St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

Glory to Jesus Christ! **Glory Forever!**

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday Vigil
5pm – Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy

Sunday
10am – Divine Liturgy

Weekdays
Weekday Divine Liturgy: Check bulletin

Matins:
Tues: 7:45am; Wed, Thurs and Fri: 7:30am

(Please check bulletin for weekday changes to Matins or other services.)

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession)
Saturdays: 4:00-4:30pm
Sundays: 9:00-9:30am
(Also available by appointment)

Chaldean Liturgy
Sunday: 6pm
Mar Abraham parish meets at St. Thomas.
Call 480.905.1545 for more information.

Other Information

Church Address
19 West Bruce Avenue
Gilbert, AZ 85233

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 667
Gilbert, AZ 85299-0667

Parish phone: 480.497.6726
- press 1 for the parish office
- press 2 for a sacramental emergency

Website
www.stabcc.org

Office Hours–(call ahead to confirm)
T, W, Th, and F: 9am - 4pm



Father Michael Bezruchka
Pastor

Deacon Michael Sullivan

Welcome!

St Thomas Byzantine Catholic Church is a vibrant parish community which seeks to live the liturgical year in solemnity and celebration. Our church follows the ancient Eastern traditions, while remaining in union with the Pope of Rome.

The Byzantine Catholic Church is uniquely beautiful – enhanced by the story of the life of Christ and the saints in icons. Our liturgy is rich in tradition and based in scripture. As a bonus, almost all liturgical prayers are chanted.

We welcome visitors who wish to share in our sacred worship services.

Schedule

Saturday, May 5
Mother's Day Tea 2:00-4:00 PM

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: † Andria Kowalczyk by the Murphy family

ECF: younger kids 6:30-7:30 PM

Sunday, May 6 **Tone 5**
Sunday of the Man Born Blind
Holy and Just Job the Long-suffering
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Acts 16:16-34; John 9:1-38.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

ECF: older kids 12 - 1 PM

Wednesday, May 9
Leave-taking of Pascha
Take down Pascha decorations 10:00 AM
Contact Liz Zackowski to help: 480.759.1070

Ascension of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ (Vigil: May 9)
Great Vespers 7:00 PM

Ascension: a Holyday of Obligation (Any of the Vespers, Matins, or the Divine Liturgy on May 9 or 10 meets this obligation and spiritual opportunity)



Thursday, May 10
Ascension of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ
Festal Matins 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24:36-53.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Saturday, May 12
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Nicole Hvasta by Diane Hvasta

Men's Group meeting After Liturgy

Sunday, May 13 **Tone 6**
Sunday of the Fathers at the First Nicean Council
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Acts 20:16-18, 28-38; John 17:1-13.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

After Liturgy, Mother's Day Brunch.

Saturday, May 19
Divine Liturgy at Holy Redeemer Cemetery for the All Souls Saturday at 9:00 AM. Address 23015 Cave Creek Road, Phoenix, AZ 85024

At St. Thomas:
Put up Pentecost decorations 11:00 AM
Contact Liz Zackowski to help: 480.759.1070

Panahida for the Deceased 4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: † Connie Morrissey by Liz Zackowski

ECF: younger kids 6:30-7:30 PM
Men's Group meeting After Liturgy

Sunday, May 20 **Festal Tone**
Pentecost Sunday
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Acts 2:1-11; John 7:37-52 & 8:12.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

ECF: older kids 12-1 PM

Monday, May 21
Pentecost Monday
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Ephesians 5:9-19; Matthew 18:10-20.
Intention: Violet Hvasta by Diane Hvasta

Saturday, May 26
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: †Marianne King by Kim Rebello

Men's Group meeting After Liturgy

Sunday, May 27 **Tone 8**
Sunday of All Saints
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Hebrews 11:33 - 12:2; Matthew 10: 32-33, 37-38 & 19:27-30.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday, May 28
Divine Liturgy cancelled.

Saturday, June 2
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Patrick Morrissey and family--for health and consolation by Liz Zackowski

Men's Group meeting After Liturgy

Sunday, June 3 **Tone 1**
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Martyr Lucillian and his Companions.
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Romans 2:10-16; Matthew 4:18-23.
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



Money Summary

April 1	
Tithes: Adults	$2,037.00
Holyday: Pascha	1,087.00
Holyday: Good Friday	15.00
Loose cash: (source not identified)	270.00
Candles	119.45
Rent: Church, Hall	300.00
*Bishop's Appeal	100.00
*Pont. Good Friday Church in Holy Land	325.00
Bake sale	31.00
Gift Shop	20.00
Total deposit to checking	4,304.45
*Minus special collections	-425.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$3,879.45**

April 8	
Tithes: Adults	$1,320.00
Holyday: Pascha	145.00
Holyday: Annunciation	5.00
Holyday: Palm Sunday	5.00
Loose cash: (source not identified)	17.00
Candles	36.40
*Bishop's Appeal	150.00
Coffee Social	10.00
Total deposit to checking	1,688.40
*Minus special collections	-150.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$1,538.40**

April 15	
Tithes: Adults	$1,179.30
Holyday: Good Friday and Pascha	15.00
Holyday: Palm Sunday	5.00
Annunciation	10.00
Loose cash: (source not identified)	5.00
Candles	33.48
*Bishop's Appeal	1,065.00
*Pont. Good Friday Church in Holy Land	5.00
Bake Sale	14.00
Gift Shop	52.95
Total deposit to checking	2,384.73
*Minus special collections	-1,070.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$1,314.73**

April 22	
Tithes: Adults	$1,568.00
Loose cash: (source not identified)	61.00
Improvements, Remodeling	50.00
Candles	102.20
Rent: Hall	420.00
*Catholic Home Missions	75.00
Coffee Social	13.00
Insurance payment for damaged doors	741.49
Total deposit to checking	3,030.69
*Minus special collections	-75.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$2,955.69**

April 22	
Anaheim Loan payment	$643.51
**Deposit to Money Market Acct.	$643.51

April 29	
Anaheim Principal special payment	$7,776.00
**Deposit to Money Market Acct.	$7,776.00

April 29	
Tithes: Adults	$855.00
Loose cash: (source not identified)	90.00
Candles	65.81
*Bishop's Appeal	100.00
*Catholic Home Missions	50.00
Bake Sale	14.00
Coffee Social	1.00
Eparchy reimbursement	571.05
Total deposit to checking	1,746.86
*Minus special collections	-150.00
Total for St. Thomas:	**$1,596.86**

Summary for April

Total deposits	$21,574.64
*Minus special collections	-1,870.00
**Minus loan principal received	-8,287.39
Total income:	**$11,417.25**

**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. Since an extra payment was made in April, final payment is due in June 2028 instead of Sept. 2029.*

BISHOP'S APPEAL DONORS

These people have contributed $10 or more, as of May 3:

Art & Tracy Aguayo
Vincent & Janice Antonios
Joseph Barnes
Gregory Bartlett
Eleanore Bernstein
Fr. Michael Bezruchka
Allegra Bisbee
Honora Bullock
Robert & Mary Lynn Cihak
Alberto Gomez
Roy & Joan Haug
John and Debra Hratko
John & Wilma Kafora
Cal & Debi Karnya
Fr. Michael & Betty Kirila
Mike & Barb Little
Fr. Doug & Nancy Lorig
Brian Matthysse
Cathy McCormick
Reg & Diane Parker
Marilyn Reiling
Jeff & Lynn Sims
Doreene Stacy
Dcn. Michael & Donna Sullivan
Sharon Wollert
Liz Zackowski

We thank all our donors to the Bishop's Appeal who help generate funds for the eparchy to pay for expenses and sponsor additional programs such as seminarian formation, youth ministry, and evangelization materials. The due date for sending this to the eparchy is May 31, 2018. However, to make that happen, we need to have received the pledges and make our goal no later than May 27. That's VERY SOON! Please help us reach our goal so that our parish obtains a 20% rebate. Thank you!

Calendar Highlights

May 12: First day the Parish Men's group meets every Saturday evening after Divine Liturgy. (Tuesday mornings cancelled)

May 19: All Souls Saturday. Divine Liturgy at Holy Redeemer Cemetery at 9am and Panahida at St. Thomas at 4:30 PM.

May 20: PENTECOST. Very special feast day--the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

June 22-24: Myrrh Bearers Retreat for women and girls in Phoenix

July 5-8: ByzanTEEN Youth Rally in Latrobe, PA

July 12-15: Alive in Christ for boys and dads on Palomar Mountain, CA

Happy Birthday

Gloria Gomez	May 2
Jeff Corey	May 2
Alex Forbes	May 3
Gail Person	May 5
Bryon Walker	May 7
Diane Hvasta	May 8
Jeff Schreiber	May 8
Ashley Hegg	May 14
Christopher Casillas	May 17

Happy Anniversary

Fr. Michael Kirila (Priesthood Anniversary)	May 16
Danny and Kris Forbes	May 16
Vincent and Janice Antonios	May 19

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.

Announcements

BISHOP'S APPEAL: Folks, time is running out!!! If our parish reaches its goal of $15,675.00, we will receive a 20% rebate. THE DUE DATE IS MAY 27!! Bishop John is asking each household to donate $275.00 to the eparchy to help with its ministry and programs. You can donate through the parish, as you have in the past (cash or check), or you can donate directly to the eparchy. Make sure to credit St. Thomas as your parish of record if you send a payment directly to the eparchy. As of May 3, we have collected $7,530.00, bringing us to 48% of our goal from 46% of our parishioners. If you did not receive a mailing from Bishop John regarding the Bishop's Appeal and would like to make a donation, please let Fr. Michael know. All who have donated at least $10.00 to the Bishop's Appeal are mentioned in the money section of the bulletin (the amount each donor gives will not be listed). Thank you for your generosity!

BYZANTINE BASICS: Fr. Michael Bezruchka is glad to have taught the Byzantine Basics class since the beginning of the church year in September. He hopes all pupils have learned a lot from it. Due to everything going on in May, the remaining two scheduled classes on May 18 and June 1 are cancelled.

THANK YOU TO OUR CATECHISTS: We thank our three catechists, Deacon Michael Sullivan, Honora Bullock, and David Hawkes who have faithfully taught ECF (Eastern Christian Formation) to older and younger students this year! We thank them for their dedication and hard work in this area. The ECF program concludes on the May 19-20 Pentecost weekend. May the Lord God grant to these catechists, peace, health, and happiness for many happy and blessed years!

THANK YOU TO OUR CANTORS: We thank those who lead the singing of the liturgical services in our church. Thank you especially for all the dedication during Holy Week and Pascha! May the Lord God grant to all the cantors, peace, health, and happiness for many happy and blessed years!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DECORATE, CLEAN, BAKE, AND COOK: Your dedication to our church of St. Thomas helps make the church sparkle with beauty and be filled with wonderful smells of food in the hall. May the Lord God grant to all our many wonderful volunteers, peace, health, and happiness for many happy and blessed years!

NEED HELP DECORATING AND TAKING DOWN DECORATIONS: If you have time on May 9 and 19, we sure would love the help. Please contact Liz to let her know you can help: 480.759.1070

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER! Everyone who volunteers deserves thanks and deserves to be mentioned by name. However, I would risk leaving a few people out of the list on accident. Please know that all of you are a big help and greatly appreciated for helping make St. Thomas a great church. May the Lord God grant to all our many wonderful volunteers, peace, health, and happiness for many happy and blessed years!

ATTENTION MEN: The parish Men's Group has been meeting Tuesday mornings for three months in the hall. It will now be meeting on Saturday evenings after Divine Liurgy beginning May 12 to allow more men the opportunity to join this important group. The men's group reflects on Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, and other wholesome spiritual books. These weekly meetings are a great opportunity to share challenges and joys. For more information, contact Mike Little at ndmike7@gmail.com.

MYRRH BEARERS RETREAT: Save the date for the Eparchy of Phoenix's 2018 Myrrh Bearers retreat from Friday June 22-Sunday June 24 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ. Girls ages 7+, teens, and women of all ages are invited to participate in this prayerful weekend themed: Theotokos- Model of Grace. Please see https://myrrh-bearers.com for more information. The registration deadline is June 1.

Byzan__**TEEN**__ **Youth Rally 2018**: This will take place at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA from July 5-8. Theme: "Who is My Neighbor?" More details and registration information can be found by going to www.archpitt.org/byzanteen-youth-rally-2018/ (Do not go to the previous website listed in earlier promotion materials and bulletin as the website was taken over by a foreign entity and made into an immoral site.) The deadline for registering is June 15.

ALIVE IN CHRIST: This year's Alive in Christ camp will take place for boys and their dads from July 12-15 at Camp Palomar near San Diego. The camp aims at helping young men mature in their Catholic faith and a life of authentic Christian discipleship. Fed by Byzantine spirituality, the camp engenders a fervor that will deepen personal awareness of a boy's share in the Life of Christ, that will sustain him as he grows into adulthood in an ever-increasing secular world, that will teach him to exercise Christian values through self-mastery, and that will assist him in discerning well his God-given vocations and charisms. More information can be found in the flyers in the narthex and hall. The regisration deadline is June 29. However, the deadline to get the pastor's signature on the registration forms is May 27. Plan ahead.

Parish Advisory Board

Danny Forbes
Emma Gilsdorf
Cal Karnya
Cathy McCormick
Charlie Rawlins
Jeff Sims
Liz Zackowski

Parish Email Announcements

If you would like to receive the parish bulletin and announcements via email, please contact Kathy Richard: **krichard2003@yahoo.com**

FROM FR. MICHAEL BEZRUCHKA--SAYING GOODBYE: Sometimes we have to say goodbye to those whom we love. Yet, we have to be willing to follow the Lord Jesus wherever He might be leading us. In the case of priests, they serve the People of God. For priests of the Eparchy of Phoenix, that covers a large geographic area. Due to the loss of Fr. Francis Vivova in Las Vegas, there is a need to have a new priest there. Bishop John Pazak is transferring me to St. Anne Byzantine Catholic Church in San Luis Obispo, California and my assignment as pastor there begins June 1, 2018. You will be getting a new priest to care for you here at St. Thomas. Fr. Michael Sidun will become Parochial Administrator here beginning July 20. In the meantime, there will be substitute priests from June 1 to July 20 from the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral of St. Stephen's in Phoenix so that your spiritual needs will continue to be provided for during the interrim period. Please be sure to welcome Fr. Michael Sidun, listen to him, and help him in the ministry of building up the Kingdom of God here in Gilbert within the context of St. Thomas Byzantine Catholic Church. I will miss all of you!!! Please keep me in your prayers and know that you will also be in mine. Please also keep Fr. Michael Sidun and his family in your prayers. May the Lord bless all of you!

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers

O Divine Physician of Souls and Body, rest your healing and protecting hand upon your servants:
Donald Thompson, Jr., Stephanie & Terry Faust, Lisa Kirila Mendez, Eileen Derevenko, Julianne Betzold, Ted Bronson, Fr. Michael Bezruchka, and Fr. Michael Sidun.

All those serving our country in the military including Scott Karnya, Sam Karnya, Capt. Patrick Whalen, and Gregory Whalen.

"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."
† Fr. Francis Vivona, † Andria Kowalczyk,
† Eleanor Shields, † Sr. Jean Marie Cihota,
† Peter Broznak, † James Sandrock,
† Fr. Wes Izer, † Cathy Simpson,
† Anna Hrynik, † Joseph Hrynik,
† John Hrynik, † Watler Hrynik,
† Mary Petun, † Mary Rogees



Fr. Michael B.