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

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

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
Email : saint.thomas.pastor@gmail.com

Office Hours – (call ahead to confirm as the priest is often out of the office for sick calls or other parish obligations)
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm

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



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.

Parochial Administrator:
Father Michael Sidun

Saturday Evening, February 1
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
2 Tim 3:10-15 & Heb 7:7-17
Lk 18:10-14 & 2:22-40
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Peggy Joachim (Sally Rock)



SUNDAY, February 2 **Tone 1**
Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
Meeting of our Lord with Simeon
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Gal 1:11-19; Mt 2:13-23
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday, February 3
Synaxis of the Holy Prophets Simeon & Anna
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
2 Peter 1:20-2:9; Mk 13:9-13
Intention: Don & Vera Bedrin and family (Bullock family)

Wednesday, February 5
Agatha Martyr
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
2 Peter 3:1-18; Mk 13:24-31
Intention: Virginia Hill (Beryl Elwood)

Thursday, February 6
Bucolus Bishop
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
1 Jn 1:8-2:6; Mk 13:31-14:2
Intention: +Donald Thompson Jr. (Anna Broznak)

Friday, February 7
Parthenius Bishop
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
1 Jn 2:7-17; Mk 14:3-9
Intention: +Михайло та Василь (сім'я Дворських)

Saturday Evening, Fabruary 8
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
1 Cor 6:12-20 Lk 15:11-32
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Gail and Janet Person (Fr. Michael and family)



SUNDAY, February 9 **Tone 2**
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
1 Cor 6:12-20 Lk 15:11-32
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Wednesday, February 12
Meletius Archbishop
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
1 Jn 3:21-4:6; Mk 14:43-15:1
Intention: Simon Buchman and family (Fr. Michael and family)

Friday, February 14
Death of Cyril Apostle to the Slavs
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Heb 7:26-8:2; Jn 10:9-16
Intention: Don & Vera Bedrin and family (Bullock family)

Saturday February 15
***10:00 AM* All Souls Saturday Divine Liturgy**
at Holy Redeemer Cemetery
Address: 23015 Cave Creek Rd,
Phoenix, AZ 85024 *This year all Eastern Churches will celebrate the remembrance of their dead together. Please mark your calendar. The blessing of the graves will follow the Divine Liturgy and the Memorial.

Saturday Evening, February 15
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
1 Cor 8:8-9:2, Mt 25:31-46
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Diane Hvasta (Doreen Stacy)



SUNDAY, February 16 **Tone 3**
Sunday Meat Fare

Parish Picnic

Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Eph 4:7-13; Mt 4:12-17
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Tuesday, February 18
Leo the Great Pope
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Jude 1-10; Lk 22:39-42 & 45-23:1
Intention: +John Zebec (Bullock family)

Thusday, February 20
Leo of Catania Bishop
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Jude 11-25; Lk 23:1-34 & 44-56
Intention: Mark Person (Janet Person)

Saturday Evening, February 22
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
Rom 13:11-14:4; Mt 25:31-46
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Al Ferencz (Fr. Michael and family)



SUNDAY February 23 **Tone 4**
Sunday of Cheesefare or FORGIVENESS
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
1 Tim 1:15-17; Lk 18:35-45
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

The Holy and Great Fast: The Ruthenian Metropolia prescribes strict abstinence from meat and dairy products on both the First Monday (Clean Monday) of the Great Fast as well as on Good Friday, and also abstinence from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays in the Great Fast and Holy Week. These prescriptions are a required minimum for all of the faithful. The traditional fast is much stricter.

Monday, February 24
Clean Monday
St. Tarasius
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Genesis 1:1-13; Proverbs 1:1-20
Intention: Elena Moore (Brian Moore and Family)

Wednesday, February 26
Porphy of Gaza Bishop
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Genesis 1:24-2:3; Proverbs 2:1-22
Intention: +Kol family (Tom & Liz Kol)

Friday, February 28
Basil Venerable -Confessor
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Genesis 2:20-3:20; Proverbs 3:19-34; Isaiah 43:9-14; Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9; Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3
Intention: Liz Zackowski (Doreen Stacy)

Saturday Evening, February 29
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Gail and Janet Person (Doreen Stacy)



SUNDAY, March 1
Tone 5
First Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Procession with Holy Icons 10:00 AM
(Please bring a favorite Holy Icon from home to carry in the procession of Holy Icons.)

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2; John 1:43-51
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Announcements:

February 15, Saturday at 10:00 am

All Souls Saturday Divine Liturgy
at Holy Redeemer Cemetery
Address: 23015 Cave Creek Rd,
Phoenix, AZ 85024

This year all Eastern Churches will celebrate the remembrance of their dead together. Please mark your calendar. The blessing of the graves will follow the Divine Liturgy and the Memorial.

Sunday, February 16
Parish Picnic - Sunday, February 16, 12 Noon to 4 PM- **Freestone Park,** Soccer Field West

Our annual picnic has always been a good time for children, teens, and adults. This year, because of the popularity of soccer among our parishioners, the picnic will be at the Soccer Field West picnic tables. It's easier to find, as it's the very first parking area entering the park from the Lindsay Road entrance, between Elliot and Guadalupe, at 1045 E. Juniper Avenue. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and buns will be provided by the parish. Please sign up in the hall to bring some of your favorite food for others to enjoy. Also, please sign up if you plan to attend so we know how much food to buy.

Happy Birthday!

CLARK, Tom	2/2
BERNSTEIN, Eleanor	2/2
STALKER HIGHSMITH, Will	2/3
LIESMEYER, Josh	2/5
LIESMEYER, Valerie	2/6
ANTONIOS, Janice	2/6
COREY, Michael Joseph	2/7
KAFORA, John	2/7
ZACKOWSKI, Elizabeth	2/8
GROLL, Joe & Maria	2/9
HOLZHAUER, Ava	2/24
BARNES, Janis	2/24
THOROW, Aaron	2/27

Happy Anniversary!

MAHONEY, Blaise & Karen	2/3
SIMS, Jeff & Lynn	2/24

May God grant them many blessed years

DIVINE LITURGIES & INTENTIONS

***Come to church early**
***Put your cell phone on "Airplane Mode"**
***Light a candle; settle down in quiet prayer & reflection**
***Recite the prayers before the Divine Liturgy**
***Make a good confession**

Thank you for honoring God's Temple with your Sunday Best!

***Coffee hour responsibilities** If you signed up for the Sunday coffee hour, please be sure and clean afterwards. Please do not leave it for others to do. **There is a new signup sheet on the hall bulletin board.**

***Father Michael encourages everyone to participate in hosting a coffee social at least once a year to share our fellowship.**

COLLECTIONS

Summary for January

Total deposits	$6,884.08
*Minus special collections	-100.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$6,784.08

Jan. 5

Tithes: Adults	$557.00
Holyday: Christmas	15.00
Circumcision	10.00
Theophany	5.00
Donations: Misc.	201.00
Candles	50.00
Rent: Church or Hall	600.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,438.00

Jan. 12

Tithes: Adults	$1,710.00
Holyday: Christmas	200.00
Donations: Misc.	28.00
Coffee Social	20.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,988.00

Jan. 19

Tithes: Adults	$1,260.00
Donations: Misc.	99.00
Candles	151.00
Coffee Social	6.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,516.00

Jan. 26

Tithes: Adults	$1,725.00
Donations: Misc.	34.00
Candles	60.08
*Bishop's Appeal	100.00
Coffee Social	23.00
Total deposit to checking	1,942.08
*Minus special collections	-100.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,842.08

Thank you to all who help us by understanding when we make mistakes, and respond with prayer, love, kindness, forgiveness & patience. When we respond in this way, it helps us grow as individuals, and as a parish family.

Please feel free to talk with Fr. Michael about parish needs

Announcements:

Sunday, February 24

Pascha Pastry Orders - Delicious Nutrolls, Poppyseed Rolls, and Pascha Bread will be available, as before. Order forms are on the tables in the hall and in the Narthex. The Nutrolls and Poppyseed rolls are $12.00 each; Pascha Bread is $8.00. The last day to order Nutrolls and/or Poppyseed rolls is Sunday, February 24.

Saturday, February 29

Please help us make the Nutrolls & Poppyseed Rolls. Newcomers are welcome to learn how to make these treats. We need at least 10 people. Several people are also needed to help bag the rolls and clean up in the afternoon. The parish greatly appreciates any assistance you can provide. Please sign up in the hall.

Saturday, March 28

Please also consider helping with the Pascha Bread baking on Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 AM.

Every Friday during Lent

Lenten Friday Soup & Bread - Beginning on Friday, February 28 we will have Soup & Bread after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Please volunteer to help provide this Vegetarian Soup and Bread; sign up in the hall or on the sheet attached to bulletin emails.

Please see Liz Zackowski if you have any questions about helping with the above activities.

Reminder

St. Thomas collects food to donate to those in need. Our food-collection basket is below the icon of St. Nicolas of Myra. If you are able to, please donate non-perishable food items in this basket.

Thank You

I would like to thank all of you who volunteer to host our Sunday coffee social. We all enjoy this time of fellowship, and your contribution to this event is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank all of you for the time, talents, gifts, and treasures that you offer to God and to St. Thomas Byzantine Catholic Church. Your generosity helps support the needs of St. Thomas. May the Lord reward your kindness!

A message from Simon, your brother in Christ…

A year and a half ago, I joined the congregation of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church but I still have not met all the church members. Father Michael has kindly allowed me to introduce myself and tell you a little about my background and spiritual journey.

My maternal grandfather Baruch (meaning "blessed" in Hebrew) and my grandmother Esther emigrated from Odessa, Ukraine in the early 1900s. They made their home in Paris so Esther could begin her studies at the Sorbonne. Years later, they settled in London, England where my mother Naomi was born. My father David was born in Warsaw, Poland. At the start of the second World War, he enlisted in the Polish air force. During the war, David's family members were sent to Nazi concentration camps where they all perished.

I was raised in the Jewish faith by my grandfather Baruch who was an Orthodox Jew. A few years after my Bar Mitzvah (the religious initiation ceremony of a Jewish boy who has reached the age of 13 and is regarded as ready to observe religious precepts and eligible to take part in public worship), I came to understand and believe in a definite spiritual connection between the Old and New Testament, inspiring my journey into the Christian faith. A few years later, I became a Messianic Jew. A Messianic Jew believes in both the Old and New Testament and that Jesus Christ is the Messiah spoken of by the prophets and the risen Son of God.

In my late 20s, I arrived in the United States in order to pursue a career in the music business. During my first year in the states, I was introduced to and studied with two born again Messianic rabbis whom I credit with finally sealing my belief in the Old Testament prophecies and the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ. A few years later, an Episcopalian priest baptized me with water -- In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit -- making me a member of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. My holy baptism was administered at Saint John's Church in lower Manhattan, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, in the Anglican communion.

On Wednesday, February 12th, here at Saint Thomas, I will be Chrismated under the guidance of Father Michael Sidun at the 7:00 pm Liturgy. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Father Michael, Deacon Michael, the Bullock and Little families, and Tom Clark for their spiritual guidance, and the members of the church for their friendship and support as I approach the final destination of my long, wonderful and enlightening spiritual journey.

To Simon,

We, your brothers and sisters in Christ, are grateful that we are able to celebrate your Chrismation with you. We welcome you to the St. Thomas family and look forward to being a part of your ongoing spiritual growth.

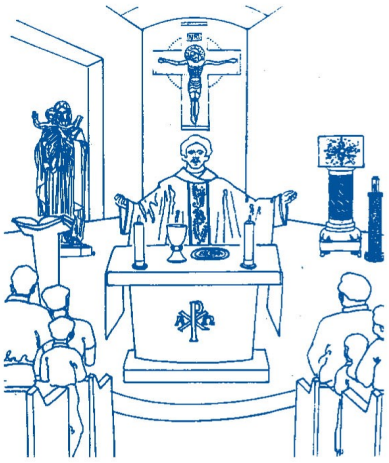
May God grant you many blessed years.

Your St. Thomas Family

Two Different Traditions — One Catholic Church —

ROMAN RITE TODAY

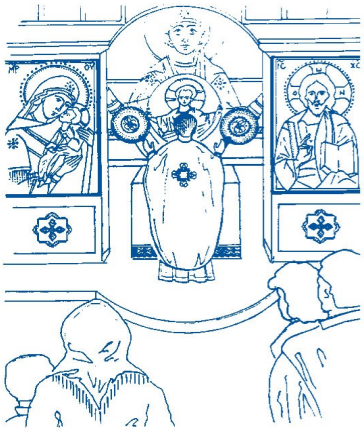
Priest faces people across the altar.



The image is: gathering around the Lord's table here and now.

BYZANTINE RITE TODAY

Priest faces East, towards altar along with the people.



The image is: leading the people to the Heavenly Liturgy in God's Kingdom.



We like things that are new and modern, and use them in worship, too. Church buildings and services today use things from present everyday life and culture.



We like things that we have received from our ancestors. Services and church buildings, even new ones, are based on traditional and timeless models.

Prayers are kept simple, not repeated. Great care is taken to give the whole text of the service in programs or missalettes, so that the mind can grasp things clearly.

Prayers are repeated and sung. There is a lot of movement; many senses are used to get the whole self (mind and body) involved in worshipping God.

IS ONE TRADITION BETTER THAN THE OTHER? NO! BOTH TRADITIONS ARE GOOD, AND BOTH ARE CATHOLIC!

The faith is the same, but we express it differently.

***Byzantine Catholics include people of the following ancestry:** Albanian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Italo-Albanian, Macedonian, Melkite (Middle Eastern), Romanian, Russian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Ukrainian, but also many others.

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Text by Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, S.Th.D. ~ Illustrations by Hieromonk Damian (Higgins)