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 4:00 PM • Wednesday, Thursday & 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:
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.

November Schedule

Friday **November 3**
Matins 7:30 a.m.
Byzantine Basics class in hall 6:30 p.m.

Saturday **November 4**
Eucharistic Procession: St. Anne's to St. Thomas and back 9:00 a.m.
Lunch to follow at John Allen Park
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: Doreene Stacy by Gail & Jan Person
ECF: younger kids 6:30 pm.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday **November 5** **Tone 5**
Holy Martyrs Galaction & Episteme
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Galatians 6:11-18; Luke 8:41-56
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
ECF: older kids 12:00 noon

Monday **November 6**
Memorial Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
for +Eleanor Shields at St. Thomas
Inurnment of +Eleanor's cremains 2:00 p.m.
St. Stephen's Cathedral, Phoenix
Parastas for +Andria Kowalczyk 7:00 p.m.
at Bueler Chandler Mortuary (*address in announcement)*

Tuesday **November 7**
Funeral Divine Liturgy for
+Andria Kowalczyk at St. Thomas 10:00 a.m.
Lunch to follow in the hall
Great Vespers for feast on Nov. 8 7:00 p.m.
OT readings: Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42 & 11:27-28

Wednesday **November 8**
Archangel Michael & All Angels
Festal Matins 9:00 a.m.
Introduction to the Byzantine Tradition 6:30 p.m.
(in church)
Divine Liturgy: Solemn Holyday 7:00 p.m.
Hebrews 2:2-10; Luke 10:16-21.
Intention: +Luisa Garcia by Liz Zackowski

Thursday **November 9**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Saturday **November 11**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Peter Broznak by Liz Zackowski

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday **November 12** **Tone 6**
Venerable Father John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Ephesians 2:4-10; Luke 10:25-37.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
After Divine Liturgy, parish potluck

First Day of Phillip's Fast
Tuesday **November 14**
Emmanuel Moleben 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday **November 15**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Thursday **November 16**
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Friday **November 17**
Matins 7:30 a.m.
Byzantine Basics class in hall 6:30 p.m.

Saturday **November 18**
Presentation in hall: Writing wills 10:00 a.m.
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: Donald Thompson by Cal & Debi Karnya

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday **November 19** **Tone 7**
Holy Prophet Obadiah
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Ephesians 2:14-22; Luke 12:16-21.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday **November 20**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Cathy Simpson by Kathy Richard

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
Tuesday **November 21**
Solemn Holyday
Festal Matins 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday November 22
Matins 7:30 a.m.

THANKSGIVING DAY
Thursday November 23
Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19; Luke 12:13-15, 22-31 or Luke 12:42-48.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Friday November 24
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Saturday November 25
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Kay Sperry & Family by Honora Bullock

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday November 26 Tone 8
Venerable Father Alypius the Stylite
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 13:10-17.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Wednesday November 29
Holy Martyr Paramon
Matins 7:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
1 Timothy 1:18-20 & 2:8-15; Luke 20:1-8.
Intention: Special intention for Florence Parks by Doreene Stacy

Thursday November 30
Matins 7:30 a.m.

Friday December 1
Matins 7:30 a.m.
Byzantine Basics class in hall 6:30 p.m.

Saturday December 2
Church deep cleaning 9am -2pm
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention: +Peter Broznak by the Kowalczyk family

26th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday December 3 Tone 1
Holy Prophet Zephaniah
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Ephesians 5:9-19; Luke 18:18-27.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION on Sat. Nov 4, 9-11:30am: Please join this Eucharistic Procession from St Anne's Roman Catholic Church, 440 E Elliot Rd, to St Thomas, and return to St. Anne's. Afterwards, participate in the BBQ lunch at John Allen Park to further share with our neighboring St. Anne parishioners. For the first time this year, our parish is actively participating in the procession with our own Byzantine hymns and the Moleben service.

+ELEANOR SHIELDS: Our dear parishioner Eleanor Shields passed away on Thursday, August 17, 2017. We will celebrate a Memorial Divine Liturgy for her on November 6 at 10am at St. Thomas. All attending parishioners will be treated to a luncheon at Liberty Market down the street from St. Thomas. The inurnment of Eleanor's cremains will then take place at St. Stephen's Cathedral at approximately 2pm.

+ANDRIA KOWALCZYK: Wife of Dr. Nicholas Kowalczyk, passed away very suddenly on October 31, 2017. She and Nicholas were founding member parishioners since 1983. (The parish began in 1982). She is mother of nine children and seven grandchildren. She and Nicholas celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on October 23. Funeral services will be as follows:

- *5:00-7:00pm: General viewing at Bueler Chandler Mortuary & Chapel (14 West Hulet Drive, Chandler, AZ 85225. (480) 963-6351)*

- *7:00pm, November 6: Parastas at Bueler Chandler Mortuary & Chapel (see address above)*

- *10:00am, November 7: Funeral Divine Liturgy at St. Thomas followed by a luncheon in the hall.*

- *Internment to take place at a different date due to cremation.*

Address for Nicholas Kowalczyk to send cards:
842 West Erie Street, Chandler, AZ 85225-4454.

BYZANTINE BASICS: Our adult catechesis classes continue with Fr. Michael. Classes will usually be every other Friday from 6:30-7:30pm. Our next scheduled classes are November 3, November 17, December 1, December 15, 2017. For 2018: January 12, January 26, February 9, March 1, March 12, April 13, May 4, May 18, and June 1. Please mark your calendars. More Christ our Pascha catechisms have been ordered and

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will each be available for a $30.00 donation.

VOCATION ICON PRAYER PROGRAM: A vocation icon has been circulating among the families of the parish since the beginning of October. Special prayers are prescribed for each day of the week. If you haven't already, please sign up to bring the icon into your home and pray with it for a week. Thanks to all those who have already signed up to participate.

Why your prayers are needed. We as a parish community must pray for a vibrant priesthood, diaconate, and monastic life in order to keep our church flourishing. The monastic life for monks and nuns provides the reference point for all the baptized (see the Apostolic letter Orientale Lumen, 1995). Their prayers are important for the spiritual health of the eparchy, as well as providing spiritual light to the world. The priesthood is essential for making Jesus present to all people in the community. Without the priest, there is no Eucharist. Without the priest, there is no forgiveness of sins from Christ assured in the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation. Without the priest, Christian communities all too easily splinter and lose the spine of the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments). You are strongly encouraged to join in these special prayers for vocations to all states of life: marriage, monastic, diaconate and priesthood.

FR. MICHAEL'S OFFICE HOURS CHANGED: Instead of his previous day off on Thursday, Fr. Michael is now taking Mondays off. Tuesdays remain his day for working at the chancery in Phoenix. His office hours at the parish are now Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9am to 4pm. Fr. Michael is almost always in the office later than that. However, as he also sometimes does sick calls, other outreaches and necessary errands, he isn't in the office every minute of these scheduled hours. Fr. Michael is often in the parish office on evenings of some weekdays and parts of most Saturdays. If you want to see him, it's best to telephone or email in advance to make an appointment rather than simply try to "catch him" in the office.

HELP ORPHANS IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS: Each year, the Aguayo family travels to Esperanza orphanage in Rocky Point, Mexico, to celebrate Christmas with the children there. The home is well taken care of and very clean, and when we asked housemother, Maru, what they needed most, she responded, "cleaning supplies." This year, we'd like to bless Esperanza with a bundle of supplies. If you're able to donate any items listed below, that would be wonderful! We'll have a table set up in the hall to collect items throughout November. We'll also have a few Christmas cards for St. Thomas parishioners to sign. Please speak with me, Tracy Aguayo, or send me an email for more information (tlaguayo@gmail.com). Thank you for your generosity!

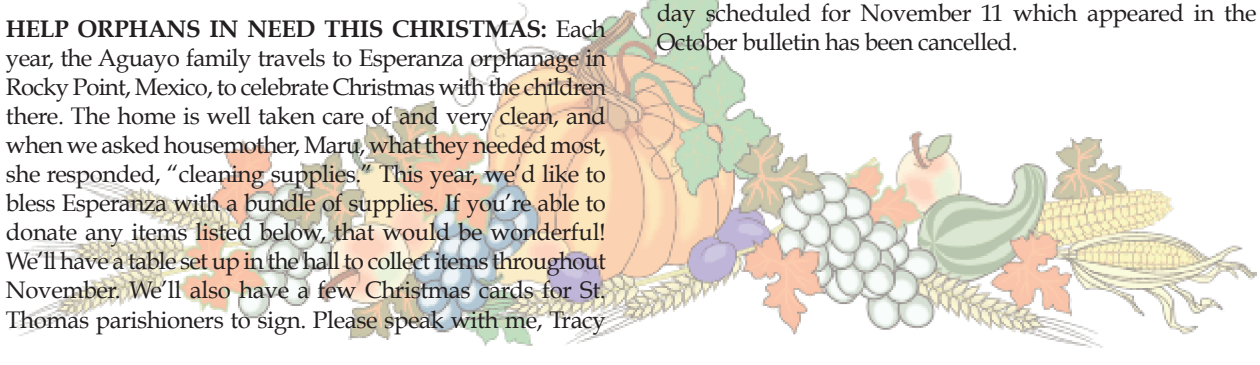
- All-purpose cleaner (any brand)
- Scrubbing sponges
- Microfiber cloths
- Dishwashing soap (any brand)
- Paper towels
- Floor cleaner (pine sol, Lysol, etc.)

A HUGE THANK YOU FOR OKTOBERFEST HELP & DONATIONS! Each year takes a great deal of effort and time to make the Oktoberfest a success. Liz Zackowski and Martha Coonrod are the linchpins to its success. There are also many other volunteers who help in the week preceding the event to assist with setup, decorating, cooking, cleanup, and more. We could not do this without this help. In addition, there are many businesses and individuals who donate items or gift cards for our silent auction. The GCU also donate the printed tickets and offer us a matching funds grant up to $1,500 once we have calculated all our income and expenses from the event. This year, we received donations from the following:

Donations from businesses: A & P Nursery; Baci Italian Bistro; Bobby Q; Buca di Beppo; AZ Diamondbacks; Cracker Barrell; Cheddars; Claim Jumper; Clever Koi; Fat Willy's; Flancer's' Freddy's Frozen Custard; Garcials; GMC Liquor: Gilbert House Restaurant; Longhorn Steakhouse; Nando's; Native Grill; On the Border; Phoenix Art Museum; Phoenix Symphony; Pomo- Gilber; Outback Steakhouse; Rigatony's; Red Lobster; Sal's Gilbert Pizza; Someburro's' Spinato's; Sports Clips; T C Eggington's; Trader Joe's; Thirsty Lion; Va Bene; Valle Luna; Vincitorio;s; Whitfill Nursery.

Donations from parishioners: Charles & Carol Rawlins; Vincent and Janice Antonios; Deacon Michael and Donna Sullivan; Martha Coonrod; Tracy Aguayo, Cassy Holzhauer, Carole Bullock, Honora Bullock, Hope Lopez, Marilyn Reiling, Kris Forbes, Christy Bronson, Doreen Stacy, Fr. Michael and Betty Kirila, Liz Zackowski, Kathy Richard.

PIEROGI MAKING CANCELLED: The pierogi making day scheduled for November 11 which appeared in the October bulletin has been cancelled.



COLLECTIONS

October 1, 2017

Tithes: Adults	$1,801.00
Holyday: Holy Protection	$35.00
Donations: Non-parishioners	$25.00
Improvements, Remodeling	$180.00
Candles	$30.00
*Hurricane Harvey	$25.00
*Medical Insurance Collection	$1,325.00
Rent: Church, Hall	$300.00
Coffee Social	$5.00
Gift Shop	$40.00
Oktoberfest revenue	$48.00
Total deposit to checking	$3,814.00
*Minus special collections	-$1,350.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$2,464.00**

October 8, 2017

Tithes: Adults	$1,208.00
Donations: Non-parishioners	$73.00
Improvements, Remodeling	$105.00
Donations - Altar cloth	$384.56
Candles	$73.00
*Medical Insurance Collection	$927.00
Coffee Social	$9.00
Gift Shop	$160.00
Oktoberfest revenue	$36.00
Total deposit to checking	$2,975.56
*Minus special collections	-$927.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$2,048.56**

October 11, 2017

Coins deposit	$3.15
Total deposit to checking	$3.15
Total for St. Thomas:	**$3.15**

October 15, 2017

Tithes: Adults	$1,376.00
Donations: Non-parishioners	$60.75
Improvements, Remodeling	$20.00
Candles	$34.10
*Medical Insurance Collection	$20.00
Gift Shop	$187.00
Total deposit to checking	$1,697.85
*Minus special collections	-$20.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$1,677.85**

October 22, 2017

Tithes: Adults	$1,195.00
Holyday: Holy Protection	$20.00
Donations: Non-parishioners	$42.00
Candles	$47.95
Coffee Social	$5.00
Gift Shop	$45.00
Oktoberfest revenue	$3,031.00
Total deposit to checking	$4,385.95
Total for St. Thomas:	**$4,385.95**

October 27

**Anaheim loan payment deposited	$643.51

October 29, 2017

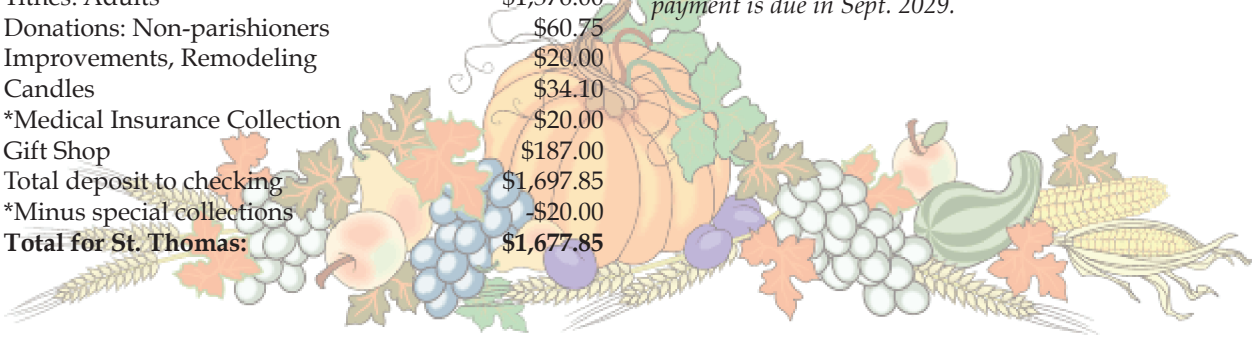
Tithes: Adults	$1,376.00
Donations: Non-parishioners	$136.00
Improvements, Remodeling	$100.00
Candles	$45.69
*Medical Insurance Collection	$50.00
Rent: Church, Hall	$300.00
Coffee Social	$9.00
Gift Shop	$1.25
Oktoberfest revenue	$399.00
Total deposit to checking	$2,416.94
*Minus special collections	-$50.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$2,366.94**

Total for St. Thomas for October:

Total deposits	$15,936.96
*Minus special collections	-$2,347.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$13,589.96**

**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 is due in Sept. 2029.*



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE YOUR WILL FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE, Saturday, November 18 At 10:00 AM. Robert Way, estate attorney and a parishioner at St. Melany Byzantine Catholic Church, Tucson, will give an overview of both legal and spiritual considerations on end-of-life planning for Wills, Trusts, and Powers of Attorney. This presentation will take place in the parish hall.

NEW ROOF COMPLETE: The finishing touches on our new metal roof from Vertex were completed on October 21 in the morning. If you haven't already, take a look.

ASKING FOR HELP: Our parish could use your assistance with cleaning and decorating on December 2 and 9. We also need help preparing for the Holy Supper on December 16. Please speak to Carol Paolo to let us know which date or dates you'd be able to help us. She can also be reached at cpaolo21@gmail.com. Thank you.

CALENDAR

November 4: Eucharistic Procession beginning at 9am from St. Anne's to St. Thomas and back.

November 18: Writing your will within a Catholic framework and perspective. Presenter: Attorney Robert Way 10am at the St. Thomas hall.

December 2: Church deep cleaning: 9:00am - 2pm. need 25 people.

December 9: Decorating for Christmas: 9:00am. We need at least 10 people.

December 16: Holy Supper in the hall starting at about 6:30pm.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

Julia Aguayo	November 3
Anne Bacovcin	November 3
Kris Forbes	November 3
Caroline Bronson	November 3
Paul Antonios	November 6
Jacob Aguayo	November 8
Florence Park	November 10
Danny Forbes	November 12
Lynn Sims	November 16
Beth Hicks	November 17
Dennis Bondra	November 21
Mignon Louise Thurow	November 22
Nicole Hvasta	November 30

Happy Anniversary

Jeff and Janet Park	November 7

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:

Stephanie & Terry Faust, Lisa Kirila Mendez, and Eileen Derevenko. Scott Karnya, Sam Karnya and all those in service to our country. "O Divine Physician of souls and bodies, rest your healing and protecting hand upon your servants."

"With the souls of the just brought to perfection, give rest, O Savior, to the souls of your servants, keeping them for the blessed life with you, for you love us all."

+Andria Kowalczyk, +Eleanor Shields, +Sr. Jean Marie Cihota, +Peter Broznak, +James Sandrock, +Fr. Wes Izer, +Cathy Simpson, +Anna Hrynik, +Joseph Hrynik, +John Hrynik, +Walter Hrynik, +Mary Perun.

Our prayer list was reset with a blank slate in September to make room for new names. Previous names can be resubmitted. Simply write an email, mail, or hand-deliver Fr. Michael a note listing names. Thank you.