**Parochial Administrator**:
*Father Michael Sidun*

***April - May 2021***

# *St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church*

***Christ is risen! / Indeed He is risen!*** English
***Christós voskrése! / Voístinu voskrése!*** Slavonic-Ukrainian
***Cristo ha resucitado! / En verdad ha resucitado!*** Spanish
***Christós anésti! / Alithós anésti!*** Greek



## 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

**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.

**PARISH GUIDELINES**

**MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING:** Members of St. Thomas Church have registered, attend the Divine Liturgy at least 3 week-ends each month, participate in the community life of the parish, and contribute *generously of their time, talent, and treasure*. **Members over 18 years of age must be registered separately from their families.**

**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.

**MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist):** Must be arranged at least three months in advance. Expectant parents should contact the pastor prior to the birth of the child. The priest can come to pray over the baby and mother in the days after birth. After 40 days, Churching Prayers welcome the baby for the first time and the mother back to Church. To request the Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism), parents must be members in good standing and attend baptism preparation with the Godparents. At least one Godparent must be a member in good standing of St. Thomas Church. The other Godparent may be a Catholic or Orthodox Christian.

**CROWNING IN MARRIAGE:** Must be arranged at least six months in advance.

# *Christ is risen! / Indeed He is risen!*





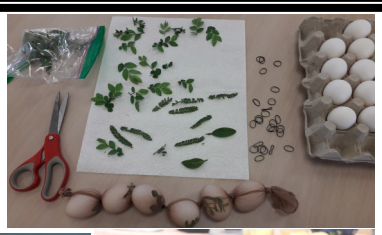





Pysanky- Easter egg class























**Saturday Evening, April 10**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31
**Intention:** Deirdre McQuade (Bullock family)

**Thomas Sunday, April 11th—Easter Egg Hunt**: We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for our children on our Patronal Feast after Divine Liturgy. Plastic eggs will be available in the church hall. Please take some home, fill, and return to church. (Please don't fill with candy/chocolate that will melt. Jelly beans and non-candy items such as stickers or miniature images of saints work well inside the eggs.) Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Please talk with Danny or Kris Forbes if you have questions or to volunteer for this activity.

**April 11, Thomas Sunday—PARISH PATRONAL FEAST**

Bishop John Pazak will be attending our Patronal Feast. Additional Bishops may also attend and we have invited clergy from other Catholic Churches. We will also have a potluck to celebrate the great feast of Thomas Sunday.



**Christ is risen!**
**Indeed He is risen!**

On April 11th after the Divine Liturgy, we will have a **POTLUCK** to celebrate the great feast of Thomas Sunday. We ask all parishioners to please bring your traditional Pascha favorites or whatever you care to share for this feast day. Please stay & spend time sharing the Resurrection Joy!



**Sunday, April 11, Festal Tone**
**Thomas Sunday**
Parish Patronal Feast
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Procession & Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31
**Intention:** Parishioners of St. Thomas




**Artos** is a Greek word which means bread made with yeast. The Artos is blessed on Easter Sunday after the Ambon Prayer which is said at the end of the Liturgy. Even though this is a custom and an old-world tradition in our Byzantine Church, we find regrettably that only a few churches carry out this practice. The prayer used in the blessing of the Artos is as follows: "We bless and sanctify this bread on this Paschal day, for the honor, praise and memory of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom we are released, freed … We further ask Almighty God to bless this bread and that all who partake of it may share in His Heavenly gifts and be free of all pain and sickness, and be granted salvation of soul and health of body." ["Trebnik", Žokva, Pp 602-604]

During Easter Week, which is also known as Bright Week, the blessed bread, covered with an icon of the Resurrection, remains on the Tetrapod to be kissed until the Sunday after Easter (St. Thomas Sunday), when the Artos is distributed to the faithful. According to the old custom, the Artos was distributed on the Saturday of Bright Week after the Holy Liturgy with the prayer, "this bread may be for the health and sanctification of the soul of him who eats of it." In the former centuries the faithful would preserve little pieces of bread for those who were seriously ill or in danger of death and unable to receive Holy Communion. They would be given a piece of Artos as a substitute for Holy Communion.

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**Wednesday, April 14**
Martin - Pope
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention**: Kelsey, David, & Seth (Brian & Beth Matthysse)

**Saturday Evening, April 17**
CONFESSIONS **3:00-3:30 PM**
Full Vespers **3:50-4:50 PM**
Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
**Intention:** +Helen Ferencz (Dillon Ferencz)



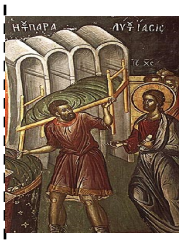
**SUNDAY, April 18, Festal Tone**
**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 6:1-7; Mark 15:43-16:8
**Intention:** Parishioners of St. Thomas

**Tuesday, April 20**
Theodore the Hairshirt Wearer - Venerable
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention:** +Ivan Ridzamkovoho (Honora Bullock)

**Wednesday, April 21**
Januarius and Others Bishop - Martyr
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention**: Bronson Family

**Friday, April 23 - Simple***
**George Great-Martyr**
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention:** +Souls of the Departed & the Dying

**Saturday Evening, April 24**
CONFESSIONS **4:00-4:30 PM**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
**Intention:** Jan Person (Little family)



**SUNDAY, April 25, Festal Tone**
**Sunday of the Paralytic Man**
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 9:32-42; Jn 5:1-15
**Intention:** Parishioners of St. Thomas

**Tuesday, April 27**
Simeon Bishop - Martyr
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention:** +Robert Hanley (Bob & Mary Lynn Cihak)

**Wednesday, April 28**
Jason & Sosipater - Apostles
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention**: Jan Person (Bullock family)

**Friday, April 30**
James the Greater - Apostle
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention:** Bronson Family (Bullock family)

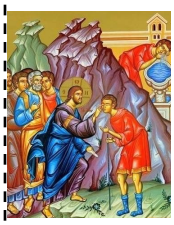
**Saturday Evening, May 1**
CONFESSIONS **4:00-4:30 PM**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
**Intention:** Ken Hicks (Brian & Beth Matthysse)



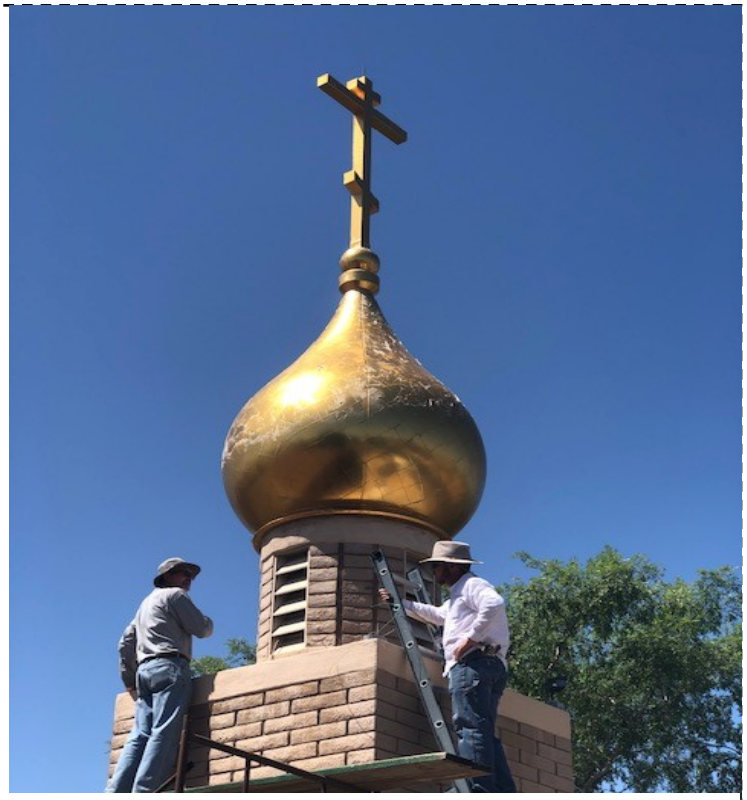
**SUNDAY, May 2, Festal Tone**
**Sunday of the Samaritan Women**
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 11:19-26 & 29-30; Jn 4:5:42
**Intention:** Parishioners of St. Thomas

**Wednesday, May 5**
Irene - Great Martyr
CONFESSIONS **6:00-6:30 PM**
Divine Liturgy **7:00 PM**
**Intention:** Bronson Family

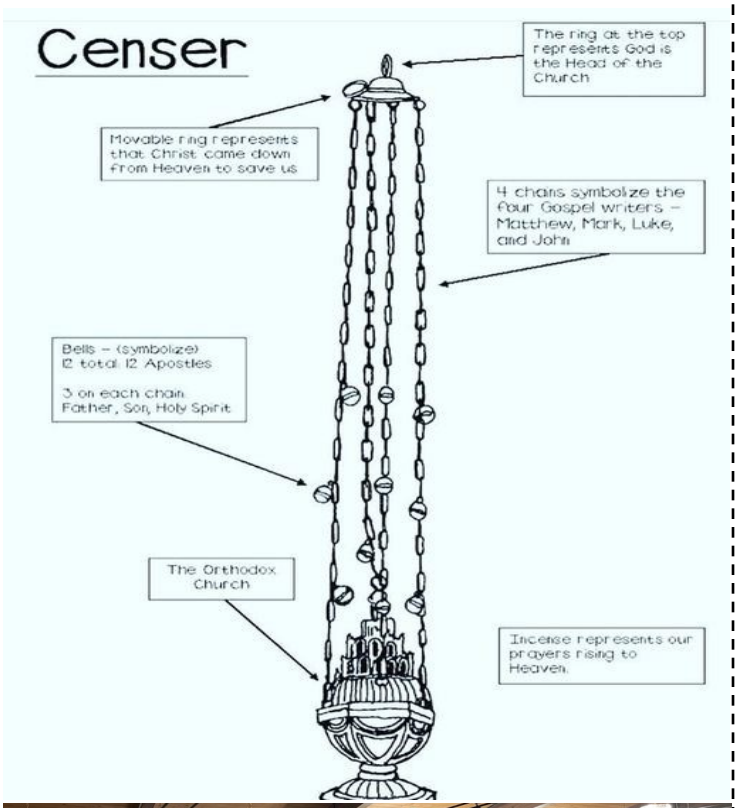
**Saturday Evening, May 8**
John - Apostle and Evangelist
CONFESSIONS **4:00-4:30 PM**
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy **5:00 PM**
**Intention:** +Helen Ferencz (Al Ferencz)



**SUNDAY, May 9, Festal Tone**
**Sunday of the Man Born Blind**
CONFESSIONS **9:00-9:30 AM**
Third Hour **9:40 AM**
Divine Liturgy **10:00 AM**
Acts 16:16-34; Jn 9:1-38
**Intention:** Parishioners of St. Thomas



Jeff Sims & Tim Hegg fixed the lights on the Church's bell tower






Canon of St. Andrew of Crete




## Happy Birthday!

| | |
|---|---|
| Liubov SIDUN | 4/4 |
| Grant HOLZHAUER | 4/5 |
| Juliette HOLZHAUER | 4/14 |
| Jeffrey PARK | 4/14 |
| Fr. Michael KIRILA | 4/16 |
| Reg PARKER | 4/19 |
| Tracy AGUAYO | 4/20 |
| Cal KARNYA | 4/23 |
| Charles RAWLINS | 4/23 |
| Fay HOLZHAUER | 4/28 |
| Donna SULLIVAN | 4/30 |

## Happy Anniversary!

| | |
|---|---|
| Bob & Mary Lynn CIHAK | 4/13 |
| Don & Fran THOMPSON | 4/14 |

**Summary for March 2021**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tithes: Adults | $4,418.52 |
| Palm Sunday | 341.00 |
| Donations: Misc. | 685.00 |
| Improvements, Remodeling | 50.00 |
| Flowers, Palms | 10.00 |
| Candles | 241.00 |
| *Bishop's Appeal | 20.00 |
| Coffee Social | 94.00 |
| Gift Shop | 86.45 |
| Total deposit to checking | $5,945.97 |

**May God grant YOU many blessed years.**




**Thank you to all who participate in online giving, mail, or hand-deliver your tithe or other donations!**

**As an additional option, we have also returned to our tradition of passing the donation baskets during Liturgy.**

DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE BILLS STILL NEED TO BE PAID.
May God bless your generosity to His Church!

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

# Announcements:

## 2021 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 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 **$10,039.33**, 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 April 4, we have collected $3,000.00**. 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! **https://ephx.org/st-thomas-the-apostle-eparchical-appeal/**

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

### Sunday Coffee Social

We have returned to our "normal" tradition for Sunday Coffee Socials wherein parishioners/ volunteer to host a Sunday Social, excluding Potlucks (2nd Sunday of each month & other special Sunday events). **A sign-up sheet for Mar-May is on the Hall bulletin board.** Teaming up with another family to host a Sunday Social is encouraged. **Many dates for April & May are still open, so please consider volunteering.** Please talk with Lynn Sims if you have any questions (480-205-0508).
**I thank all of you who support St. Thomas with your time, talents, gifts, and treasures. May the Lord reward your kindness!**


Easter





St. Thomas youth group



Blessing Ashton Urbanski from Wasilla, AK



Blessing crosses for the Forbes family



Blessing of the handmade Byzantine Cross by Kyle





Baptism of Agnes-Jesusita Kostyun





# 2021 Myrrh-Bearers Retreat
# BE NOT AFRAID
## Saturday, June 26, 2021

Time PST 8:30-12:30 a.m.
Time MST 9:30-1:30 p.m
Time MDT 10:30-230 p.m.

## Our presenters will be . . .

**Prayer Life and Vocations**



Mother Gabriella
& Sister Natalia

Presentations, opening prayers, Moleben, and closing prayers



**Icon Writing**
Siobhan Sullivan



**Byzantine Theology of the Body**
Rev. Thomas Loya

**ByziMom**
Lynne Wardach



**Join the women, teens and girls of our Eparchy for our retreat.**

**We will be meeting virtually via Zoom this year.**

Before you say "ugh," because we all know it's not the same as meeting with each other in person, this venue is a blessing of a different kind. Make some time to "*set aside all earthly cares*." Give your ears some exercise and your mind, heart, and soul refreshment.

Please join us for an enriching experience. Cost is minimal, the renewal is priceless!

There will be three tracks, each 45 minutes in length.
Three groups (rooms) will be available for appropriate age levels for all three tracks
(see registration form).

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## Myrrh-Bearers Retreat ATTENDEES

**REGISTRATION Monday, April 5 through May 31, 2021**
**(material packet delivery can not be guaranteed after May 31)**

**Women 18+**
**Teens 12-17**
**Girls 7-12**

**Name (Adult):**_____ **email:**_____

**Address:**_____ **City/State/Zip**_____

**Name of Teen:**_____ **Name of Teen:**_____

**Name of Child:**_____ **Name of Child:**_____

**Method of Payment:**

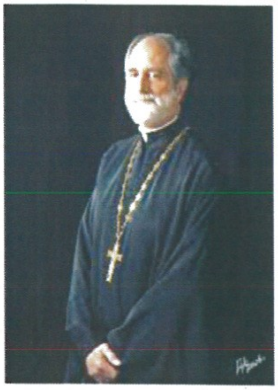
- ☐ **Online (www.ephx.org/myrrhbearers) under news/events**
- ☐ **Mail check payable to Eparchy of Phoenix**

**Cost: $15 per individual, or $35 per family (same household)**

**TOTAL SUBMITTED:**_____

## Our Presenters Will Be . . .

### Byzantine Theology of the Body



Reverend Thomas Loya, a popular speaker on The Theology of the Body, is pastor of an Illinois parish and host of two radio programs. Rev. Thomas Loya, a popular and renowned speaker on The Theology of the Body, is pastor at Annunciation in Illinois and host of two radio programs. Fr. Loya is a member of the Tabor Life Institute, which offers theology-of-the-body-related lectures, workshops, retreats and study groups. "The theology of the body means exactly what it says: the body reveals God (theology). Zoom in to hear his words of wisdom on insight for our lives. Loya is a member of the Tabor Life Institute, which offers theology-of-the-body-related lectures, workshops, retreats and study groups.

### Prayer Life and Vocations



Mother Gabriella is a stavrophore nun of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery in Burton, Ohio. She joined the monastery in 2011 and made her life profession in 2015. An Ohio native, Mother Gabriella was born, raised and educated in Akron. Prior to entering, she earned a degree in Accounting from The University of Akron and worked for a mid-sized accounting firm, living the dangerous life of a senior tax associate. Despite her status as an only child, she enjoys community life, and serves her community in many capacities, but especially as economos (treasurer). She also currently helps to co-host the new 'Created and Called Podcast' for the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Cleveland.



Sister Natalia entered Christ the Bridegroom Monastery in Burton, Ohio in 2015 and has been a rasophore nun since 2016. As a military kid, Sister Natalia grew up in a variety of places from Cuba to Denver.
She earned her B.S. in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines. Her route to monasticism passed through both urban missions with A Simple House of Sts. Francis and Alphonsus and teaching high school math. Though her role in the monastery is wide, she spends much of her time coordinating all the guest logistics ensuring visitors are received with hospitality. Sister Natalia and Father Michael O'Loughlin co-host the podcast "What God is Not" that focuses on Byzantine Catholicism and Mystery.



### Icon Writing

Siobhan is a long-time parishioner of St Thomas the Apostle in Gilbert, a certified art and special education teacher, and trained amateur iconographer. She took workshops under Fr Marek Visnovsky in Cleveland, Ohio for several years. Siobhan is excited to share her love of the symbolism and prayer that goes into writing icons.

### Byzi Mom



Lynne Wardach has served as a catechist in the Eparchy of Passaic for over 30 years and is a homeschooling mom of five who shares the practical nuances of Eastern Christian family life through the features of her blog and website, ByziMom.com. She is the author of The Jesse Tree, The Zacchaeus Tree, and The ByziMom's Guide to Great Fast Meals. She is also the creator and executive editor of ByziKids Magazine, a fun, family resource for educating Eastern Christian children in the faith.

**Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix**

**Myrrh-Bearers Retreat Registration**

**8131 North 16th Street**

**Phoenix, Arizona 85020**

**ATTN: Diane Hvasta**

# *Holy Protection of Mary*
# *Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix*

*8105 North 16th Street*
*Phoenix, AZ 85020*

*Tel.: 602-861-9778*
*Fax: 602-861-9796*


**MEMO**

**To:** Clergy and Faithful of the Eparchy of Phoenix

**From:** Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, D.D., J.C.D., Apostolic Administrator *sede plena*

**Cc:** Bishop John S. Pazak, C.Ss.R.

**Date:** April 12, 2021

**Subject:** COVID GUIDELINES

In response to the many Executive Orders from various Governors throughout our Eparchy, the following guidelines and directives will be followed:

The spirit of hospitality and welcome should be the guiding rule while at the same time recognizing the need at all divine worship services and parish events for:

- physical distancing
- use of facial coverings
- proper hygiene and hand washing

The CDC, the medical communities of the various Counties and the Cities within our jurisdiction and the Church support these scientific-based practices as the best way to protect our community. (When available, we encourage you to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as another means to protect your neighbors, your family and yourself).

Due to the release of aerosols while we sing; WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THESE PRACTICES DURING DIVINE LITURGIES for a while longer. Please do your best to be accommodating, kind, and understanding.

As we continue to celebrate our Lord, Jesus Christ's, Glorious Resurrection, please keep in mind that we have not granted a dispensation from Sunday Divine Liturgy and Holy Days of Precept. This remains in place.

I understand that those who are vulnerable or who care for others with underlying chronic health conditions may need to stay home. For these situations, no dispensation is required, and I ask that those of you in these situations please contact your local Parish office, so that the Clergy may make a sacramental visit to you. In addition, those who are not feeling well are asked to remain at home. For the time being, I continue to encourage you to watch our Divine Liturgies via livestream where offered (please visit your parish website). If your parish does not offer live streaming you may visit the St. Stephen Cathedral website or that of another parish that live streams.

For our salvation, we need to participate in Christ's life-saving actions. Therefore, we must make every effort possible to come to the house of God, to give Him thanksgiving, worship, and adoration, and ultimately receive his life-giving Body and Blood. Parish pastors are to ensure that individual non re-useable wooden spoons are used for distribution of the Eucharist. After use they are to be appropriately burned. For everyone's safety we will continue to distance the church pews and where possible accommodate overflow.

If you arrive at your parish for Divine Liturgy and no room is available in the narthex, nave or in additional worship space, please consider viewing the livestream on your personal mobile device in the safety of your car and come into the Church during the reception of Holy Communion.

Have a blessed Paschal season and know that I pray for all of you.