March 2020

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

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

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!



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



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

Wednesday, March 4
Gerasimus Venerable
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: End to abortion and euthanasia(Fr.A.Rojas)

Friday, March 6
42 Martyrs of Ammorium
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: + Mary Gentile (Sally Rock)



Saturday Morning, March 7
2nd All Souls Saturday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM
Intention: †All Souls
Hebrews 3:12-16;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-17;
Mark 1:35-44; John 5:24-30

Saturday Evening, March 7
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: +Helen Ferencz (Al Ferencz)



SUNDAY, March 8
Tone 6

Second Sunday of the Great Fast
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Heb 1:10-2:3; Mk 2:1-12
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Wednesday, March 11
Sophronius Patriarch of Jerusalem
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: +Mary Karnya (Karnya Family)

Friday, March 13
Translation of the Relics of Nicephorus—Patriarch
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Fr. Artthur Rojas (Fr. M.Sidun)



Saturday Morning, March 14
3rd All Souls Saturday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM
Intention: †All Souls
Hebrews 10:32-38;
Mark 2:14-17;

Saturday Evening, March 14
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: +Helen Ferencz (Al Ferencz)



SUNDAY, March 15
Tone 7
Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Cross

Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
Heb: 4:14-5:6; Mk 8:34-9:1



SUNDAY EVENING , March 15
Healing Service & Confessions
5:00 PM
Healing Service & Confessions at St. Thomas Byzantine Catholic Church on March 15 Sunday , at 5:00 pm The Lenten season is fast upon us! To help us prepare our souls for a renewal and a conversion, the Eastern Churches will meet at St. Thomas on 19 W. Bruce Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233 for a Healing Service. Several priests will be available for Confessions.

Wednesday, March 18
MID-LENT
Cyril of Jerusalem Archbishop
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention:

Friday, March 20
Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Rhiannon Then and family (Brian Moore)

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NI KA



Saturday Morning, March 21
4rd All Souls Saturday Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM
Intention: †All Souls
Hebrews 6:9-12;
Mark 7:31-37;

Saturday Evening, March 21
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: +Souls in Purgatory (Fr.Arthur Rojas)



SUNDAY, March 22
Tone 7
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
St. John Climacus
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas
Heb: 6:13-20; Mk 9:17-31

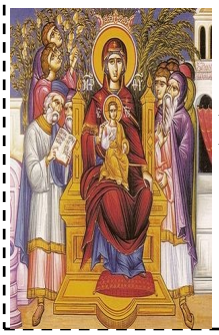


Tuesday, March 24
Great Canon of Our Holy Father Andrew of Crete 7:00 PM



Wednesday, March 25
Annunciation of the Theotokos
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Heb 2:11– 18; Lk 1:24-38
Intention: Don & Vera Bedrin and family (Bullock family)

Friday, March 27
Matrona Venerable
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00PM
Intention: Fr.Michael Sidun &family (Fr A. Rojas)



Saturday Morning, March 28
Akathistos Saturday
Akathist to the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary 9:00 AM

Saturday Evening, March 28
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: +Marianne Phelan (Forbes family)



Sunday, March 29
Tone 1
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast Commemoration of Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29;
Mark 10:32-45; Luke 7:36-50
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Wednesday, April 1
Mary of Egypt Venerable
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: *Don & Vera Bedrin and family (Bullock family)*

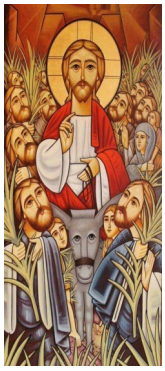
Friday, April 3
Nicetas Venerable –Confessor
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Michael & Barb Little and family (Stacy Doreen)



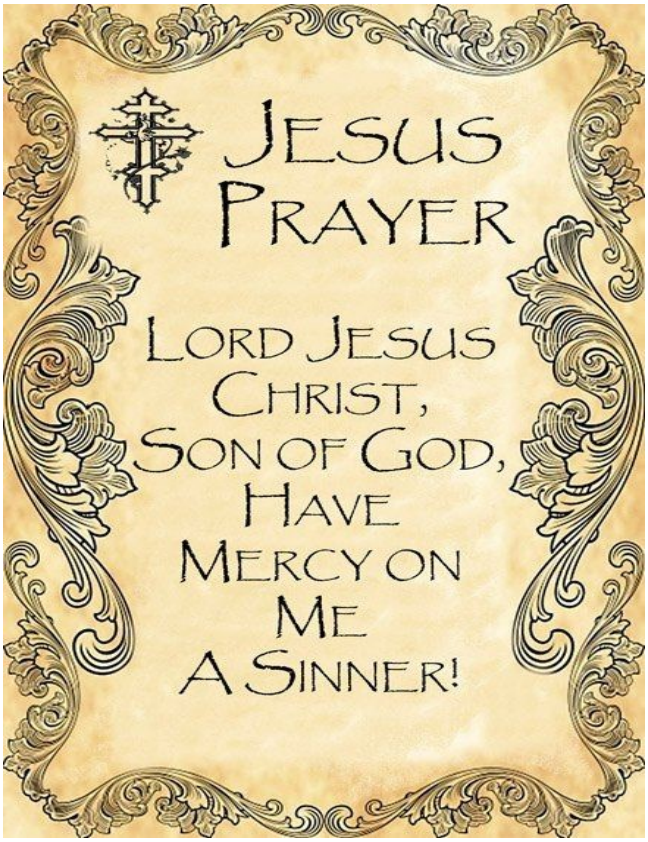
Saturday Morning, April 4
Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM
Intention: Anisa Person (Gail & Jan Person)

Hebrews 12:28-13:8; John 11:1-45

Saturday Evening, April 4
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Genesis 49:1-2,8-12; Zephaniah 3:14-19;
Zechariah 9:9-15
Intention: Lubov Sidun (Fr. Michael and Daughters)



Palm Sunday, April 5
Festal Tone
Palm (Flowery/Willow)
Sunday Third Hour 9:40 AM
Blessing of palms & willows with procession
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Philippians 4:4-9; John 12:1-18
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



Lord Jesus Christ, *(Son of the Living God,)*
have mercy on me, a sinner.
(Repeat 30, 50, or 100 times)

The Prayer of St. Ephrem

Lord and Master of my life,
spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,
lust for power, and idle chatter.
(Prostration)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant,
the spirit of integrity, humility,
patience, and love. (Prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King,
let me see my own sins
and not judge my brothers and sisters;
for you are blessed forever and ever.
Amen. (Prostration)

Happy Birthday!

SIDUN, Teresa	3/4
FORBES, Josh	3/10
BRONSON, Phillip	3/11
BRONSON, Jonathan	3/15
FERENCZ, Al	3/19
MOORE, Julia	3/21
LOPEZ, Richard	3/22
MURPHY, Patrick	3/25
BUCHMAN, Simon	3/29

Happy Anniversary!

SIIDUN, Fr. Michael & Luba	3/4
BUCHMAN, Simon & Pam	3/6
COONROD, Martha	3/21

May God grant them many blessed years

THE ANGELIC SALUTATION "The Hail Mary"—Byzantine Form:
Rejoice, Mother of God, Virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of our souls.

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 February

Total deposits	$7,290.15
*Minus special collections	-1,100.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$6,190.15

Feb. 2

Tithes: Adults	$1,001.00
Donations: Misc.	50.00
Improvements, Remodeling	50.00
Candles	79.00
Rent: Church or Hall	300.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,491.00

Feb. 9

Tithes: Adults	$1,197.00
Donations: Misc.	62.00
Candles	34.00
Coffee Social	12.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,305.00

Feb. 16

Tithes: Adults	$1,602.00
Donations: Misc.	575.00
Candles	103.00
*Bishop's Appeal	1,100.00
Gift Shop	45.00
Total deposit to checking	3,425.00
*Minus special collections	-1,100.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$2,325.00

Feb. 23

Tithes: Adults	$891.00
Donations: Misc.	95.00
Candles	73.15
Coffee Social	10.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$1,069.15

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:

2020 Eparchial Appeal

This year, Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Olmsted and Most Reverend Bishop John Pazak are asking each Parish household to donate an average of **$275.00** to the eparchy to help it with its ministry and programs. You can now donate through the parish as you have in the past (cash or check) or you can donate directly to the eparchy while crediting St. Thomas as your parish of record. This second option allows you to donate by credit card (in addition to check). Thank you for your generosity! This is no small sum of money for most of us. If our parish reaches its goal of $16,400.00, we will receive a 10% rebate as a reward for reaching that goal. Let's include the Bishop's Appeal in our extra charitable giving during the Great Fast. As of February 23, we have collected $1,100. If you did not receive a mailing from Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Olmsted and Most Reverend Bishop John Pazak regarding the Eparchial Appeal and would like to make a donation, please let Fr. Michael know. Thank you for your generosity!

March 15 Sunday , at 5:00 pm

Healing Service & Confessions at St. Thomas Byzantine Catholic Church on March 15 Sunday , at 5:00 pm The Lenten season is fast upon us! To help us prepare our souls for a renewal and a conversion, the Eastern Churches will meet at St. Thomas on 19 W. Bruce Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85233 for a Healing Service. Several priests will be available for Confessions.

Saturday, March 28

Please also consider helping with the Pascha Bread baking on Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 AM. **Please see** Liz Zackowski if you have any questions about helping with the above activities.

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.

ThankYou

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!

The Jesus Prayer

- As well as using icons in their spiritual devotions, Christians in the Orthodox tradition also make use of the 'Jesus Prayer'. This prayer can take several different forms but it basically says:

'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me'

- More than just a prayer, this is really a cry for help. Many Christians use it as an 'arrow' prayer, one that they use when they do not have time for anything longer.

<u>The Jesus Prayer recognises 2 things:</u>

Who Jesus is – the Son of God. This means that Jesus had the power to help because he is divine – God himself.

We are all sinners and so need God's help – we cannot enter God's presence unless we have His forgiveness.

Many Christians use this prayer as a basis for their spiritual meditation, thinking deeply on the depth of meaning in each word. They say the prayer in rhythm with their own breathing so that it is muttered many times a day – almost without the person being aware of it

