

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!



February 5, 2017 - March 5, 2017

GLORY FOREVER!



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

19 W. Bruce Ave. Gilbert, AZ 85233

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 667 • Gilbert, AZ 85299-0667

Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM • Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Please give a courtesy call or send an email before coming to the parish to make sure someone is in the office.

Office: (480) 497-6726 • Fax: (480) 907-7819 • Pastor's Email: saint.thomas.pastor@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stabcc.org

Served by:

Father Michael Bezruchka, Pastor • Deacon Michael Sullivan

Parish Advisory Board:

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

Sunday Divine Liturgy:

Vigil Vesper Liturgy (Saturday) at 5:00 PM

Sunday Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM • Divine Praises at 9:45 AM

Matins/Morning Prayer:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00-9:00am unless noted otherwise in bulletin.

Holy Mystery of Penance:

Confessions are heard starting one hour before the scheduled Divine Liturgy is to begin for a total of 35 minutes. Confessions also available by appointment.

Chaldean Catholic Holy Liturgy: Sunday at 6:00 PM

WELCOME TO ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE!

Our parish community welcomes all those visiting with us today. We thank you for joining our community in praising the Lord as we remember His great love and mercy for us. We hope that you will join us again soon and bring a friend. If, per chance, you are looking for a spiritual home based on the Sacred Scriptures, the teaching of the Apostles, the ancient Church Traditions in the context of a liturgical life and fellowship, please consider our parish! Speak with Father Michael or Deacon Michael if you would like more information.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Saturday February 4
 Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - +Robert Sanchez by Liz Zackowski

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Sunday February 5 **Tone 5**
Postfestive Day of the Encounter
 Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 18:10-14
Intention- Parishioners of St. Thomas
 Coffee Social after Divine Liturgy

Monday February 6
 Matins 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday February 8
*Holy Great Martyr Theodore, Holy Prophet Zechariah,
 Holy Martyr Nicephor (transferred from February 9), and
 Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Encounter*
 Matins 8:00 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
 2 Peter 3:1-18; Matthew 10:116-22
Intention - Marie Gervaise by the Bullock family

Friday February 10
 Matins 8:00 a.m.

Saturday February 11
 Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - Joan Lucas by Mike Hrynik

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Sunday February 12 **Tone 6**
 Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 15:11-32
Intention- Parishioners of St. Thomas
 Coffee Social after Divine Liturgy

Monday February 13
 Matins 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday February 15
Memorial Divine Liturgy in evening for +Mary Perun
 Matins 8:00 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Intention- +Mary Perun by Mike Hrynik

Friday February 17
 Matins 8:00 a.m.

Saturday February 18
First All-Souls Saturday
 Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
 1 Corinthians 10:23-28 & Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
 (For Saturday of Meat-fare);
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 & John 5:24-40 (For All Souls);
Intention - Deceased people listed in parish diptychs.
 Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention- +John Joseph Fellin by parents

*Meatfare Sunday and the Commemoration of the
 Second Coming of Jesus Christ as Judge*
Sunday February 19 **Tone 7**
 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
 After Divine Liturgy: Picnic at Freestone Park, Ramada
 B "Courtside Ramada"

Monday February 20
 Matins 8:00 a.m.

Cheesefare Saturday
Saturday February 25
 Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - +Fr. Wes Izer by Fr. Wes' estate

Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday
Sunday February 26 **Tone 8**
*the Commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from
 Paradise*
 Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
 Romans 13:11 - 14:4; Matthew 6:14-21
 At the end of Divine Liturgy: Mutual exchange of
 forgiveness.
Intention- Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday February 27
First Day of the Great Fast, Clean Monday
 Matins 8:00 a.m.
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy
 7:00 p.m.
 Venerable Father and Confessor Procopius the
 Decapolite.
Intention- +Wilma Ihnat by the Bullock family

Wednesday March 1
 Matins 8:00 a.m.
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
Venerable Martyr Eudoxia
Intention- +Theodore Fet Lytwynec by Nicholas Kowalczyk



Friday March 3
 Matins 8:00 a.m.
 Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
*Holy Martyr Eutropius and His Companions,
 Cleonicus and Basiliscus*
Intention- +John Hospodar by daughter Helin
 After Presanctified Liturgy, soup fellowship in hall.

Saturday March 4
 Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.
Intention - +Robert Sanchez by Rudy Rasic

First Sunday of the Great Fast. Sunday of Orthodoxy

Sunday March 5 **Tone 1**
Memory of the Holy Prophets
 Third Hour 9:45 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
 Hebrews 11:24-26,32 - 12:2; John 1:43-51.
Intention- Parishioners of St. Thomas
 Please bring your favorite icon to church and feel free to carry it in procession at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSE BLESSINGS CONTINUE: Fr. Michael is making progress blessing homes. They seem to be averaging about 30 minutes for homes that have not been blessed previously (which includes anointing oil prayers) not including visiting time. (Previously blessed homes take about 15-20 minutes). If preparing a potluck or snack, please **DO NOT COOK** with mushrooms and uncooked tomatoes as Fr. Michael is allergic to them. Fr. Michel finds it a delight to get to know parishioners better through seeing and blessing their homes.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: On Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00pm, Jennifer Mikitish 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.

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 courts are nearby. Sign-up sheets are in the hall for bringing a food item. Our reservation is from 11:30am to 3:00pm on February 19 at Ramada B which is also called the Courtside Ramada. See you there!

THINKING AHEAD TO THE GREAT FAST: Notice that the Sundays of Meatfare and Cheesefare are coming up. This is a sign we are preparing for the Great Fast (Great Lent). This is the most important time for kenosis (self-emptying) so we can share in the joy of the risen

Lord in Pascha (Easter). The minimum abstinence that the Metropolia requires of all parishioners is that we do not eat meat or dairy on the first day of the Great Fast (which is February 27) nor on Good Friday (April 14). In addition, we are required to abstain from meat on all Wednesdays and Fridays. That is the minimum required! The traditional fast of our Tradition 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. We are encouraged to share more fully in the sufferings of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ out of love for Him. We 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. Let us do the harder work of cooperating with the Lord during this time so a beautiful spiritual blossoming might take place at the time of Pascha!

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 glad you made the effort. Please be sure to also update our diptychs, the lists of deceased people you want the priest and deacon to pray for at these Divine Liturgies followed by a Panahida. The last day to make changes to this list is February 12.

CALENDAR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- **February 2:** Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord Jesus Christ with Simeon & Anna (Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple)
- **February 5:** Super Bowl Sunday.
Liturgically: Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.
- **February 7:** Safe Environment presentation for adults 18 & over. 7:00pm in the hall.
- **February 9:** Leave-taking (Otdanije) of Feast of the Encounter. Good time to take down all Christmas decorations if you still have them up.
- **February 10:** A Friday in which we can eat meat! This is because it is the Friday after the Publican and Pharisee. We eat meat on that specific day to remind us to avoid pride at all times.
- **February 12:** Last day to make changes to our parish diptychs. (See All Souls announcement.)
- **February 18:** First All Souls Saturday at 9am.
- **February 19:** Picnic at Freestone Park (Ramada B "Courtside Ramada") after Divine Liturgy. Reservation: 11:30am to 3pm.
- **February 26:** Forgiveness Sunday. Forgiveness among parishioners exchanged at end of Liturgy.
- **February 27:** Beginning of the Great Fast
- **Presanctified Liturgies** at 7pm: Feb. 27, March 1, 3 (soup fellowship afterward), March 8, 10 (soup fellowship afterward). Pattern continues on all Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.
- **March 11:** Second All Souls Saturday at 9:00 am.
- **March 18:** Third All Souls Saturday at 9:00 am.
- **March 25:** Solemn Feast of the Annunciation at 9:00 am.
- **March 30:** Matins of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 7:00pm (evening instead of morning so more parishioners can come).
- **April 9-15:** Holy Week. Come often!

REMEMBER THOSE WHO REQUEST OUR PRAYERS

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

Robert Hernandez, Teresa Smith, †Mary Perun, Joan Lucas, †Joseph & Anna Hrynyk, †Walter Hrynyk, †John Hrynyk, Luisa Garcia, Linda Garcia, Nena Desantos, Russell Hook, Deacon Michael Melnick, †Wilma Ihnat, Jason & Joshua Kowalczyk, Beth Hicks, †Patty Prestash, Olga Silva, Ted Bronson, Ana Maria Olvera † Msgr. Michael Nestor and Lawrence Ybarra, †Fr. Wes Izer, Art Krueger, Ilija Seat, Elaine E. and Fr. John Coleman & Carrie Thornton, †Barbara Bronson, Eleanor Shields, Teresa Rojero, Rosemary Ziarkowski, Helen Fellin, Lou Fellin, James Devlin, †Pete Nelson, Terence J. Faust, Clementina Mendoza, James Young, Cathy Simpson, †Marge Bobick, William Glenn, Dorothy Imlej, †Rev. Michael T. Bell, Mark Stefanski, Helen Dinegar, Paul John Hetherington, Hannah Joes, Fr. Fausto, Eric Shark, Kay William, Mary Ada, OFM, B.K. Burnette, Bob Sherman, Mary Kowalczyk, Kevin McBride, Lisa Kirila Mendez, Jonathan Coonrod, Sylvia Gutierrez, Elaine Brown, Linskey Family, Viviana Rodarte, Renata Paloian, OSBM, Monica Harris, Mike Little, Olga Chapkevich, Jerrine Sauntry, Alwyne Holder, Fr. Phil Acquaro, Fr. Chris Zuger, Alexandra, †John Bacovcin, Anita Batean, Bonnie Bennett, Mark D. Chapa, Michael Chapa, Ed Corwin, Gerald & Helen Dunn, Elizabeth Glenn, Nikki Heminway, Virginia Hill, Sonny Hopkins, Jaclyn Lentz, Anne-Marie Krytiuk, Erica Lupe, Richard Marchant (Al & Helen Ferencz' son-in-law), Alice Posivy (Bullock), Lara Sparling-Ott, Carley Spears, Lorraine Teeling, Henry Zuger, Yoshiko, and all in the service of our country, especially from our parish family: Scott Karnya, Sam Karnya, Adam Young, Brandon Eyres (Michael & Anne Bacovcin's grandson), Patrick Whalen (Doreene Stacy's grandson), and the Mother of Reg Parker,

COLLECTIONS

JANUARY COLLECTIONS

- **Dec. 31/Jan. 1, 2017:**
- General parishioner tithes: \$1,162.00
- Holy Days: Nativity & Theophany: \$256.00
- Remodeling: \$50.00
- Gift Shop: \$70.00
- Other donations: \$277.50
- Rent: Chaldeans: \$250.00
- **Total: \$2,065.50**

- **Jan. 7/8:**
- General parishioner tithes: \$1,011.00
- Holy Days: Nativity & Theophany: \$175.00
- Other donations: \$211.00
- **Total: \$1,397.00**

- **Jan. 14/15**
- General parishioner tithes: \$1,491.00
- Holy Day: Theophany: \$20.00
- Gift Shop: \$54.00
- Rent--hall: K of C: \$180.00
- *Bishop Appeal: \$ 110.00
- Other donations: \$151.30
- **Total: \$2,006.30**

- **Jan. 21/22:**
- General parishioner tithes: \$1,335.00
- Christmas holyday: \$500.00
- Gift Shop: \$12.00
- Oktoberfest matching Funds grant: \$1,500.00
- *Bishop's Appeal: \$300.00
- Other donations: \$166.70
- **Total: \$3,813.70**

- **Jan. 28/29:**
- General parishioner tithes: \$1,863.00
- *Bishop's Appeal: \$100.00
- Rent from Chaldeans: \$250.00
- Gift Shop: \$ 75.99
- Other donations: \$99.60
- **Total: \$2,388.59**

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



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

KOWALCZYK, Andrea	Feb. 1
BERNSTEIN, Eleanor	Feb. 2
ANTONIOS, Janice	Feb. 6
COREY, Michael Joseph	Feb. 7
KAFORA, John	Feb. 7
LOPEZ, Hope	Feb. 7
ZACKOWSKI, Elizabeth	Feb. 8
ANDERSON, Michael	Feb. 19
BARNES, Janis	Feb. 24
THOROW, Aaron	Feb. 27

ANNIVERSARIES

SIMS, Jeff and Lynn	Feb. 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.