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: 8:30-9:30am

(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



Fr. Adam Peter Lowe
Parochial Administrator

Deacon Michael Sullivan

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.

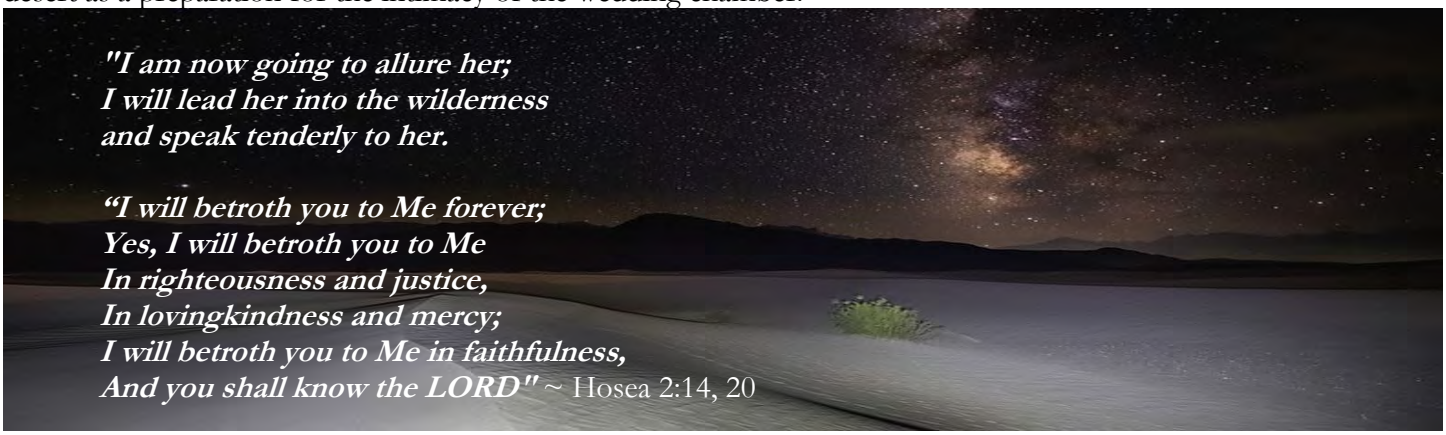


"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4

'OH NO, IT'S THE GREAT FAST, AGAIN'!! ~ It's an understandable reaction if we are being honest! I don't think that prostrations, fasting or penance are something that anyone looks forward to, but it is precisely because we are looking forward, - or rather that God is looking forward on our behalf, that we now enter the desert of Great Lent - with all our brothers and sisters in all 'the Holy Churches of God' throughout the world! It is because we are all looking forward to the feast of Pascha, to the great Wedding banquet of Easter, and because God is looking forward to celebrating that banquet with us and for us, that we choose to enter the fast, to enter the desert.

For Jesus, the journey to the desert followed fast on the heels of his baptism in the Jordan. For us too, the Great Fast follows quickly after our celebration of Theophany, and after Jesus had heard the Father's voice calling him his Beloved Son, so we too, in the awareness of our own identity as the Father's beloved sons and daughters, now need to enter the desert also, to better learn through the Fast our own identity in God, and to better experience for ourselves the Father's calling and the Father's love.

In calling his chosen nation to himself, using the language of a marriage proposal, God describes the call into the desert as a preparation for the intimacy of the wedding chamber:



As the people of God, we now enter the desert. It is God himself who leads us there with all the ardor and determination of a suitor wooing his beloved. He leads us into the desert and into the Fast in order to speak to us tenderly, in order to betroth us to Himself forever.

The desert, the wilderness, the fast, this can be where we best pray and where we best hear the voice of God for ourselves. In the middle of the Sahara desert, Fr. Carlo Carretto wrote: *At night…time passes here unhampered by haste or clock. No obligations pester you, no noise disturbs you, no trouble awaits you; time is all yours. You satisfy yourself this way with prayer and silence while the stars light up in the sky.* (Letters from the Desert). A beautiful image and ideal maybe, but one we must seek after, even in the city, even in the busy-ness of our lives.

After consulting with other clergy and with members of the Parish Advisory Council, **Pani Amanda and I will therefore be opening our home each Wednesday evening at 6pm for a potluck meal and for a study of the weekday readings from the Prophet Isaiah prescribed by the Church for the Great Fast.** This will be a change-up to our Lenten schedule from previous years, but one which I pray will benefit us in terms of deeper community, deeper intimacy with God in prayer, and help us more deeply experience that *"in the sacred books, the Father who is in Heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them."* (Vatican II / CCC 104)

We will follow the reflections written by my scripture professor and former dean of studies at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Fr Jack Custer, in his booklet **"Rejoice Isaiah - A Lenten Journey with the Prophet** which is available from ecpubs.com - https://ecpubs.com/product/rejoice-isaiah/

It's no accident that the words **"Rejoice Isaiah"** are also the opening line of a solemn tropar from the marriage service – as I said earlier – it's for a wedding feast that we are now preparing ourselves! When the Bridegroom comes at Pascha, may all of us be found ready for the banquet, each wearing beautiful wedding garments!!

Blessings to all of you! Please don't hesitate to contact me personally if you have any questions. ~ Fr Adam.

Liturgical Schedule



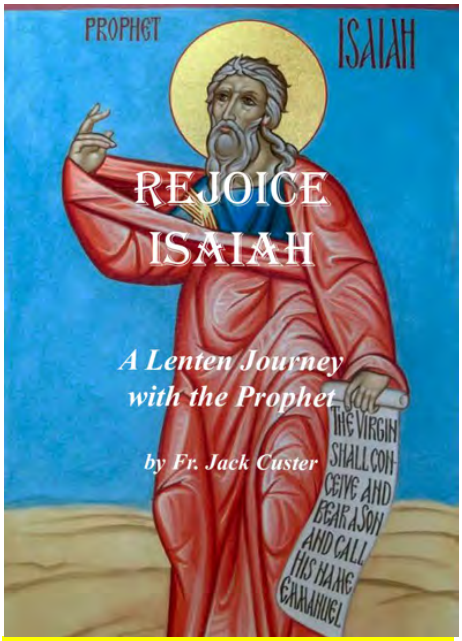
Saturday Evening, February 10
Cheesefare Sunday
Forgiveness Sunday
Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise
Holy Martyr Blaise, Bishop of Sebaste
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Joshua Kowalczyk (Kowalczyk Family)

Sunday, February 11 **Tone 4**
Confessions 8:30- 9:30 AM
Matins 8:30-10:00 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Romans 13:11-14:4;
Matthew 6:14-21
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 Evening, February 12
Clean Monday
Holy Father Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch
Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Genesis 1:1-13; Proverbs 1:1-20
Intention: †Joseph Kowalczyk (Kowalczyk Family)



Wednesday Evening, February 14
6:00 PM — Potluck dinner and 'Rejoice Isaiah' Bible Study, to be held at 2125 S Rogers, Mesa, AZ 85202. All are welcome! Bring your kids and bring a Bible – (any version), a copy of the study booklet will be useful but not essential, and we will have several copies available.



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

Liturgical Schedule

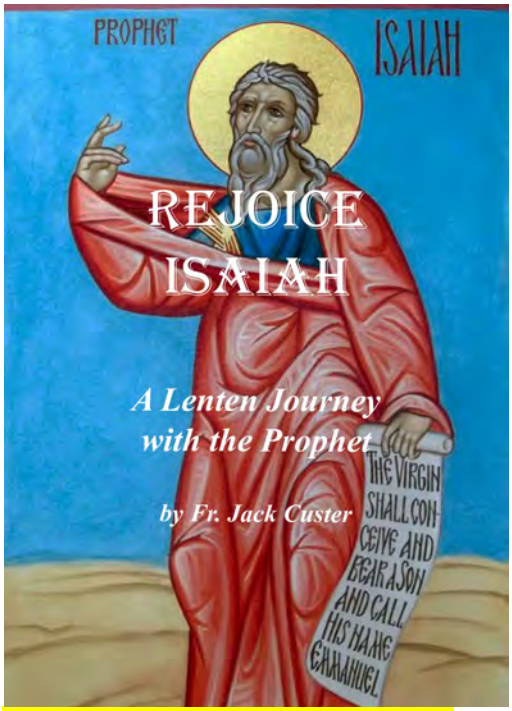


Friday Evening, February 16
Miracle of the Holy Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit
Holy Martyrs, the Presbyter Pamphilius, Porphyry, & their Companions
(No Confessions before liturgy this evening)
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Genesis 2:20-3:20; Proverbs 3:19-34
Intention: Michael Johnston (Roark Kaufman)



Saturday Evening, February 17
First Sunday of the Great Fast
Sunday of Orthodoxy
All Holy Prophets
Holy Father Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Richard Zandlo (Nicholas Kowalczyk)

Sunday, February 18 **Tone 5**
Confessions 8:30- 9:30 AM
Matins 8:30-10:00 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 Evening, February 21
6:00 PM — Potluck dinner and 'Rejoice Isaiah' Bible Study, to be held at 2125 S Rogers, Mesa, AZ 85202. All are welcome! Bring your kids and bring a Bible – (any version), a copy of the study booklet will be useful but not essential, and we will have several copies available.



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

Liturgical Schedule



Friday Evening, February 23

First & Second Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John

Holy Martyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

(No Confessions before liturgy this evening)

Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM

(1) Genesis 5:32-6:8;
(2) Proverbs 6:20-7:1;
(3) Composite - Isaiah 40:1-3,9; 41:17-18; 45:8, 48:20-21; 54:1;
(4) Composite - Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2; Malachi 3:1-3,5-7,12,18,17; 4:4-6 [3:22-24];
(5) Composite - Wisdom of Solomon 4:7,16-17,19-5:7

Intention: †Christine Vincent (Xenios Marckx)



Saturday Morning, February 24

2nd All Souls Saturday

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

First & Second Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John

Confessions 8:00-8:30 AM

Divine Liturgy & Panachida with reading of the names of All Souls inscribed in the Parish Diptychs 9:00 AM

Intention: **†All Souls**

2 Corinthians 4:6-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Matthew 11:2-15; John 5:24-30



Saturday Evening, February 24

Second Sunday of the Great Fast

Commemoration of Our Holy Father Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM

Intention: †Al Ferencz (Nicholas Kowalczyk)

Sunday, February 25 **Tone 6**

Confessions 8:30- 9:30 AM

Matins 8:30-10:00 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

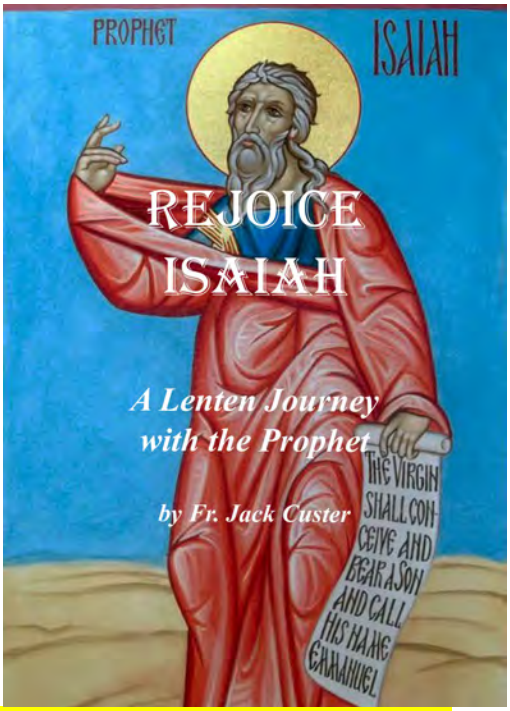
Hebrews 1:10-2:3;
Hebrews 7:26-8:2;
Mark 2:1-12; John 10:9-16

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



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

Liturgical Schedule

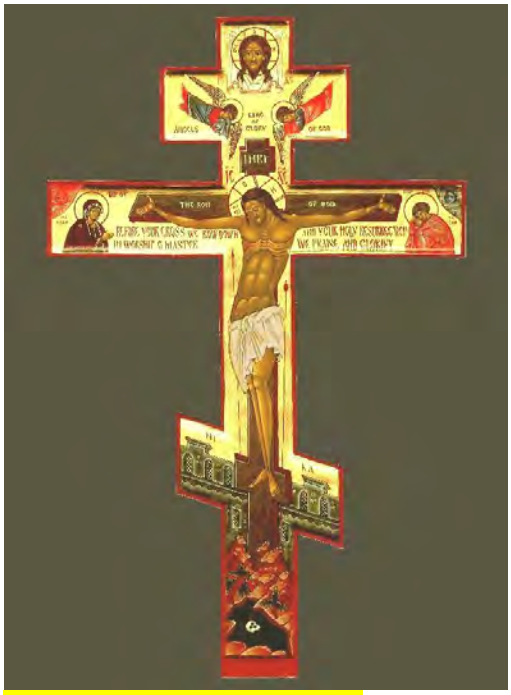


Wednesday Evening, February 28
6:00 PM — Potluck dinner and 'Rejoice Isaiah' Bible Study, to be held at 2125 S Rogers, Mesa, AZ 85202. All are welcome! Bring your kids and bring a Bible – (any version), a copy of the study booklet will be useful but not essential, and we will have several copies available.

Friday Evening, March 1
Venerable Martyr Eudoxia
(No Confessions before liturgy this evening)
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
Genesis 8:4-21; Proverbs 10:31-11:12
Intention: †Joseph Kowalczyk (Nicholas Kowalczyk)



Saturday Morning, March 2
3rd All Souls Saturday
Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Holy Martyr Theodotus, Bishop of Cyrene
Confessions 8:00-8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy & Panachida with reading of the names of All Souls inscribed on the Parish Diptychs 9:00 AM
Intention: **†All Souls**
Hebrews 10:32-38; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Mark 2:14-17; John 5:24-30



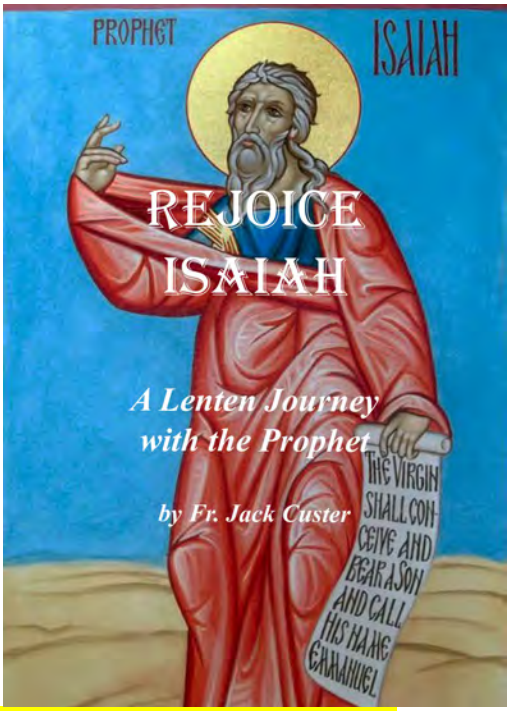
Saturday Evening, March 2
Third Sunday of the Great Fast
Veneration of the Holy Cross
Holy Martyr Eutropius & his Companions, Cleonicus & Basiliscus
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: †Andria Kowalczyk (Nicholas Kowalczyk)

Sunday, March 3 **Tone 7**
Confessions 8:30- 9:30 AM
Matins 8:30-10:00 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Hebrews 4:14-5:6; Mark 8:34-9:1
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



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

Liturgical Schedule



Wednesday Evening, March 6
6:00 PM — Potluck dinner and 'Rejoice Isaiah' Bible Study, to be held at 2125 S Rogers, Mesa, AZ 85202. All are welcome! Bring your kids and bring a Bible – (any version), a copy of the study booklet will be useful but not essential, and we will have several copies available.



Friday Evening, March 8
Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste
Venerable Father & Confessor Theophylact
(No Confessions before liturgy this evening)
Presanctified Gifts Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
(1) Genesis 12:1-7;
(2) Proverbs 14:15-26;
(3) Isaiah 43:9-14;
(4) Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9;
(5) Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3
Intention: †Al Ferencz
(Little Family)



Saturday Morning, March 9
4th All Souls Saturday
Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste
Confessions 8:00-8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy & Panachida with reading of the names of All Souls inscribed on the Parish Diptychs 9:00 AM
Intention: **†All Souls**
Hebrews 12: 1-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Matthew 20:1-16; John 5:24-30



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

Liturgical Schedule









Saturday Evening, March 9
Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast
Commemoration of Our Holy Father John Climacus
Holy Martyr Codratus & his Companions
Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: Pani Betty Kirila (Dcn. Mike)

Sunday, March 10 **Tone 8**
Confessions 8:30- 9:30 AM
Matins 8:30-10:00 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Hebrews 6:13-20;
Ephesians 5:9-19;
Mark 9:17-31; Matthew 4:25-5:12
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



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

Collections

Summary for December 1 – December 31, 2023

Total deposits	$11,901.65
*Minus special collections	-0.00
Total for St. Thomas:	$11,901.65

Online Tithes:	$4,014.95
Offline Tithes:	$2,312.55
Holy Day – St. Nicholas:	75.00
Holy Day – Maternity of St. Anne:	125.00
Holy Day – Christmas	835.00
Donations	1,685.95
Remodeling Fund	1,020.00
Christmas Flowers	20.00
Candles	271.00
Interest Income	101.95
Rent	1,200.00
Gift Shop	240.25
Total for St. Thomas:	$11,901.65



Sunday Liturgical Attendance

Saturday, January 6 Vigil	20 Souls
Sunday, January 7	111 Souls
Saturday, January 13 Vigil	27 Souls
Sunday, January 14	101 Souls
Saturday, January 20 Vigil	26 Souls
Sunday, January 21	124 Souls
Saturday, January 27 Vigil	38 Souls
Sunday, January 28	99 Souls

Happy Anniversary!

Joe & Maria Groll	Feb 9
Jeff & Lynn Sims	Feb 24

Happy Birthday!

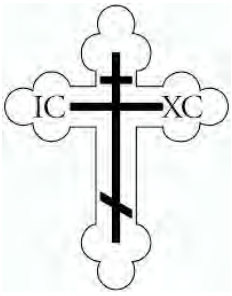
Eleanor Bernstein	Feb 2
Janice Antonios	Feb 6
Evan Paige	Feb 16
Janis Barnes	Feb 24
Ava Holzhauer	Feb 24

May the Lord God grant them many blessed years of peace, health, and happiness!

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.

Parish Advisory Board

Brian Fitterer
Danny Forbes
Emma Gilsdorf
Mike Little
Cathy McCormick
Rhiannon Moore
Josh Paige
Jeff Sims



Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers

O Divine Physician of Souls and Body, rest your healing and protecting hand upon your servants:
Carole Bullock, Beth Little, Donald Thompson, Rhiannon Moore, Charlie Rawlins, Doreene Stacy, Donna Sullivan, & Pani Betty Kirila.

All those serving our country in the military including:
Michael Khromiak, & Greg Hendricks.

†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, †John Kafora, †Reg Parker & †Father Michael Kirila.

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*



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