

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday Vigil:

5pm

Sunday morning:

10am

Weekdays:

Weekday Divine Liturgy: Check bulletin
Matins: T at 7:45am; W,Th, & F at 7:30am

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession):

Saturdays: 4:00-4:30pm
Sundays: 9:00-9:30am

Chaldean Liturgy (Different parish):

Sundays: 6pm (Mar Abraham: 480.905.1545)

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 7

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Mid-Lent. Holy Martyrs and Bishops of Cherson: Basil, Ephrem, Capiton, Eugene, Etherius and others.

Genesis 9:18 - 10:1; Proverbs 12:23 - 13:9.

Intention: † Andria Kowalzyk by Helen & Al Ferenz

Friday, March 9

Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Genesis 12:1-7; Proverbs 14:15-26; Hebrews 12:1-10; Matthew 20:1-6.

Intention: Fr. Andriy Chirovsky by the Bullock family

Saturday, March 10

Fourth All Souls' Saturday

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Holy Martyr Codratus and His Companions.

Hebrews 6:9-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Mark 7:31-37; John 5:24-30.

After Divine Liturgy about 10:30 a.m.
Cleaning Derby with at least 15 people.

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention: Jesus David Lopez by Richard Lopez

ECF: younger kids 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 11

Tone 7

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

Holy Father St. John Climacus. Holy Father Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:9-19; Mark 9:17-31; Matthew 4:25 - 5:12.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Parish potluck after Divine Liturgy.

ECF: older kids 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 13

Fifth Week of the Great Fast

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

Wednesday, March 14

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Venerable Father Benedict

Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20 - 16:9.

Intention: Jose Victorino Lopez by Richard Lopez

Thursday, March 15

Great Canon of our Holy Father St. Andrew of Crete 6:30 p.m.

Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-33.

Friday, March 16

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17 - 18:5.

Intention: The Bronson family by Doreene Stacy

Saturday, March 17

Akathist to the Mother of God 9:00 a.m.

Hebrews 9:24-28; Hebrews 9:1-7; Mark 8:27-31; Luke 10:38-42 & 11:27-28.

Confessions 3:30-4:30

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention: Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Wren by Fr. Doug & Nancy Lorig

Sunday, March 18

Tone 8

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

Holy Mother Mary of Egypt. Holy Father Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29; Mark 10:32-45; Luke 7:36-50.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Wednesday, March 21

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Venerable Father and Confessor James, Bishop of Catania

Genesis 43:26 - 45:16; Proverbs 21:23 - 22:4.

Intention: The Way family by Julie Smith

Friday, March 23

Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

The Holy Venerable-Martyr Nicon and his students martyred with him.

Genesis 49:33 - 50:26; Proverbs 31:8-31

Intention: The Way family by Julie Smith

Saturday, March 24

Lazarus Saturday

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Hebrews 12:28 - 13:8; John 11:1-45

Intention: The Way family by Julie Smith

Vigil Palm Sunday Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.

ECF: younger kids 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 25

Festal Tone

Palm Sunday. Annunciation of the Theotokos

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Blessing of palms & willows with procession & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Hebrews 2:11-18; Philippians 4:4-9;

Luke 1:24-38; John 12:1-18.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

ECF: older kids 12:00 p.m.

Holy Week

Holy Monday, March 26

6th and 9th Hours 7:45 a.m.

Bridegroom Matins 7:00 p.m.

Exodus 1:1-20; Job 1:1-12; Matthew 24:3-35.

Holy Tuesday, March 27

6th and 9th Hours 7:45 a.m.

Bridegroom Matins 7:00 p.m.

Exodus 2:5-10; Job 1:13-22; Matthew 24:36 - 26:2.

Holy Wednesday, March 28

Holy Wednesday

Bridegroom Matins 7:45 a.m.

Confessions 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Presanctified Liturgy w/ Anointing 7:00 p.m.

Exodus 2:11-22; Job 2:1-10; Matthew 26:6-16.

Intention: The Way family by Julie Smith

Holy Thursday, March 29

Holy Thursday

Festal Matins 9:00 a.m.

Luke 22:1-39.

Confessions 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 7:00 p.m.

Exodus 19:10-19; Job 38:1-21 & 42:1-5; Isaiah

50:4-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Matthew

26:2-20; John 13:3-17; Matthew 26:21-39;

Luke 22:43-45; Matthew 26:40 - 27:2.

Intention: † Andria Kowalczyk by Anna Broznak

Schedule

Good Friday, March 30

Matins with 12 Passion Gospels 12:00 p.m.

Confessions 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Entombment Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Exodus 33:11-23; Job 42:12-17; Isaiah 52:13 - 54:1; I Corinthians 1:18 - 2:2; Matthew 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-43; Matthew 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61.

Confessions After Vespers

Holy Saturday, March 31

Jerusalem Matins 9:00 a.m.

Ezekiel 37:1-14; I Corinthians 5:6-8 & Galatians 3:13-14; Matthew 27:62-66.

Decorate for Pascha 11:00 a.m.
(Need at least 15 people)

Confessions 3:30-4:15 p.m.
(No more Confessions until April 7)

March 31 (cont.)

Vigil of Pascha 5:00 p.m.

Vespers and Divine liturgy of St. Basil
Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-20.

Intention: † Fr. Francis Vivona by Deacon
Michael Sullivan

PASCHA

Sunday, April 1 Festal Tone

PASCHA! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Paschal Matins with Divine Liturgy and blessing of Paschal food baskets. 10:00 a.m.

Acts 1:1-8; John 1:1-17.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

After liturgy, sharing Paschal baskets, eating and fellowship in hall.

Bright Week

Bright Monday, April 2

Solemn Holyday

No fasting this week!

Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Acts 1:12-17 & 21-26; John 1:18-28.

Intention: † Fr. Francis Vivona by Deacon
Michael Sullivan

Saturday, April 7

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention: † Prof. Mario Rivera by Deacon

Michael Sullivan

ECF: younger kids 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 8

Festal Tone

Thomas Sunday

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Acts 5:12-20; John 20:19-31.

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Parish potluck after Divine Liturgy.

ECF: older kids 12:00 p.m.



Calendar Highlights

March 10: Cleaning Derby day: At least 12 helpers needed.

March 15: Great Canon of St. Andrew, 6:30 p.m.

March 17: Akathist, 9 a.m. (Baking cancelled)

March 25: Feast of the Annunciation; Palm Sunday, start of Holy Week.

March 26-31: Holy Week (Come often)

March 31: Decorate for Pascha. (At least 15 helpers needed.)

April 1: PASCHA (Easter)

April 8: Thomas Sunday with Potluck afterward.

April 15: Safe Environment Training for adults at 12:00 p.m.--noon

June 22-24: Myrrh Bearers Retreat for women and girls in Phoenix

July 12-15: Alive in Christ for boys and dads on Palomar Mountain, CA

Announcements

THE GREAT FAST CONTINUES: Many people are familiar with the term Lent; we use that term sometimes. Traditionally, we call it the Great Fast. The Metropolia requires minimum abstinence of NOT eating meat or dairy on the first day of the Great Fast (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 that will not be excessively hard or 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 also seek to increase our prayer life, especially by attending Presanctified Liturgies which are held on Wednesdays and Fridays.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOLY MYSTERY (SACRAMENT) OF CONFESSION: On March 17 and during Holy Week, there are more times scheduled for Fr. Michael to witness your private Confession and bring the Lord's forgiveness to you (see the liturgical calendar). If none of these times work, you can also make a special appointment. No Confessions will be heard except for real emergencies from Holy Saturday evening until Bright Saturday (April 7). Please be sure to avail yourself of the opportunity to receive this great Holy Mystery (Sacrament).

THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME: HOLY WEEK! Our whole faith and salvation is rooted in Christ's work of redemption and restoration for us. Through His passion, death, and resurrection, we are set free from the ancestral sin (original sin) of Adam and are able to be partakers of the divine life. Because of Holy Thursday at the Last Supper, we are nourished by Our Lord's body and blood for the spiritual journey just as the manna nourished the Israelites with physical food for their journey through the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. Let us come as much as possible to all the church services offered during Holy Week. It may be tiring, but it will strengthen our faith and relationship with the Lord and bring spiritual benefit. Then our Paschal (Easter) experience will be more meaningful and joyful.

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. 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 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 \$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 March 8, we have collected \$3,865.00 of our goal, bringing us 33% to our goal from 23% participation from our parishioners. If you did not receive a mailing from Bishop John regarding the Bishop's Appeal and would like to make a donation, please let Fr. Michael know. All who have donated at least \$10.00 to the Bishop's Appeal are mentioned in the money section of the bulletin (the amount each donor gives will not be listed). Thank you for your generosity!

SPECIAL COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY: This year on Good Friday, March 30, a special collection will be taken up at St. Thomas, as it is in many other Catholic churches, to support the work of the Franciscans working with Christians in the Holy Land. For more info, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday

ST. NICHOLAS FUND: Back in December, a new opportunity began to donate money to St. Thomas, earmarked and restricted for charitable causes. These funds will be sent to charitable organizations in the region who give to individuals who are in need. It will also be available in special cases for parishioners who are rarely in need of financial help at the discretion of the pastor. To donate to this, place cash or check in a separate envelope clearly marked "St. Nicholas Fund" with your name on it. If you choose to donate by check, make sure to write "St. Nicholas Fund" in the memo line. Thank you.

UPGRADE PROGRESS: Our new sound system has been installed! It hooked up existing, previously unused speakers in the church, added a wired speaker in the narthex, and allows us to turn down the volume of the bell chime inside the church and narthex. The new system also added outdoor speakers for processions. These improvements totaled almost \$3,000. The vestments from St. George Vestments are almost ready. The doors to the front of the hall have finally been installed. We are in the process of researching three security installation companies for upgrades to our system. If you are interested in making a donation to directly support any of these upgrades or would like additional information, please talk to Fr. Michael. Thank you.

BYZANTINE BASICS: Fr. Michael continues the adult catechesis sessions. The next classes are on March 13 (recently moved from March 12), April 13, May 4, May 18, and June 1 from 6:30-8:00pm. Please mark your calendars. All adult parishioners are invited.

DONATION IN MEMORY OF +PETER BROZNAK: In January, Anna Broznak generously gave \$5,000 in honor and memory of her deceased husband +Peter Broznak who passed away in July of 2017. She indicated that we could apply the money to our building/remodel fund and asked that we keep her husband Peter in our prayers. Anna moved away in February to live closer to her family out in North Carolina. We will miss her as we do others who have passed away or moved.

MEN'S GROUP CONTINUES. The parish Men's Group meets on Tuesdays from 6:45 - 7:30 AM to reflect on Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, and other wholesome spiritual books. These weekly meetings are a great opportunity to share challenges and joys. For more information, contact Mike Little at ndmike7@gmail.com.

Parish Advisory Board

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

Money Summary

FEBRUARY COLLECTIONS 2018

February 4

Tithes:Adults	\$2,052.00
Holyday: Simeon & Anna	\$15.00
Donations: Non Parishioners	\$43.00
Improvements, Remodeling	\$50.00
Candles	\$54.81
*Bishop's Appeal	\$100.00
Total deposit to checking	\$2,314.81
*Minus special collections	-\$100.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$2,214.81

February 11

Tithes:Adults	\$1,497.00
Holyday: Simeon & Anna	\$20.00
Donations: Non Parishioners	\$17.00
Candles	\$18.50
*Bishop's Appeal	\$170.00
Insurance paid for door damage	\$1,553.76
Coffee Social	\$15.00
Gift Shop	\$115.00
Total deposit to checking	\$3,426.26
*Minus special collections	-\$170.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$3,256.26

February 18

Tithes:Adults	\$1,318.00
Holyday: Clean Monday	\$10.00
Donations: Non Parishioners	\$67.00
Candles	\$106.38
*Bishop's Appeal	\$520.00
Gift Shop	\$30.00
Total deposit to checking	\$2,051.38
*Minus special collections	-\$520.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$1,531.38

February 18

Anaheim Loan payment	\$643.51
**Deposit to Money Market Acct.	\$643.51

February 25

Tithes:Adults	\$1,084.00
Other Donations	\$60.00
Candles	\$63.00
*Bishop's Appeal	\$275.00
Coffee Social	\$6.00
Gift Shop	\$87.00
Total checking deposit	\$1,575.00
*Minus special collections	-\$275.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$1,300.00

Summary for February Collections

Total deposits	\$10,010.96
*Minus special collections	-\$1,065.00
Total for St. Thomas:	\$8,945.96

**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.*

PARISH INCOME AND EXPENSES

At the suggestion of a parishioner, we will be trying to post a summary of parish gross income, expenses and net income or loss each month. These numbers are produced by our Quickbooks (QB) accounting software. It accounts for income differently than simply the money that gets deposited in the bank accounts. For instance, the principal received on the Anaheim loan is not counted as income in QB since it is technically just returning the parish's own money. QB also does not count money from special collections such as the Bishop's Appeal as income since this money is owed to the eparchy or elsewhere (technically "an immediate liability"). As final figures for any month are not available until after bank statements are reconciled and other information is available, summaries cannot be published until after that data is processed; this might not be for another month or so.

January 2018

Income

Tithes and Offerings	\$10,986.02
-includes \$5,000.00 special building donation	
Misc donations and income	\$1,557.91
Total Income	\$12,543.93

Expenses

Admin & General Expenses	\$1,879.47
-includes \$944.61 Cathedraicum tax to support the Eparchy of Phoenix	
Personnel Expenses	\$3,400.00
-includes pastor salary \$2,000.	
-includes med. ins., pension \$1,400.	
Church Operating Expenses	\$643.04
Rectory Operating Expenses	\$808.60
Hall Operating Expense	\$811.38
Total Expenses	\$7,542.49
Total income minus total expenses =	
Net Income for January	\$5,001.44

February 2018

Income

Tithes and Offerings	\$6,253.00
Insurance payment for hall door	\$1,533.76
Misc donations and income	\$541.28
Total Income	\$8,348.04

Expenses

Admin & General Expenses	\$1,211.12
-includes \$679.43 Cathedraicum tax to support the Eparchy of Phoenix	
Personnel Expenses	\$3,400.00
-includes \$2,000. pastor salary	
-includes \$1,400. med. ins., pension	
Church Operating Expenses	\$4,275.69
-includes \$2,929.99 audio remodel	
Rectory Operating Expenses	\$625.91
Hall Operating Expense	\$1,249.87
Total Expenses	\$10,762.59

Total income minus total expenses =
Net Loss for February **-\$2,414.55**

A summary of annual financial statements are available to all parishioners as a handout or mailing usually in the first quarter of the next year. More detailed financial statements are available for parishioners to view by request.

BISHOP'S APPEAL DONORS

As promised last month, these are the people who have contributed \$10 or more, as of March 8:

Joseph Barnes
Gregory Bartlett
Eleanore Bernstein
Fr. Michael Bezruchka
Allegra Bisbee
Robert and Mary Lynn Cihak
Alberto Gomez
Fr. Doug & Nancy Lorig
Reg & Diane Parker
Marilyn Reiling
John and Debra Hratko
Doreene Stacy
Dcn. Michael & Donna Sullivan
Liz Zackowski

We thank all our donors to the Bishop's Appeal who help generate funds for the eparchy to pay for expenses and sponsor additional programs such as seminarian formation, youth ministry, and evangelization materials.

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, Ted Bronson; All those serving our country in the military including Scott Karnya, Sam Karnya, Capt. Patrick Whalen, and Gregory Whalen.

“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 Cihota,
- † Peter Broznak, † James Sandrock,
- † Fr. Wes Izer, † Cathy Simpson,
- † Anna Hrynik, † Joseph Hrynik,
- † John Hrynik, † Watler Hrynik,
- † Mary Petun, † Mary Rogees

Happy Birthday

Josh Forbes	March 10
Phillip Bronson	March 11
Al Ferencz	March 19
Julia Moore	March 21
Richard Lopez	March 22
Patrick Murphy	March 25
Lucy Casillas	March 25

Happy Anniversary

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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: On Tuesday, April 15 at 12:00pm, Patrick Cullen will give a very important presentation to our adults on creating a safe environment for children in our homes, schools, and churches. This is not about playground and tree-climbing safety. This presentation will cover how to be vigilant in order that abuse may be prevented and what to do if you suspect its occurrence. This is not something that just parents of current minors should attend. It is something for all adults of our parish to attend if possible.

MYRRH BEARERS RETREAT: Save the date for the Eparchy of Phoenix’s 2018 Myrrh Bearers retreat from Friday June 22-Sunday June 24 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ. Girls ages 7+, teens, and women of all ages are invited to participate in this prayerful weekend themed: Theotokos- Model of Grace. Please see <https://myrrh-bearers.com> for more information. The registration deadline is June 1.

ByzanTEEN Youth Rally 2018: This will take place at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA from July 5-8. Theme: “Who is My Neighbor?” More details and information will become available on www.byzanteen.com as time passes.

ALIVE IN CHRIST: This year’s Alive in Christ camp will take place for boys and their dads from July 12-15 at Camp Palomar near San Diego. The camp aims at helping young men mature in their Catholic faith and a life of authentic Christian discipleship. Fed by Byzantine spirituality, the camp engenders a fervor that will deepen personal awareness of a boy’s share in the Life of Christ, that will sustain him as he grows into adulthood in an ever-increasing secular world, that will teach him to exercise Christian values through self-mastery, and that will assist him in discerning well his God-given vocations and charisms. More information can be found in the flyers in the narthex and hall. The registration deadline is June 29.

NEXT FAMILY GAME NIGHT: Our last Family Game Night was a big success! We look forward to another fun evening playing board games and eating pizza on Saturday, April 14 in the parish hall after the Vigil Vesper Divine Liturgy (approx. 6:30pm). It is open to parishioner families, young adult parishioners, senior parishioners, and friends of parishioners who want to join us. Please bring your favorite board games and/or plan to play a game of charades. To help cover the cost of the pizza, there will be a donation of \$8 per adult and \$20 per family. See you there!

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