

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday Vigil:

5pm

Sunday morning:

10am

Weekdays:

Check calendar in bulletin

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession):

Saturdays: 4:00-4:30pm

Sundays: 9:00-9:30am

Chaldean Liturgy:

Sundays: 6pm

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

Office Hours:

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 9am - 4pm
Call ahead



Father Michael Bezruchka
Pastor

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 prayers are chanted.

We welcome visitors who wish to share in our sacred worship services.

Schedule

Thursday, February 1

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Friday, February 2

Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna

Solemn Holyday

Festal Matins 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Hebrews 7:7-17; Luke 2:22-40.

Intention: †Carrie Belle Campbell by the Bronson Family

Saturday, February 3

First All Souls Saturday

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

1 Corinthians 10:23-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36; John 5:24-30.

Intention: For deceased parishioners and loved ones in our parish diptychs.

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention: †Andria Kowalczyk by Fr. Doug and Nancy Lorig

Sunday, February 4

Tone 2

Meatfare Sunday. Sunday of the Last

Judgment. Postfestive Day of the Encounter

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

1 Corinthians 8:8 - 9:2; Matthew 25:31-46.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Annual Parish Picnic after Divine Liturgy in Freestone Park, Courtyard Ramada

Wednesday, February 7 and

Thursday, February 8

Matins 7:30 a.m.

No office hours during these days. Can schedule special appt.

Friday, February 9

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Byzantine Basics class in hall 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 10

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention: Sir Michael Bacovcin by Anna Broznak

ECF: younger kids

6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 11

Cheesefare Sunday

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Romans 13:11 - 14:4; Matthew 6:14-21.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

ECF: older kids 12:00 p.m.

Monday, February 12

Pure Monday. Beginning of the Great Fast Abstinence from meat and dairy foods required.

Holy Father Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Genesis 1:1-13; Proverbs 1:1-20.

Intention: Anna Broznak and †Peter Broznak by Anna Broznak

Wednesday, February 14

Venerable Father Auxentius

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Genesis 1:24 - 2:3; Proverbs 2:1-21.

Intention: †Dennis Rock by Sally Rock

Thursday, February 15

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Friday, February 16

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

(With Kutia Blessing in honor of St. Theodore)

Genesis 2:20 - 3:20; Proverbs 3:19-34.

Intention: †Andria Kowalczyk by Helen and Al Ferencz

Saturday, February 17

Vigil Vesp. Div. Liturgy of St. Basil 5:00 p.m.

Intention: †Michael and †Mary Bacovcin by Anna Broznak

Parish Family board game night 6:30 p.m.

After Liturgy. Bring your favorite board games. Pizza will be served.

Sunday, February 18

Tone 4

First Sunday of the Great Fast. Sunday of Orthodoxy

Memory of the Holy Prophets

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m.

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32 - 12:2; John 1:43-51.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Tone 3

Tuesday, February 20

Men's Group Meeting 6:45 a.m.

(Please contact Mike Little for more info: ndmike7@gmail.com)

Wednesday, February 21

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Genesis 4:16-26; Proverbs 5:15-6:3.

Intention: Salem Qardahji by Lawrence Qardahji

Thursday, February 22

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Friday, February 23

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

(1) Genesis 5:32 - 6:8; (2) Proverbs 6:20 - 7:1

(3) Isaiah 40:1-3,9; 41:17-18; 45:8, 48:20-21; 54:1 (Composite IX);

(4) Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2; Malachi 3:1-3,5-

7,12,18,17; 4:4-6 [3:22-24] (Composite X);

(5) Wisdom 4:7,16-17,19-5:7 (Composite III)

Intention: Fr. Peter Boutros by Lawrence Qardahji

"What is a Christian Worldview?" 8:30 p.m.

(Presentation by Michael Crow)

Saturday, February 24

Second All Souls Saturday

First and Second Finding of the Head of the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Hebrews 3:12-16;

Matthew 11:2-15; Mark 1:35-44.

Intention: For deceased parishioners and loved ones in our parish diptychs.

Vigil Vesp. Div. Liturgy of St. Basil 5:00 p.m.

Intention: Mary Qardahji & family; Laila Saleme & family; Gahda Herkig & family by Lawrence Qardahji

ECF: younger kids 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 25

Tone 5

Second Sunday of the Great Fast (Sunday of Our Holy Father Gregory Palamas)

Holy Father Tarasius, Archbishop of Constantinople

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m.

Hebrews 1:10 - 2:3; Mark 2:1-12.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

ECF: older kids 12:00 p.m.

Schedule

Tuesday, February 27

Men's Group Meeting 6:45 a.m.
(Please contact Mike Little for more info:
ndmike7@gmail.com)

Wednesday, February 28

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Genesis 7:6-9; Proverbs 9:12-18.
Intention: Ron Dailey by Charlie Rawlins

Thursday, March 1

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Byzantine Basics class in hall 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 2

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Genesis 8: 4-21; Proverbs 10: 31 - 11:12
Intention: Donald Thompson Jr. by Donald &
Frances Thompson Sr.

Saturday, March 3

Third All Souls Saturday

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Hebrews 10: 32-38; I Thessalonians 4: 13-17;
Mark 2: 14-17; John 5: 24-30
Intention: For deceased parishioners and
loved ones in our parish diptychs.

Poppyseed roll and nutroll baking
10:30 a.m. (approx.)

Vigil Vesp. Div. Liturgy of St. Basil 5:00 p.m.
Intention: †Peter Broznak by Anna Broznak

Sunday, March 4

Tone 6

Third Sunday of the Great Fast. Veneration of
the Holy Cross

Venerable Father Gerasimus of the Jordan.
Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m.
Hebrews 4:14 - 5:6; Mark 8: 34 - 9:1
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Calendar Highlights

- February 4: After Divine Liturgy, Parish Picnic at Freestone Park, Courtside Ramada.
- February 12: Beginning of the Great Fast (Lent).
- February 17: Parish family board game night, 6:30 PM.
- February 20: Men's Group Meeting at 6:45 am in parish hall.
- February 21: Presentation - How the scientific account of creation supports the existence of God by Michael Crow. About 8:30 PM (after Presanctified Liturgy) in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Phoenix.
- February 23: Presentation - What is a Christian Worldview? by Michael Crow About 8:30 PM (after Presanctified Liturgy) in the hall at St Thomas in Gilbert.
- February 27: Men's Group Meeting at 6:45 am in parish hall.
- March 3: Nutroll and Poppyseed baking. At least 15 helpers needed.
- March 10: Cleaning Derby day: At least 12 helpers needed.
- March 15: Great Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30 PM.
- March 17: Akathist, 9 AM.
- March 17: Baking Saturday, 9 AM.
- March 25: Feast of the Annunciation; Palm Sunday, start of Holy Week.
- March 30: Good Friday.
- March 31: Decorate for Pascha, At least 15 helpers needed.
- April 1: PASCHA

Announcements

TWO PRESENTATIONS - TWO PLACES: On February 21 and February 23, Michael Crow from St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Seattle will give talks on important topics for our day and age. These will be two different topics at about 8:30pm in two different churches, allowing us to experience both talks by traveling to the cathedral in Phoenix on February 21 and traveling to St Thomas on February 23.

How the scientific account of creation supports the existence of God

Atheists claim that the scientific account of creation does not require God (no divine intervention necessary). All of creation derives from the laws of physics. However, the laws of physics were fine-tuned to support creation. The fine tuning requires a designer, and the designer is God. The intent of this talk is not to promote the scientific account of creation, but to point out that if it is true, that it implies the existence of God. We will walk through the specific aspects of the scientific account of creation: (1) The development of stars and planets following the Big Bang and (2) the development of living cells from non-living matter. All in layman's terms, without incomprehensible scientific mumbo-jumbo. The evidence of design will be identified. A limited amount of grade school mathematics will be taught, to clarify the concepts. This talk will take place at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Phoenix at about 8:30pm, after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 7:00pm (8141 N. 16th St. FRNT, Phoenix, AZ 85020)

What is a Christian World View?

Part of being a Christian is understanding the world from a Christian perspective (i.e. having a Christian World View). Because we are also Americans, this has not been emphasized much, since America was a Christian nation, and almost everyone in society was a Christian and shared a common Christian World View. However, over the last 60 years our culture has become more secular, and the predominate World View has become Atheistic. This talk will define components of a World View and the differences between a Christian and an Atheistic World View. This talk will take place in the hall of our church of St. Thomas the Apostle in Gilbert at about 8:30pm, after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 7:00pm in the church.

PARISH PICNIC: On Meatfare Sunday, we often have our annual picnic at Freestone Park. This is a great time to spend extra time with each other in community! Basketball and volleyball courts are nearby. Our reservation is from 11:30am to 3:00pm on February 4 at Ramada B which is also called the Courtside Ramada. See you there!

ATTENTION MEN! Interest is building among the men in our parish for a parish Men's Group which would meet on a weekly basis to reflect on Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, and other wholesome spiritual books. In the process, these weekly meetings are a great opportunity to share challenges and joys with each other. This men's group will meet every Tuesday morning from 6:45-7:45 AM beginning February 20. For more information, contact our Men's Group leader, Mike Little, at ndmike7@gmail.com

THE GREAT FAST IS UPON US! The Sunday of Meatfare is February 4 and the Sunday of Cheesefare is February 11. Traditionally, Byzantine Christians eat their meat during Meatfare week and their dairy during Cheesefare week. This allows us to follow the traditional fast of abstaining from meat and dairy during the Great Fast. Many people are familiar with the term Lent; we use that term sometimes. Traditionally, we call it the Great Fast. This is the most important time for kenosis (self-emptying), preparing us to share in the joy of the risen Lord in Pascha (Easter). The Metropolia requires minimum abstinence of NOT eating meat or dairy on the first day of the Great Fast (which is February 12 this year) nor on Good Friday (March 30 this year). In addition, we are required to abstain from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays. That is the minimum required! The traditional fast is to abstain from eating meat AND dairy throughout all of Lent with a mitigation of wine and oil on Sundays and feast days. It is usually best to choose a fasting regimen in a particular year that will not kill us from starvation nor be super easy. It should be uncomfortable. This encourages us to share more fully in the sufferings of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ out of love for Him. We should not only pick ways of fasting but also seek to increase our prayer life. More prayer services take place at church such as Presanctified Liturgies which are held on Wednesdays and Fridays. In order to help control evil thoughts and passions, we should discipline ourselves by depriving ourselves of things we like to eat. The Great Fast is also an excellent time to grow in prayer and love of the Lord and love for our neighbor.

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS: Please check your calendar and plan on attending at least one All Souls Saturday to pray for the faithful departed. Your loved ones will be helped by your effort. The parish diptychs are the list of the departed parishioners, family members, and friends our parish prays for. For those who were not able to send an email or write a note or mark your All Souls envelope with new names before January 28, you have until February 20 to provide these new names to Fr. Michael. He will then produce a second and final draft for the 2018 parish diptych list.

Parish Advisory Board

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

Did You Know?

Why do the Byzantine Catholics begin the Great Fast (Lent) two days before the Roman Catholics? The answer is in how the 40 Days are calculated. For Byzantine Catholics and Byzantine Orthodox, we have two fasting periods in preparation for Pascha (Easter). The first is called the Great Fast which is calculated seven Mondays before Pascha Sunday and ends the day (Friday) before Lazarus Saturday, which is the day before Palm Sunday. These 40 days include all Sundays of the Great Fast which is why there is only a mitigation for wine and oil on Sundays and special feast days in the traditional fast. In the Roman Catholic Church, the 40 days are counted by including all days from Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday) to Ash Wednesday. This equals 46 days. However, all the Sundays during this period are subtracted from that calculation since they are not traditionally fasting days in the Roman Catholic Church bringing the total number back to 40 days. Thus, we Byzantines begin our "Lent" two days earlier because we have a separate fast called the Great Fast which precedes the intensive Holy Week Fast which begins on Holy Monday and ends with Divine Liturgy of Pascha Sunday. This is if we follow the traditional Byzantine fasting discipline. (Traditionally, the two days in between the Great Fast and the Holy Week Fast do allow for eating meat and dairy since it comes between these two fasting periods.)

REMINDER: VOCATION ICON PRAYER PROGRAM. The vocation icon and prayers are circulating among the families of the parish. Special prayers are prescribed for each day of the week. If you haven't already, please sign up to bring the icon into your home and pray with it for the week. Our Vocation Icon coordinator is Ted Bronson who can be reached at (602) 809-6211 or ccbronson@msn.com

NEW SYSTEM FOR LITURGY STIPENDS. We are changing the way to give a Liturgy stipend for a Divine Liturgy to be offered for a particular person, living or deceased. The stipend will be deposited into a separate stipend bank account from which the stipend will be paid out to the priest offering the Liturgy. Most of the time, this will be paid out to the pastor, except when there is a substitute priest. Please find the newly printed Liturgy envelopes next to the guest book in the narthex/vestibule. The suggested stipend is \$10.00. You can still give cash if you like. The biggest change in the process for most people is how to write a check. If you write a check, be sure to write your check to "St. Thomas Stipends" and write "Liturgy stipend" in your memo line. Please note that this money is not tax-deductible as it is a stipend for the priest offering the Divine Liturgy. This is similar to money paid for candles and gift shop items. All of these are not tax-deductible since there are goods and services exchanged for your donation.

BISHOP'S APPEAL: This year, Bishop John is asking each household to donate \$275.00 to the eparchy to help it with its ministry and programs. Each family should have received a letter in the mail from Bishop John detailing the programs this money will fund. Programs include seminarian education, youth ministry, communication development, evangelization, and facility renovations in addition to technology such as a new eparchial app. 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 option allows you to donate by credit card (in addition to check). Thank you for your generosity with this in the past! This is no small sum of money for most of us. The idea is that some can donate more funds while others are able to donate less. Please donate what you can. I'd like to see 100% participation even if it means a few people who cannot give \$275 end up giving \$10 or \$50 instead of nothing. Others can perhaps donate \$500 or more. If our parish reaches its goal of \$15,675.00, we will receive a 20% 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 1, we have collected \$375 of our goal. If you did not receive a mailing from Bishop John regarding the Bishop's Appeal and would like to make a donation to it, please let Fr. Michael know. All those who donate at least \$10.00 to the Bishop's Appeal credited to St. Thomas will be listed beginning with the March bulletin (the amount of money will not be listed). Thank you for your generosity!

PASCHA/EASTER BAKESALE ORDERS: Please fill out a form for Nutrolls/Poppysseed rolls and Pascha bread. Nutrolls/Poppysseed - \$10 each; Pascha bread - \$7.00 each. Help is needed in making the Nut and Poppysseed Rolls on March 3 from 9am to 4pm and making the Pascha bread on March 17 from 9am to 4pm. You can sign up to come to a morning shift, afternoon shift, or both. Please sign up or contact Liz Zackowski (480) 759-1070 if you can help or if you have questions.

BYZANTINE BASICS: Fr. Michael continues the adult catechesis sessions; they are usually scheduled every other Friday from 6:30-7:30pm. The next classes are on February 9, March 1, March 12, April 13, May 4, May 18, and June 1. Please mark your calendars. All adult parishioners are invited, especially new parishioners.

UPGRADE DONATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ST THOMAS: Every year our church and hall benefit from upgrades. Currently, we have ordered a sound system that hooks up existing, unused speakers in the church, provides a wired speaker in the narthex,

and allows us to turn down the volume of the bell chime inside the church. The new system will also add outdoor speakers for processions and centralize the control system into one system instead of two independent systems. These improvements will total \$2,624. We have also ordered the last set of vestments for the church to complete the investment begun by Fr. Diodoro by providing a complete white set for the altar, side altars, priest, deacon, and altar servers. They will be used during every Pascha season. We selected St. George Vestments to complete this work for \$7,500. We are also in the process of researching two security installation companies to see if our church and hall would benefit from additional sensors. New smoke detectors are now available that would communicate with the alarm panel and alert the security company if a fire were to occur in either building. If you are interested in making a donation to directly support any of these upgrades, please talk to Fr. Michael for more information. Thank you.

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers

O Divine Physician of Souls and Body, rest your healing and protecting hand upon your servants:

Donald Thompson, Jr., Stephanie & Terry Faust, Lisa Kirila Mendez, Eileen Derevenko, Julianne Betzold, Scott Karnya, Sam Karnya, and all those in service to our country

"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."

† Fr. Francis Vivona, † Andria Kowalczyk,
† Eleanor Shields, † Sr. Jean Marie Chiota,
† Peter Broznak, † James Sandrock,
† Fr. Wes Izer, † Cathy Simpson,
† Anna Hrynik, † Joseph Hrynik,
† John Hrynik, † Watler Hrynik,
† Mary Petun, † Mary Rogees

Happy Birthday

Eleanor Bernstein	February 2
Janice Antonios	February 6
Michael Joseph Corey	February 7
John Kafora	February 7
Hope Lopez	February 7
Elizabeth Zackowski	February 8
Elizabeth Dugie	February 11
Ava Holzhauer	February 21
Janis Barnes	February 24

Happy Anniversary

Jeff and Lynn Sims	February 24
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Did we forget your birthday or anniversary?
Please let us know so we can update our records and include this in our bulletin next year. Talk to Liz Zackowski or send her an email: lizzack74@gmail.com. Thank you.

Parish Email Announcements

If you would like to be placed on the St. Thomas list for receiving the parish bulletin and announcements via email, please contact Kathy Richard: krichard2003@yahoo.com

Collections December 2017 and January 2018

December 31, 2017

Tithes: Adults	\$984.00
Holiday: Christmas	\$30.00
Donations: Non Parishioners	\$23.00
Improvements, Remodeling	\$100.00
Candles	\$53.45
Coffee Social	\$4.00
Gift Shop	\$110.00
Total deposit to checking	\$1,304.45
*Minus special collections	\$0.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$1,304.45

+Summary for December 3 - December 31, 2017

Total deposits	\$13,989.61
*Minus special collections	-971.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$13,018.61
+All other collections in December are listed in the January bulletin.	

January 7, 2018

Tithes: Adults	\$1,087.00
Holiday: Theophany	\$115.00
Donations: Non Parishioners	\$473.00
Improvements, Remodeling	\$50.00
Donations	\$1,000.00
Candles	\$32.55
Total deposit to checking	\$2,757.55
*Minus special collections	\$0.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$2,757.55

January 14, 2018

Tithes: Adults	\$1,270.00
Theophany	\$5.00
Donations	\$26.00
Candles	\$47.85
*Bishop's Appeal	\$275.00
First offering	\$35.00
Coffee Social	\$14.00
Oktoberfest revenue	\$1,500.00
Total deposit to checking	\$3,172.85
*Minus special collections	-\$275.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$2,897.85

January 21, 2018

Tithes: Adults	\$2,065.00
Donations: Non Parishioners	\$105.00
Candles	\$84.00
*Bishop's Appeal	\$100.00
First Offering	\$15.00
Gift Shop	\$41.00
Total deposit to checking	\$2,410.00
*Minus special collections	-\$100.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$2,310.00

January 21, 2018

Anaheim Loan payment
\$643.51

**Deposit to Money Market Account
\$643.51

January 28, 2018

Tithes: Adults	\$1,307.00
Donations: Non Parishioners	\$10.00
Improvements, Remodeling	\$5,200.00
Candles	\$43.50
Initial Offering	\$5.00
Rent: Church, Hall	\$300.00
Coffee Social	\$8.00
Gift Shop	\$85.00
Total deposit to checking	\$6,958.50
*Minus special collections	\$0.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$6,958.50

Summary for January 7 - January 28, 2018

Total deposits	\$15,942.41
*Minus special collections	-375.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$15,567.41

*These funds are special collections which are remitted to the eparchy.

**These funds are deposited to the Money Market account as the loan to our Anaheim parish is paid back to us. Final payment is due in Sept. 2029.