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
If you have a sacramental emergency, dial the office phone and press 2.
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stabcc.org
For parish bulletin and announcements sent by email, contact Kathy Richards: krichard2003@yahoo.com

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 7:30-8:30am 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 30 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

Beginning of Church Year 7526 in Byzantine Reckoning

Friday **September 1**
Reader Matins 7:30 a.m.

Saturday **September 2**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Wilma Ihnat by the Ferencz family
Celebrant: Fr. David Petras

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday **September 3** **Tone 4**
Martyr Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
1 Corinthians 16:13-24; Matthew 21:33-42.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
Celebrant: Fr. David Petras

Monday **September 4**
Reader Matins 7:30 a.m.

Thursday **September 7**
Great Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos
Friday **September 8**
HOLYDAY
Festal Matins 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42 & 11:27-28.
Intention: +Patty Coy by Mom

Saturday **September 9**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Col. Frank Vassett by Fr. Doug and Nancy Lorig

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sunday **September 10** **Tone 5**
Postfestive Day of the Birth of the Theotokos
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
After Divine Liturgy, parish potluck

Monday **September 11**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday **September 13**
Matins 7:30 a.m.
Great Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Thursday **September 14**
HOLYDAY
Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35.
Intention: +Lupe Gallaro by Fr. Doug and Nancy Lorig

Friday **September 15**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Saturday **September 16**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Peter Broznak by the Bullock family

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sunday **September 17** **Tone 6**
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34 - 9:1.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday **September 18**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Saturday **September 23**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Peter Broznak by the Bullock family

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday **September 24** **Tone 7**
Holy Martyr Thecla
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Luke 5:1-11.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday **September 25**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday **September 27**
Holy Martyr Callistratus and His Companions
Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Ephesians 3:8-21; Luke 5:33-39.
Intention: +Peter Joseph Broznak by the Bullock family

Friday **September 29**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Saturday **September 30**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Marge Bobick by Fr. Michael Bezruchka

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday **October 1** **Tone 8**
The Protection of our Most Blessed Lady, The Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
2 Corinthians 6:16 - 7:1; Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 6:31-36; Luke 10:38-42 & 11:27-28.
Intention: - Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday **October 2**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NOTE FROM FR. MICHAEL: Thank you very much for all of you who helped with setup, cleanup, bringing food, and planning for Deacon Michael Sullivan's surprise party on August 26! It was a beautiful event and Deacon Michael was overwhelmed with gratitude and awe. It was truly fun and special! Thank you again.

A NOTE FROM DEACON MICHAEL SULLIVAN: Dear Father Michael, Parishioners of Saint Thomas, and Friends, THANK YOU!!! I am profoundly humbled, honored, and awed by your tremendous outpouring of prayers, love, and support at the (complete and total) surprise party held on the 10th anniversary of my ordination to the diaconate in Christ. God uses weak vessels like me to demonstrate clearly to all that He alone is God and we all, especially I, depend totally on Him and through Him on each other. I could never have completed the rigorous 4 years of the diaconate program nor thereafter managed to serve these past 10 years anywhere else. God led me here specifically to this parish and its parishioners. By the Grace of God, He has sustained me in my diaconal ministry. My faults are mine alone, but whatever good my ministry is able to perform is in fact the fruit of your prayers, your love, and your support. I can offer so little in return for so much, but you will always have my prayers, love, and support in addition to my thanks and gratitude. - Your servant in Christ, Dcn. Mike

ADULT CATECHESIS: In order to teach and impart our faith to friends, family and coworkers, we have to learn it. Fr. Michael will begin teaching adult catechesis for anyone interested, parishioners and non-parishioners. We will begin our study using the Ukrainian Catholic Catechism: Christ Our Pascha. This book is available in our bookstore for $26. (Please talk to Fr. Michael if finances are a difficulty at this time for purchasing this book.) All catechumens are expected to attend these classes. Classes will usually run every other Friday from 6:30-7:30pm. Our next scheduled classes are September 15, September 29, October 13, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 1, and December 15. Please mark your calendars.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! On September 1, we begin the new year of the church. In Byzantine reckoning, it is the year 7526. On that day, we thank the Lord for the Lord's bountiful harvest. The feast of Mary's birthday is celebrated exactly one week later and we get the sense of resetting the events of Mary and Jesus' life. (There are no liturgical services scheduled for this day.)

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS: On this day, we celebrate the birthday of the Mother of God: Mary. Come to celebrate this solemn feast on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00pm or Friday, September 8 at 9am or 7pm. Feel free to wear blue, a color associated with Mary.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: Not only do we celebrate how Our Lord's cross was found in 326 AD, we remember that through His cross, we have life. His cross is not just a symbol of pain and death, it is a symbol of life and victory for us Christians. By tradition, this day is a day of strict fast: no meat or dairy products. Though not required, a strict abstinence from both meat and dairy products is strongly encouraged. Come to celebrate this solemnity with Divine Liturgy on September 13 at 7:00pm or September 14 at 7:00pm. Feel free to wear red, a color associated with the Holy Cross and fasting periods.

Con't on Insert

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10: On this day, we will continue our discussion of ECF (Eastern Catholic Formation) for our youth, family movie/game nights, youth groups, young adult groups, men's groups, and women's groups. We will also be covering our social calendar from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. This meeting will take place during our Coffee Social and is open to all parishioners who are interesting in giving input.

COFFEE SOCIAL SIGN UP: As of August 28, the sign up sheet for setup, bringing food, and cleanup is entirely empty from September 3 through October 8. Please sign up for one or more slots. If you are not sure what is involved or need to coordinate with others, please contact Cathy McCormick at (480) 888-2414 or camccormick1@msn.com. Thank you.

HURRICANE HARVEY ASSISTANCE: For the month of September, all non-perishable food donations placed into the box/bucket next to the St. Nicholas icon in church will be donated to St. Mary's Catholic Church. They in turn, will ship the food to Texas to help people ravaged by the hurricane that has worked much devastation there. Thank you for your generosity.

OKTOBERFEST: Silent Auction letters are available for asking for donations. Also needed are books, toys and games for children. Please see Liz Zackowski or Martha Coonrod for more information.

MUSICAL THEATER: Group tickets have been set aside for St. Thomas to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at the Hale Theater in Gilbert for the 7 pm show on Wednesday, September 20. Tickets are $24 each. Please contact Diane Hvasta at 602-743-7768 if you are interested in attending. Deadline is next Wednesday, September 6. We can meet beforehand for dinner if there is enough interest.

COLLECTIONS

August 6, 2017

General parishioner tithes:	$1,936.00
HolyDay--Transfiguration:	$35.00
Improvements/Remodeling:	$50.00
Other Donations:	$188.94
Total Deposit to Checking:	**$2,209.94**
Total for St. Thomas:	$2,209.94

August 13, 2017

General parishioner tithes:	$1,108.00
HolyDay--Dormition:	$20.00
HolyDay--Transfiguration:	$25.00
Improvements/Remodeling:	$40.00
Roof Donation to roof money market acct:	$75.00
Other Donations:	$94.20
Total Deposit to Checking:	**$1,287.20**
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,362.20

August 20, 2017

General parishioner tithes:	$1,430.00
HolyDay--Dormition:	$55.00
Improvements/Remodeling:	$50.00
Gift Shop:	$144.00
Other Donations:	$192.93
Rent:	$300.00
Bake Sale	$10.00
+Anaheim loan:	$643.51
Total Deposit to Checking:	**$2,181.93**
Total for St. Thomas:	$2,825.44

August 27, 2017

General parishioner tithes:	$1,042.00
HolyDay--Dormition:	$10.00
Gift Shop:	$62.00
Other Donations:	$213.50
Total Deposit to Checking:	**$1,327.50**
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,327.50

Total deposited for August: **$7,725.08**

**These funds are special collections which are remitted to the eparchy.*
+These funds are deposited to the Money Market account as the loan to our Anaheim parish is paid back to us. Final payment will be in Sept. 2029.

CALENDAR

September 8: HOLY DAY: Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos

September 10: Parish Council meeting after Divine Liturgy. (See announcement)

September 14: HOLY DAY: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

October 6: PATRONAL FEAST. Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, patron of our church. Vesper/Divine Liturgy at 7pm on October 5; Matins at 7:30am and Prayer Rule of the Theotokos at 7pm on October 6.

October 21: Oktoberfest celebration at Church hall at approximately 6:30pm.

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.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

Joan Haug	September 16
Debi Karnya	September 16
Caitlin Sullivan	September 20
Arturo Aguayo	September 20
Ava Holzhauer	September 21
Helen Ferencz	September 30
Helen Stacy	September 30

Happy Anniversary

Wilma and John Kafora	September 7
Gail and Jan Person	September 11
Arturo and Tracy Aguayo	September 30
Father Michael and Betty Kirila	September 30

PARISH E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS
If you would like to be placed on the St Thomas list for receiving the parish bulletin and announcements via email, please contact Kathy Richards: krichard2003@yahoo.com.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO REQUEST OUR PRAYERS

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

As we have now begun a new liturgical year, it is time to update our prayer list. Our list has become too large and needs room for new people. Previous names can be resubmitted. Simply write an email, mail, or hand-deliver Fr. Michael a note with names. For those who have signed up for the prayer ministry, please continue to pray for the people on the August bulletin for the month of September. Thank you.