

CHRIST IS RISEN!



April 16, 2017 - May 15, 2017
INDEED HE IS RISEN!



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.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Dear Parishioners,

What a blessing to share my first Pascha as a priest with all of you! Thank you for sharing with me in the season of Christ's Passion and death so that we can rise to new life in Christ through His Resurrection from the dead.

On the glorious day of His resurrection, Our Lord Jesus Christ met His disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35). Yet they did not recognize Him, their teacher, Lord, and Savior. They were so bogged down because of the crucifixion that He seemed no more than a stranger who had no idea of current world events (namely, that the hoped-for Messiah had been crucified a couple days before). When Jesus explained the Scriptures that pointed to all these things and that His crucifixion and death were necessary for the Son of Man to be glorified, they were filled with a new hope - yet still they did not recognize Jesus. It was not until He blessed the bread and gave it to them as His body and blood that they realized He was the RISEN LORD! Now were their mouths full of laughter and their tongues filled with joy (Psalm 125/126: 2).



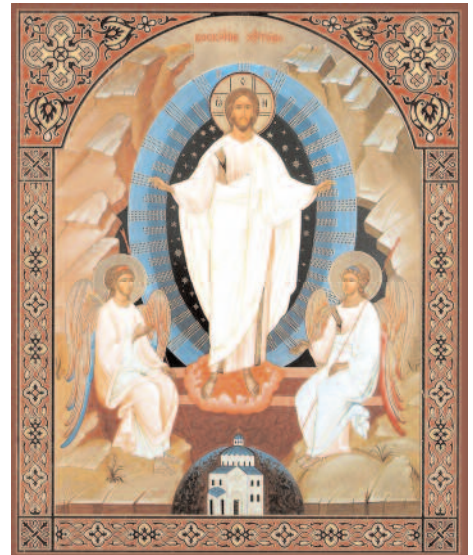
Perhaps this has been a good year for you. Perhaps it has been a stable year. These are great blessings! For some, it may have been a challenging year with sickness or other difficulties with family or work. Perhaps the troubles have been overwhelming... In such times, recall the grief of the disciples on the walk to Emmaus. They were desolate. Everything seemed over.

But Our Lord's words turn their sorrow into hopefulness, expectancy, and joy. "Were not our hearts burning inside us as He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24: 32).

It is my prayer that your hearts may turn from the daily struggle, and be renewed and filled with the joy of this season of Pascha; the peace and joy that come from rising to new life with the Risen Lord!

Sincerely yours in our Risen Lord Jesus!

Fr. Michael Bezruchka
Pastor



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JOHN

Christos Voskrese! Christ is Risen! Voistinnu Voskrese! Indeed He is risen!

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Religious and Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection is the "Feast of Feasts", the crown of the Liturgical year. The icon of the Resurrection depicts this great and glorious Day. We see Christ in bright garments standing in the center. A radiant halo encircles his head; rays of light emanate from his risen body and dispel the darkness. He stands upon the broken gate of death, indicating his victory over death by his own death and resurrection. Christ is seen raising Adam and Eve from the tomb. In freeing them, Christ frees all humanity from the grip of death.

The Lord's Resurrection from the dead reminds us that God will always have the last and victorious word. The Risen Lord signals the triumph of new life over sin, sickness and sorrow; He gives us a new beginning, a time to rebuild and live new lives. When we greet one another with: "Christ is Risen", we are proclaiming that Christ is with us in a new and saving way. If the passion and crucifixion had been the

end. If the cross had been the final word, there would be no gospel. For over 2000 years our Church has been a witness of the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ risen from the dead.

What we celebrate at Easter is the triumph of truth over falsehood, love over hatred, light over darkness. Our Easter Gospel from St. John describes it this way: "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never been able to overpower it." Easter is the feast of new life and hope. It is a feast that must be not only celebrated, but lived. We have new life from Christ; let us live new lives in Him Who is risen from the dead.

My Paschal prayer to all the beloved of our Eparchy is that the Risen Christ's presence and blessings be abundantly experienced by you and your families on Easter Sunday and throughout the year.

Sincerely yours in the Risen and Glorified Christ,

Most Reverend John S. Pazak, C.Ss.R.
Eparchial Bishop of the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix and Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Saints Cyril and Methodius for the Byzantine Rite Slovaks in Canada



There are also online cantor training and continuing education classes which are being offered beginning April 24. THAT'S REALLY SOON!

Excerpts from a message from Deacon Jeff of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute (MCI):

The Metropolitan Cantor Institute has started a comprehensive program of online courses, aimed at recruiting and training new cantors, and working their existing cantors to sharpen their skills.

The following courses will be offered from April to June:

Introduction to the Divine Liturgy - April 24 to June 16, 2017 An 8-week introduction to the singing of the Divine Liturgy. Each student will demonstrate knowledge of ONE melody for each major hymn. Students will record their singing for review and feedback. This course assumes the knowledge and skills taught in Introduction to Liturgy and Introduction to Church Singing. Tuition: \$75.

Reading in Church - April 24 to May 19

A 4-week course covering the role of the reader, the melody used for the epistle and Old Testament readings, and how to prepare to read in church. Students will record their singing for review and feedback. This course assumes the knowledge and skills taught in Introduction to Liturgy and Introduction to Church Singing, but this material can be learned before the reader's course if the student is motivated. Tuition: \$30.

Introduction to the Typikon - May 22 to June 16

A 4-week course that teaches cantors the skills necessary to determine the changeable hymns to be sung at the Divine Liturgy throughout the year. (No singing component.) Tuition: \$30. Please pass the word on to anyone in your parish who might be interested. A registration form can be found at

http://mci.archpitt.org/MCI/MCI_reg_2017-02.pdf



COLLECTIONS

APRIL 2 - 9 COLLECTIONS

April 1/2, 2017:

General parishioner tithes: \$1,586.00
Rent--Church & Hall--Chaldeans: \$300.00
***Bishop's Appeal: \$550.00**
Remodeling: \$50.00
Bake Sale: \$20.00
Coffee Social: \$10.00
Gift Shop: \$33.00
Other donations: \$123.00
Total: \$2,672.00

April 8/9:

General parishioner tithes: \$1881.00
Holy Days: 425.00
***Bishop's Appeal: \$120.00**
Bake Sale: 331.00
Gift Shop: \$158.00
Coffee Social: \$6.00
Other donations: \$697.00
Total: \$3,618.00

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

REMEMBER THOSE WHO REQUEST OUR PRAYERS

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

Linda Morasca, 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 Zugger, 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 Zugger, 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