/EASTER BAKESALE ORDERS: Help is needed in making these items on April 1 and April 8. Please contact Liz Zackowski (480) 759-1070 to sign up to help.





Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers

O Divine Physician of Souls and Body, rest your healing and protecting hand upon your servants:

Linda Morasca, Robert Hernandez, Teresa Smith, †Mary Perun, Joan Lucas, †Joseph & Anna Hrynik, †Walter Hrynik, †John Hrynik, Luisa Garcia, Linda Garcia, Nena Desantos, Russell Hook, Deacon Michael Melnick, †Wilma Ihnat, Jason & Joshua Kowalczyk, Beth Hicks, †Patty Prestash, Olga Silva, Ted Bronson, Ana Maria Olvera † Msgr. Michael Nestor and Lawrence Ybarra, †Fr. Wes Izer, Art Krueger, Ilija Seat, Elaine E. and Fr. John Coleman & Carrie Thornton, †Barbara Bronson, Eleanor Shields, Teresa Rojero, Rosemary Ziarkowski, Helen Fellin, Lou Fellin, James Devlin, †Pete Nelson, Terence J. Faust, Clementina Mendoza, James Young, Cathy Simpson, †Marge Bobick, William Glenn, Dorothy Imlej, †Rev. Michael T. Bell, Mark Stefanski, Helen Dinegar, Paul John Hetherington, Hannah Joes, Fr. Fausto, Eric Shark, Kay William, Mary Ada, OFM, B.K. Burnette, Bob Sherman, Mary Kowalczyk, Kevin McBride, Lisa Kirila Mendez, Jonathan Coonrod, Sylvia Gutierrez, Elaine Brown, Linskey Family, Viviana Rodarte, Renata Paloian, OSBM, Monica Harris, Mike Little, Olga Chapkevich, Jerrine Sauntry, Alwyne Holder, Fr. Phil Acquaro, Fr. Chris Zugger, Alexandra, †John Bacovcin, Anita Batean, Bonnie Bennett, Mark D. Chapa, Michael Chapa, Ed Corwin, Gerald & Helen Dunn, Elizabeth Glenn, Nikki Heminway, Virginia Hill, Sonny Hopkins, Jaclyn Lentz, Anne-Marie Krytiuk, Erica Lupe, Richard Marchant (Al & Helen Ferencz' son-inlaw), Alice Posivy (Bullock), Lara Sparling-Ott, Carley Spears, Lorraine Teeling, Henry Zugger, Yoshiko, and all in the service of our country, especially from our parish family: Scott Karnya, Sam Karnya, Adam Young, Brandon Eyres (Michael & Anne Bacovcin's grandson), Patrick Whalen (Doreene Stacy's grandson), and the Mother of Reg Parker

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Grant Holzhauer	April 5
Juliet Holzhauer	April 14
Jeff Park	April 14
Yvonne Corey	April 15
Fr. Michael Kirila	April 16
Helen Fellin	April 17
Reg Parker	April 19
Tracy Aguayo	April 20
Roy Haug	April 21
Cal Karnya	April 23
Christiana Therese Corey	April 28
Donna Sullivan	April 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Frances Thompson	April 14
Roy & Joan Haug	April 21

Did we forget your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know so we can update our records and include this in our bulletin next year. Talk to Liz Zackowski or send her an email: lizzack74@gmail.com. Thank you.

COLLECTIONS

MARCH COLLECTIONS

March 4/5, 2017:
General parishioner tithes: $1,416.00
Holy Day: St. Nicholas: $20.00
Rent--Church & Hall--Chaldeans: $300.00
***Bishop's Appeal: $475.00**
Remodeling: $50.00
Other donations: $107.00
Total: $2,368.00

March 11/12:
General parishioner tithes: $2,186.00
***Bishop's Appeal: $1,900.00**
Coffee Social: $25.00
Gift Shop: $50.00
Other donations: $234.00
Total: $4,395.00

March 18/19:
General parishioner tithes: $1,316.00
Coffee Social: $2.00
Gift Shop: $30.00
***Bishop Appeal: $2,150.00**
Other donations: $74.00
Total: $3,572.00

March 25/26:
General parishioner tithes: $953.00
Holy Day: Annunciation: $85.00
Gift Shop: $30.00
***Bishop's Appeal: $725.00**
Other donations: $339.00
Total: $2,132.00

**These funds are special collections which are remitted to the eparchy.*