



St. Thomas The Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church



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www.stabcc.org

Christ is Risen!!

5/18/2020

Dear St. Thomas the Apostle Parishioners,

On May 14th, Bishop Thomas Olmsted issued a *Policy Statement on the Eparchial Directives Regarding Parish Liturgical and Other Activities Relevant to the Corona Virus Pandemic*. We were asked by our worthy Bishop to create our own church-specific policy in keeping with state and local requirements. It is as follows:

- The Sunday obligation remains dispensed until May 31st, 2020.
- Individuals or households are encouraged to remain at least 6 feet apart from each other, including while lining up for communion.
- Communion will continue to be distributed by means of the spoon. Please make sure to open your mouth wide when receiving communion.
- Individuals who are high-risk (65 and over or have underlying health conditions) are encouraged to consider attending our online services at home.
- If you are sick, please stay home and attend our online service.
- Parishioners are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, mouth, nose or eyes with their hands.
- Parishioners may reverence the icons on the tetrapod and in the church without kissing or touching them.
- The gospel book will not be offered to the faithful for reverencing or kissing.
- The offering collection will be gathered by means of a stationary basket located at the tetrapod or online at www.stabcc.org.
- The parish hall will be open as an overflow during liturgical celebrations, so parishioners can watch the service via streaming and receive communion.
- The communion chalice and spoon will be cleaned and sanitized.
- The drinking fountains may not be used until at least May 31st, 2020.
- The restrooms will be cleaned and sanitized.
- All parish activities outside of liturgical celebrations remain suspended until at least May 31st, 2020.
- Any policy or rule not listed on this document, should not be considered part of the St. Thomas policy.

The Eparchial policy, our church specific policy, and Arizona Governor Doug Ducey's *Guidance for Places of Worship* will be attached via email to our parishioners and will be posted at the front doors of our church and parish hall. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please reach out to Father Michael Sidun personally at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in GILBERT AZ.

In Christ Rev. Mykhaylo Sidun