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 voicemail
- press 2 for a sacramental emergency

Email
saint.thomas.pastor@gmail.com

Website
www.stabcc.org

Office Hours
By appointment only.



Father Adam Peter Lowe **Deacon Michael Sullivan**
Parochial Administrator

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.



"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4

Gratitude and Blessings!

Thank you! Gracias! D'akujem! Ευχαριστούμε!

"I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers." (2 Timothy 1:3)

Thank you, ***Diane Hvasta****, for graciously taking the initiative to conceptualize, design, have printed, and donate to St. Thomas parish the holy cards celebrating the 40th Anniversary of St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Parish in Gilbert, Arizona that were distributed following both of the two Divine Liturgies celebrating the installation of Father Adam as Parochial Administrator of St. Thomas!*



In commemoration of the
40th Anniversary of
St. Thomas the Apostle
Byzantine Catholic Church
August 15, 2022

May God grant us many more blessed years of peace, health, and happiness.

"... you... are stones of the temple of the Father, prepared for the Father's building, and drawn up on high by the instrument of Jesus Christ, which is the Cross (cf. Jn. 12:32), making use of the Holy Spirit as a rope, while your faith was the means by which you ascended, and your love the way which led up to God. You, therefore, as well as all your fellow-travelers, are God-bearers, temple-bearers, Christ-bearers, bearers of holiness, adorned in all respects with the commandments of Jesus Christ."

St. Ignatius of Antioch

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We are all very blessed at St. Thomas in that we have each other!



"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4

Christmas Message from Father Adam

Dear parishioners,

Already we find ourselves on the verge of celebrating the glorious feast of the Nativity! Christmas is right around the corner! Pause for 2 seconds ...and give thanks!! I'm praying that in the midst of the inevitable busyness, the rushing around, and endless to-do's, that you and your family will be blessed this year with many beautiful moments of Peace, in which you are able to recognise, know and celebrate that GOD IS WITH US! That, of course is what it's all about!

For most people who don't live in Arizona, certainly for our Byzantine ancestors back out east and back in eastern europe, Christmas comes "in the bleak mid-winter". At the coldest and darkest time of the year, the Church has us celebrate and sing that **God is with us**! Isaiah prophesies “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God is with us.” It's no accident that we celebrate this good news in the darkest and coldest time of the year, because it's into the darkest and coldest times and places of our lives that Christ still comes to be our savior!

The meaning of Christmas, and especially of Christmas as it is celebrated in our Byzantine rite can be summed up in these four words we sing over and over on Christmas Eve: **God is with us**! or in slavonic, **S námi Boh**! **Съ нами Богъ!** Here is the music so you can sing it, and here is the rest of this truly magnificent part of the Christmas Eve (compline) service, so that you can read and pray it at anytime! If I were a 3D graphic artist, I would have this strand of music swirling up from every page of the bulletin, with individual verses of the hymn scattered around every photo or calendar item!!



That's what we are celebrating! That for St Thomas' parish, for you, for me, and for each of us that **God is with us**! And that in whatever way it's been dark, or cold, or a *bleak mid-winter* even, that there particularly, there especially, the light of Christmas, the light and warmth of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, has come and chosen to shine, and be -right there- God with us!



Please know that you are all very much in our hearts and prayers this Christmas! God is with us! God is with YOU!!

Fr. Adam, Pani Amanda, Grace, Joyanna, and Eleissa





“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Lk 5:4

God is with us! Understand, all you nations, and submit yourselves for God is with us!	Here am I with the children God has given me, for God is with us.
S námi Boh, razumíijte jazýci, i pokarjájtesja: jáko s námi Boh!	The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, for God is with us.
Verses: Give ear all you distant lands, for God is with us.	Upon you who dwelt in the shadow of death a light has shone, for God is with us.
You mighty ones, submit yourselves, for God is with us.	For a child is born to us; a son is given to us, for God is with us.
If you strengthen yourselves again, again you will be defeated, for God is with us.	Upon His shoulder dominion rests, for God is with us.
Form a plan, but the Lord will thwart it, for God is with us.	Of His peace there is no end, for God is with us.
Whatever word you speak will not stand even among yourselves, for God is with us.	They call Him Angel of Great Counsel, for God is with us.
We will not fear what you fear nor shall we be dismayed, for God is with us.	Wonderful Counselor, for God is with us.
Hallow the Lord our God and He will be your fear, for God is with us.	Mighty God, Master, Prince of Peace, for God is with us.
If you trust in Him, He will be your refuge, for God is with us.	Father of the age to come, for God is with us.
We will hope in Him and by Him will we be saved, for God is with us.	Glory..., for God is with us.
	Now and ever..., for God is with us.



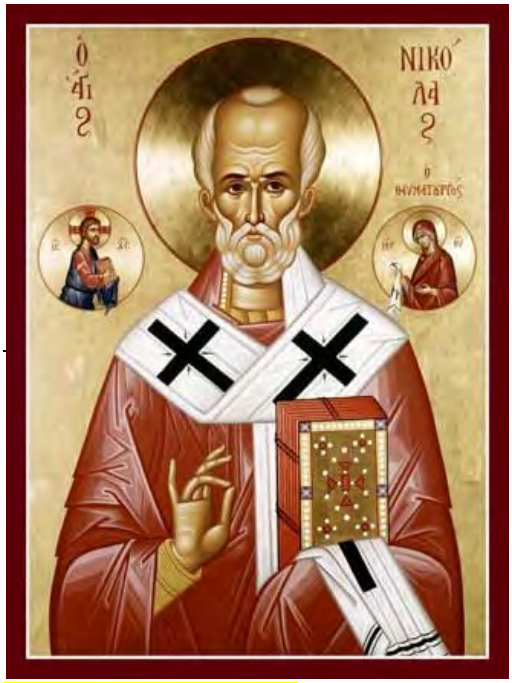
"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4

Liturgical Schedule

November 15-December 24
Phillip's (Advent) Fast
The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season. By tradition it is a period of strict abstinence with the usual mitigations. In particular, Christmas Eve, December 24, is by tradition a day of strict abstinence. Common practice in recent years has been to adopt at the very minimum some increased level of abstinence beyond that of non-penitential seasons. The observance of this fast is voluntary.

Saturday Evening, December 3
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: †Kevin Nixon (Siobhán Sullivan)

Sunday, December 4 **Tone 1**
26th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Great Martyr Barbara
Venerable Father John of Damascus
Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Ephesians 5:9-19; Luke 17:12-19
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



Tuesday, December 6
Feast of Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonder-Worker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia
Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Hebrews 13:17-21; Luke 6:17-23
Intention: Parish Iconographer Mila Mina (Dcn. Mike)



Thursday, December 8
Feast of the Maternity of the Holy Anna (Conception by the Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos)
(No Confessions before liturgy this evening)
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Galatians 4:22-31; Luke 8:16-21
Intention: Carole Bullock (Moore Family)



"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4

Liturgical Schedule



Saturday Evening, December 10
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: †Fr. Phil Acquaro (Diane Hvasta)

Sunday, December 11 **Tone 2**
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
Venerable Father Spiridon the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Tremithus
Venerable Father Daniel the Stylite
Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Colossians 3: 4-11; Luke 14:16-24
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



Monday, December 12
Feast of Our Lady the Virgin Theotokos of Guadalupe
Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 1:39-56
Intention: †Al Ferencz (Anna Broznak)



Saturday Evening, December 17
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Genesis 14:14-20; Deuteronomy 1:8-11,15-17; Deuteronomy 10:14-21
Intention: †Joey Kowalczyk (Kowalczyk Family)

Sunday, December 18 **Tone 3**
Sunday of the Holy Ancestors
Sunday Before Christmas
Holy Martyr Sebastian and his Companions
Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, & 32-40; Matthew 1:1-25
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



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Liturgical Schedule

Friday, December 23

Note: The Royal Hours of Christmas are transferred to Friday because Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday this year.

Royal Hours of Christmas 9:00 AM

1st Royal "Hour" - Micah 5:2-4; Hebrews 1:1-12; Matthew 1:18-25;
3rd Royal "Hour" - Jeremiah (Baruch) 3:35-4:4; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 2:1-20;
6th Royal "Hour" - Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10; Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Matthew 2:1-12;
9th Royal "Hour" - Isaiah 9:6-7; Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23



Saturday Evening, December 24

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM

Genesis 1:1-13; Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18; Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4; Isaiah 11:1-10; Jeremiah (Baruch) 3:35-4:4; Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10; Hebrews 1:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Sunday, December 25 **Festal Tone**

Feast of Christmas, the Birth of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

Carol Singing & Christmas Play 9:45 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Cookie Exchange in Parish Hall After Liturgy

No Fasting from Christmas to Theophany (December 25-January 4)

Every year there is no fasting or abstinence during the bright period of December 25-January 4. Immediately thereafter, however, January 5, the Vigil Eve day before Theophany, is by tradition a day of strict abstinence from meat and dairy products.







Monday, December 26

Synaxis of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemoration of the Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, And James the Brother of God

Post-festive Day of the Nativity

Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Hebrews 2:11-18; Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 2:13-23

Intention: †Andria Kowalczyk (Kowalczyk Family)



"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4

Liturgical Schedule



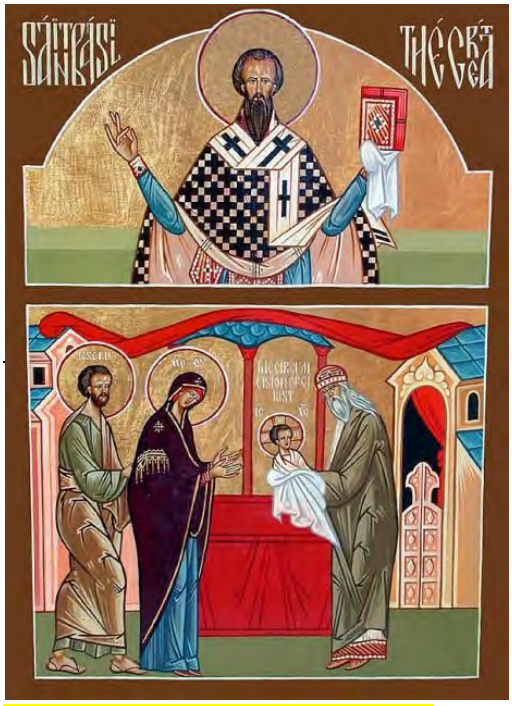
Tuesday, December 27

Holy Apostle, First Martyr, and Archdeacon Stephen
Post-festive Day of the Nativity

Venerable Father and Confessor Theodore, Brother of Theophane the Hymnographer

Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM

Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5,47-60; Matthew 21:33-42
Intention: †Fr. Phil Acquaro (Dcn. Mike)



Saturday Evening, December 31

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM

Genesis 17:1-2,4,5-7,8,9-10,11-12,14; Proverbs 8:22-30; Proverbs 10:31-11:12
Intention: †Peter Broznak (Anna Broznak)

Sunday, January 1 **Tone 5**

Sunday Before Theophany
Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ/Our Holy Father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

2 Timothy 4:5-8; Colossians 2:8-12; Hebrews 7:26-8:2; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 2:20-21,40-52; Luke 6:17-23
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Thursday, January 5

Vigil of Theophany

The Holy Martyrs Theopempt and Theona
Our Venerable Mother Syncletica
The Holy Prophet Micah

Royal Hours of Theophany 9:00 AM

1st Royal "Hour" - Isaiah 35:1-10; Acts 13:25-33; Matthew 3:1-11;
3rd Royal "Hour" - Isaiah 1:16-20; Acts 19:1-8; Mark 1:1-8;
6th Royal "Hour" - Isaiah 12:3-6; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 1:9-15;
9th Royal "Hour" - Isaiah 49:8-15; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Matthew 3:13-17



Thursday Evening, January 5

(No Confessions before liturgy this evening)

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy &
Great Blessing of Water 7:00 PM

Genesis 1:1-13; Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29; Exodus 15:22-16:1; Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17; 4[2] Kings 2:6-14; 4[2] Kings 5:9-14; Isaiah 1:16-20; Genesis 32:1-10; Exodus 2:5-10; Judges 6:36-40; 3[1] Kings 18:30-39; 4[2] Kings 2:19-22; Isaiah 49:8-15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Luke 3:1-18;
Great Blessing of Water: Isaiah 35:1-10; Isaiah 55:1-13; Isaiah 12:3-6; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; Mark 1:9-11
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Friday, January 6 **Festal Tone**

Feast of the Theophany of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

(No Confessions before liturgy this evening)

Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Matthew 3:13-17
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

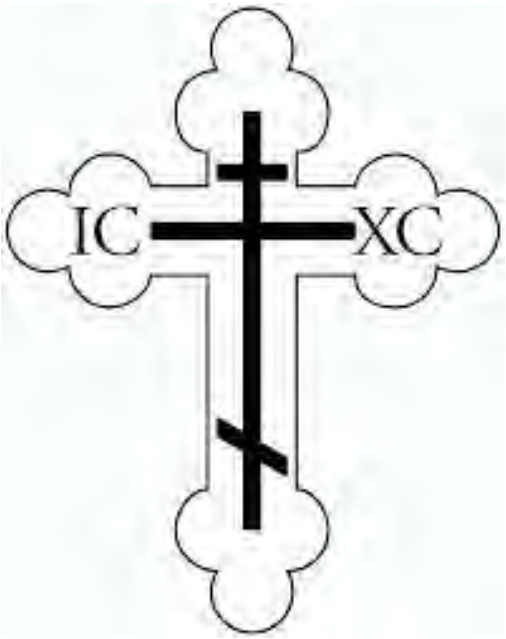


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Liturgical Schedule

Saturday Evening, January 7
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Anthony Lytwymec (Nicholas Kowalczyk)

Sunday, January 8 **Tone 6**
Sunday After Theophany
Post-festive Day of Theophany
Venerable Father George the Chozebite
Venerable Mother Dominica
Holy Father and Confessor Emilian
Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
Carol Singing 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Ephesians 4:7-13; Matthew 4:12-17
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents or concerns, please contact:

Subdeacon Paul F. Kilroy
Safe Environment Program Coordinator
Cell: (702) 498-5972 –
Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 203 --
Email: sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org

Deacon Michael Hanafin
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Cell: (480) 307-5182
Email: vac@ephx.org

Calendar Highlights

- **Saturday, December 3**–*Church Cleaning* in preparation for Christmas beginning at 9:00 am.
- **Saturday, December 10**–*Church and Hall Decorating* in preparation for Christmas beginning at 11:00 am.
- **Saturday, December 10**–*Eucharistic Procession* from St. Anne's to St. Thomas and back again to St. Anne's taking place from 8:30 am to 11:30 am followed by the St. Anne Parish Family Picnic.
- **Sunday, December 11**–*St. Nicholas Celebration* & Potluck following Divine Liturgy.
- **Saturday, December 17**–*Holy Supper* in Church Hall beginning about 6:45 pm. following Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy.



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Collections

Summary for October 1 – October 31, 2022

Total deposits	$5,475.50
*Minus special collections	-0.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$5,475.50
Offline Tithes:	$2,289.25
Online Tithes:	$2,173.25
Holyday Tithes	125.00
Donations: source not identified	611.00
Coffee Fellowship	30.00
Candles	247.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$5,475.50



Sunday Liturgical Attendance

Sat. Oct. 15 Vigil	43 Souls
Sun. Oct. 16	131 Souls
Sat. Oct. 22 Vigil	20 Souls
Sun. Oct. 23	50 Souls
Sat. Oct. 29 Vigil	15 Souls
Sun. Oct. 30	97 Souls
Sat. Nov. 5 Vigil	19 Souls
Sat. Nov. 6	80 Souls
Sat. Nov. 12 Vigil	15 Souls
Sat. Nov. 13	68 Souls
Sat. Nov. 19 Vigil	17 Souls
Sat. Nov. 20	87 Souls
Sat. Nov. 26 Vigil	29 Souls
Sat. Nov. 27	90 Souls

Happy Anniversary!

Reg & Diane Parker	Dec 27

Happy Birthday!

Veronica Liesmeyer	Dec 2
Damian Forbes	Dec 10
Max Bronson	Dec 12
Rhiannon Moore	Dec 18
Jan Person	Dec 19
John Fitterer	Dec 19
Nick Kowalczyk	Dec 22
Emma Bronson	Dec 26
Yellow Schreiber	Dec 26
Liam Stalker-Highsmith	Dec 28
Sharon Wollert	Dec 28
Jaqueline Noelle Aguayo	Dec 30
Anna Moore	Dec 30

Did we forget your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know so that we can update our records and include it in our bulletin next year.

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers

O Divine Physician of Souls and Body, rest your healing and protecting hand upon your servants:
Reg Parker, John Kafora, Father Michael Kirila, & Beth Little,

All those serving our country in the military including:
Michael Khromiak.

†Eternal Memory!

"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."
†Father Philip Acquaro, †Al Ferencz, †Jonathan Bronson, & †Fr. Brian Escobedo,

Parish Advisory Board

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



"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4














"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4





"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4










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