Parochial Administrator:
Father Michael Sidun

January 2021

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!
!Cristo ha sido bautizado! !En el Rio Jordan!
Khrystos khreshchayet′sya ! V Yordani !



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.

Liturgical Schedule

*Saturday Vigil
5pm – Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy

*Sunday
10am – Divine Liturgy

*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

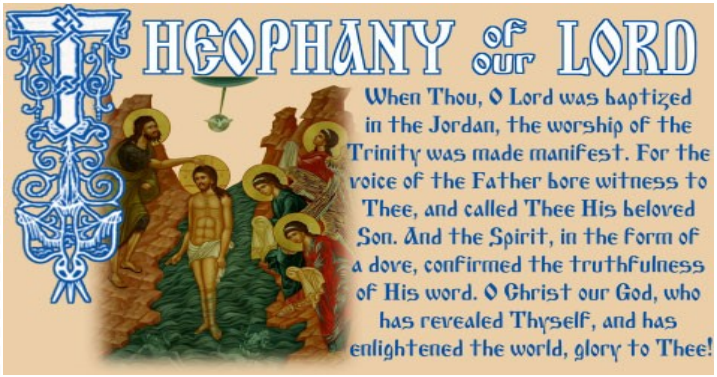
Office Hours – (call ahead to confirm as the priest is often out of the office for sick calls or other parish obligations)
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm

CONFESSIONS: Check bulletin for weekly times as well as special times before feast days. Also available by appointment.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Before hospitalization, after Holy Services in church. For emergencies, please call the Parish Office immediately.
BAPTISM/CHRISMATION/EUCHARIST: Must be arranged at least three months in advance.
CROWNING IN MARRIAGE: Must be arranged at least six months in advance.



Sunday, January 3, 2021, Tone 7
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY
CONFESSIONS 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
2 Tim 4:5-8; Mk 1:1-8
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Tuesday, January 5
THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Vigil Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Tom Clark & family (Simon Buchman)



Wednesday, January 6
THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & GREAT BLESSING OF WATER
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Tom Clark & family (Simon Buchman)

Please schedule your Home and Family Theophany Blessings—the season is NOW and our prayers are EFFECTIVE, so seek the Lord while He may be found! The sign -up sheet is in the Church and Church Hall.

Saturday Evening, January 9
CONFESSIONS 4:00-4:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Eph 4:7-13; Mt 4:12-17
Intention: +Andria Kowalczyk (Kowalczyk family)



Sunday, January 10, Tone 7
SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY
CONFESSIONS 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Eph 4:7-13; Mt 4:12-17
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday, January 11
Theodosius Venerable
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Kathleen Richard & family (Fr. M. Sidun)

Wednesday January 13
Hermolaus and Stratonicus, Martyrs
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention:+Jeff Paice (Beth & Brian Matthysse)

Saturday Evening, January 16
CONFESSIONS 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
1 Tim 4:7-13: Lk 19:1-10
Intention: Mary McGuire (Bullock family)



Sunday, January 17, Tone 8
33 rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday of Zacchaeus
CONFESSIONS 9:00– 9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
1 Tim 4:9-15; Lk 19:1-10
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Tuesday, January 19
Macarius Venerable
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: +Liz Kol (Tom Kol)

WE THANK ALL WHO REMEMBERED OUR PARISH AND FATHER MICHAEL AND HIS FAMILY WITH CARDS AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS. YOUR THOUGHTFUL PRAYERS, GOOD WISHES, AND GIFTS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED AND WE WISH YOU MANY HAPPY AND BLESSED YEARS IN HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.



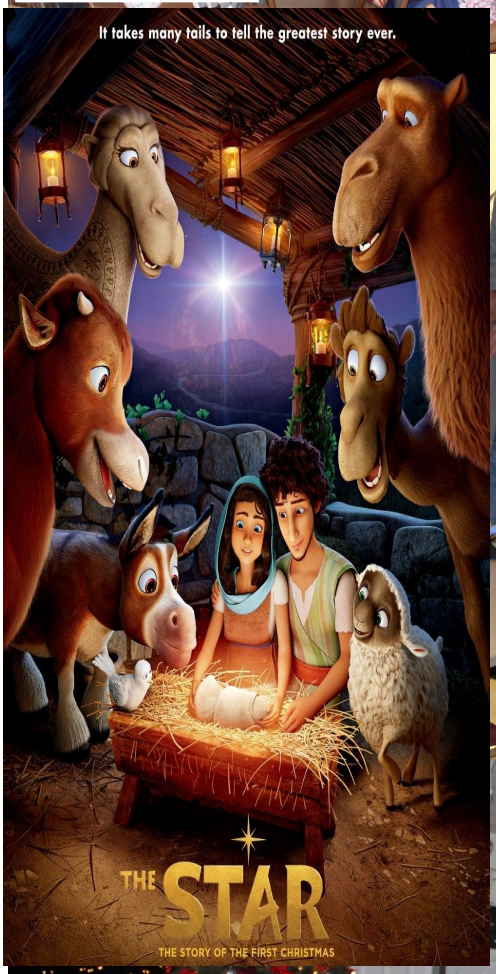




Catechism class



St. Thomas Church







Movie night before Christmas with children and parents

Wednesday January 20
Euthymius the Great Venerable
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: +Sarah Matthysse (Beth & Brian Matthysse)

Saturday Evening, January 23
CONFESSIONS 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
2 Tim 3:10-15: Lk 18:10-14
Intention: +Steven Rewolinski (Brian & Rhiannon Moore)



Sunday, January 24, Tone 1
Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
CONFESSIONS 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
2 Tim 3:10-15: Lk 18:10-14
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday, January 25
Gregory the Theologian Bishop
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: +David McCloskey (Brian & Rhiannon Moore)

Wednesday, January 27
Translation of the Relics of John Chrysostom
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: +Bishop Gerald Dino (Fr. Michael & family)

Friday, January 29
Three Holy Hierarchs
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Heb 13:7-16; Mt 5:14-19
Intention: +Bishop Gerald Dino (Bob & Mary Lynn Cihak)

Saturday Evening, January 30
CONFESSIONS 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
1 Cor 6:12-20; Lk 15:11-32
Intention: The Aguayo family (Simon Buchman)



Sunday, January 31, Tone 2
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON
CONFESSIONS 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
1 Cor 6;12-20; Lk 15:11-32
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

February 1st & 2nd are the Feast of The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple.
The feast which commemorates the presentation of our Lord by His parents in the Temple in Jerusalem on the fortieth day from His birth concludes the cycle of winter feasts that are sometimes called the "Feasts of Light". These feasts -- the Nativity, Theophany, and Meeting - have a common focus: the coming of the Messiah into the world. In the West this is known as Candlemas. Please bring your candles to St Thomas for the blessing of candles.

Monday, February 1
Encounter of our Lord with Simeon
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Vigil Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Fr. Michael and family (Simon Buchman)



Tuesday, February 2
Encounter of our Lord with Simeon
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: Mary-Sherry Whah (Fr. Michael & family)

Wednesday February 3
Synaxis of the Holy Prophets Simeon & Anna
CONFESSIONS 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Intention: +Robert Hanley (Bob & Mary Lynn Cihak)

ALL SOULS SATURDAY

Liturgies will be at 10:00 am. Please take some time to remember your deceased loved ones. It is a statement of our faith that we not only believe in Eternal Life but also celebrate and remember our beloved deceased through the prayer of the Holy Services. Update your All Souls list and drop it into the Sunday Collection or hand it to Father.

First All Souls Liturgy is February 6th.



Saturday Morning, February 6
1st All Souls Saturday, Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM
Intention: †All Souls

Saturday Evening, February 6
CONFESSIONS 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: +Susan Matthysse (Brian & Beth Matthysse)



Sunday, February 7, Tone 3
SUNDAY OF MEAT FARE
CONFESSIONS 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:40 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
1 Cor 8:8-9:2: Mt 25:31-46
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Holy supper at church St. Thomas



Brother Ivan, C.Ss.R. Redemptorist of the Province of Canada with Bp. John Pazak, C.Ss.R. and Fr. Michael Sidun























Home Blessings with Holy Water on Theophany:
Preparing the Home for the Blessing

Traditionally, the pastor visits the homes of all his parishioners on Theophany and the days shortly following.

How should we make ready for this visit? **It is a long-standing Byzantine tradition that the homes of all the faithful be blessed yearly, after the blessed feast of Theophany. The power of water to sanctify and transform is amply demonstrated in baptism, and we believe that God chooses to bless us through holy objects and actions, such as the relics of those who have pleased God, holy icons, oil and water.**

Most of the critical moments of family life happen in the home. In the home we pray together, the parents MUST teach the children about the Byzantine Catholic Faith, and the foundational principles for living according to the Gospel and Commandments are modeled by the parents for their children.

Since so many important Christian works take place in the home, there are also many great temptations, where misunderstandings and arguments are possible. It is imperative for the Christian family to continually ask God's blessing upon their home, and to have their home blessed with Holy Water at least yearly. If something extremely defiling occurs in the home, or the family is enduring some great temptation, the home can be blessed at any time, and even numerous times.

When the priest arrives, he usually prays a short service of supplication and then blesses all living areas of the house with Holy Water, while singing the Troparion for Theophany. In this way, the home of a Christian is "marked" and sanctified.

Preparing the Home for the Blessing

The family must ALL be present before the priest arrives. The priest will pray for and with the family, but *NOT IN PLACE OF* the family!

All rooms will be blessed. They should be neat and clean. When the priest visits your home, he is representing God, similar to the priest's role in the sacrament of Confession. Thus when the priest visits your home, it's as if you are inviting God into your home - it would not do to invite Him into a mess! Make sure a light is on in all rooms, and the door is open.

All radios, TVs, video games, etc. should be turned off.

In a prominent area of the home (which should be the family's icon corner), a small table should be set up, as follows:

- **A list of the first names of the family members should be provided, so the priest can commemorate them in the supplication service. The Living and the Deceased should be on separate lists, or in separate columns.**
- **A Candle should be burning on the table.**
- **If the family has a home censer, it can be lit, with incense ready to be added.**

If the family has a favorite Theophany Icon, it should be placed on the table, preferably standing up. This may be easily accomplished if the table is against a wall, or by placing the icon in an inexpensive "plate holder". Alternatively, the icon may be hung on the wall.

When the priest arrives the whole family should gather together with him, and sing the proper responses and sing with him the Theophany Troparion. When the time comes for the house to be blessed with the water, someone in the family should lead the priest with a lit candle from room to room (throughout the house,) and the rest of the family follows, singing the Troparion.



Happy Birthday!

HILL, Virginia	1/4
PAOLO, Carol	1/14
GILSDORF, Emma	1/25
CLARK, Sophia	1/26
SULLIVAN, Siobhan	1/27
FORBES, Peter	1/27
FORBES, Lucy	1/29
BUBNASH, Irene	1/30

May God grant them many blessed years



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Summary for December 2020

Total deposits for St. Thomas $5,424

Dec. 6
Tithes: Adults $1,292

Dec. 13
Tithes: Adults $1,186

Dec. 20
Tithes: Adults $1,776

Dec. 27
Tithes: Adults $1,170

Thank you to all who participated in online giving, mailed or hand-delivered your tithe or other donations these past couple weeks!

*DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME, PLEASE REMEMBER THE BILLS
STILL NEED TO BE PAID. PLEASE CONSIDER MAILING US YOUR MONTHLY DONATIONS.
May God bless your generosity to His Church!

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

Thank you! Gracias! D'akujem! Ευχαριστούμε! Дякую!

Sunday Coffee Social:
As we continue to move through the season of holy days, each Sunday Coffee social for January will be pot-luck style. We ask each family to bring a dish to share and to help with clean-up afterwards. Please contact Lynn Sims at 480-205-0508 if you have any questions.

ThankYou

I would 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!



Roy Sims, his son, Lucas, & Fr. Michael. Roy, who grew up in the St.Thomas family, is visiting from VA.

Saint Nicholas feast



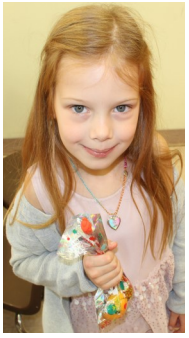
















REMARKS

1. Liturgy of St. Basil. Feast of our Holy Father Basil the Great. Readings are for the Feast of the Circumcision and for St. Basil.
1-4. From Christmas to Theophany, free from fast or abstinence.
2-5. Prefestive Days of the Feast of the Theophany.
4. Gospels of 31st Wk after Pentecost are repeated because of the number of weeks until Pascha.
5. Royal Hours are celebrated in the morning and Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil in the evening. Strict abstinence from meat or dairy products may be observed.
6. Great Blessing of Water is done on Tuesday evening and on the day of Theophany.
8.15.22. Simple abstinence from meat or equivalent penance.
11. Epistles and Gospels of the Thirty-second week after Pentecost are read because of the number of weeks until Pascha. The Epistles of the Thirty-second week are repeated.
17. Feast of our Holy Father Anthony the Great. Ep., Heb 13:17-21; Gos., Lk 6:17-23.
24. Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the week of January 25-30 is free from fasting and abstinence.