

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!



June 3, 2017 - July 2, 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

If you have a sacramental emergency, dial the office phone and press 2.

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 7:30-8:30am 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 30 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 June 3

Fifth All Souls Saturday

Holy Martyr Lucillian and His Companions

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Acts 28:1-31; (for the deceased, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17);

John 21:15-25; (for the deceased, John 5:24-30).

Intention - For deceased parishioners and others in parish diptychs

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by anonymous

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday June 4 Festal Tone

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Acts 2:1-11; John 7:37-52 & 8:12.

Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

Pentecost Week

Pentecost Monday

Simple Holyday

Monday June 5

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Ephesians 5:9-19; Matthew 18:10-20.

Intention - Fr. Michael and Betty Kirila by the Bullock family

Pentecost Wednesday

Wednesday June 7

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Pentecost Friday

Friday June 9

Matins 7:30 a.m.

No abstinence from meat required on this day.

Saturday June 10

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by Ronnie Stange

Sunday of All Saints

Sunday June 11 Tone 8

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Hebrews 11:33 - 12:2; Matthew 10:32-33 & 37-38 &

19:27-30.

Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday June 12

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday June 14

Holy Prophet Elisha. Holy Father Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 7:21-23.

Intention - Betty Kirila by Doreene Stacy

Friday June 16

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Saturday June 17

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention - +Wilma Ihnat by Anonymous

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

Sunday June 18 Tone 1

Holy Martyr Leontius

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Romans 2:10-16; Matthew 4:18-23.

Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

After Divine Liturgy, Father's Day Brunch.

Fr. Michael's first anniversary to Christ's priesthood

Friday June 23

Birth of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Solemn Holyday

Romans 13:11 - 14:4; Luke 1:5-25 & 57-68 & 76 & 80

Intention - Dr. & Mrs. David Wholen by Doreene Stacy

Saturday June 24

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention - Fr. Michael & Betty Kirila by the Bullock family

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday June 25 Tone 2

Postfestive Day of the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist,

Holy Martyr Febronia

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Romans 5:1-10; Matthew 6:22-34.

Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

Monday June 26

Matins 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday June 28

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Intention - +Wilma & John Ihnat by Al & Helen Ferencz

Holy, Glorious and Illustrious Pre-eminent Apostles

Peter and Paul

Thursday June 29

Holyday of Obligation

Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

2 Corinthians 11:21 - 12:9; Matthew 16:13-19.

Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

Saturday July 1

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m.

Intention - +John Richard Buchanan by the Bullock family

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday July 2 Tone 3

Deposition of the Venerable Robes of our Most Holy

Lady, the Theotokos at Blachernae

Third Hour 9:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Romans 6:18-23; Matthew 8:5-13.

Intention - Parishioners of St. Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BISHOP APPEAL STATUS. Folks, we have reached 81% of our goal. We have \$3,125.00 left to make our target of \$16,775.00. As of May 28, we raised \$13,555.00 for our Bishop's Appeal. We would love to receive a 30% rebate for reaching our goal but understand some people's financial situation may not allow a second pledge. Everyone can give something for their first pledge whether \$5, \$50, \$275, or \$1,000 or more. If you are able to give a second pledge, it would help us greatly! (Fr. Michael is ready to make a second pledge too.) For those who have donated, A BIG THANK YOU! Although the pledge forms say the appeal is due on May 31, all of us have an extension for when the funds are due at the Pastoral Center. This means, all payments **MUST** be received at our parish **NO LATER** than June 11 in order to be processed and sent in time. Thank you.

MATINS TIME CHANGED. Please note that beginning June 3, the regular Daily Matins time on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays is changing from 8:00am to 7:30am. Festal Matins tend to be scheduled at 9:00am when they occur.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of June: "that national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people."

FUNERALS: It is with great sadness that we heard that Sr. Jean Marie Cihota passed away on May 18, 2017 and had her funeral at our cathedral on May 21 & 22. She was

a great bundle of Christ's light and joy at St. Stephen's and our eparchial Pastoral Center and helped with a lot of important work. We will continue to miss her. On May 21, we also heard of a former parishioner who was with us in the 90's, James Sandrock, passing away as well and had his funeral at St. Stephen's on June 2. Let us remember them in our prayers and remember that we never know the day nor the hour when Our Lord Jesus Christ will call us to Himself. Let us be ready!

FEAST OF PENTECOST: A nice explanation of the feast of Pentecost comes from *The Liturgical Year of the Byzantine-Slavonic Rite* by Basil Shereghy (1968 Byzantine Seminary Press: pp. 47-50):

Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. This happened fifty days after the resurrection, on an ancient Jewish festival called, in the Pentateuch, the Feast of Weeks [Leviticus 23: 15-22] (2 Maccabees 12:32) since it was celebrated exactly seven weeks after Passover. As it came approximately fifty days after the Passover, it was also called even in pre-Christian times, "Pentecost," from the Greek word for fiftieth.....

Pentecost also marks the beginning of the work and activity of the Holy Spirit. Before His departure, Jesus promised that He would not leave us orphans. He would send the Paraclete, the Comforter, who would teach us all things.....

On this day, churches and private homes are decked with green branches and green flowers; this is why Pentecost is also called the "Green Holy Day." Other names for Pentecost are "Whitsunday," "Holy Sunday," or "Rusalia."

Pentecost is the feast when the Holy Spirit goes forth to conquer, to shape, and to create, especially in the form of three great graces: Love, zeal, and the spirit of prayer. The first grace, love, is the essence of the day, for the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Love; Pentecost is the most sublime revelation of love. Love is born at Christmas, grown through suffering on Golgotha and becomes glowing, conquering and victorious at Pentecost. The second grace, zeal, is what St. John the Baptist called the "baptism of fire." Jesus Himself said that He came to "cast fire on the earth" and wished it to burn. This is the fire that still burns in the veins of the Church, praying for and longing for sanctity. The third grace of Pentecost, the spirit of prayer, is the very breath of the Holy Spirit. We have to beg for this spirit of prayer and guard it zealously. When we have won it, we must give thanks for it. If we lack it, we must seek it. Grace and prayer go together.

The whole week after Pentecost is free from fast and the faithful are permitted to eat meat the whole week. The Monday following Pentecost is the Feast of the Holy Trinity.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO REQUEST OUR PRAYERS

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

+Sr. Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM, +James Sandrock, Connie Morrissey, Betty Kirila, Fr. Michael Kirila, Linda Morasca, Robert Hernandez, Teresa Smith, †Mary Perun, Joan Lucas, †Joseph & Anna Hrynik, †Walter Hrynik, †John Hrynik, 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 Zuggger, 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-inlaw), Alice Posivy (Bullock), Lara Sparling-Ott, Carley Spears, Lorraine Teeling, Henry Zuggger, 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

MAY COLLECTIONS

May 7, 2017:

General parishioner tithes: \$1,366.00
Bake Sale: \$10.00
Coffee Social: \$5.00
Other donations: \$109.35
*Bishop's Appeal: \$500.00
Total deposit to checking: \$1,990.35
Total for St. Thomas: \$1,490.35

May 8, 2017: SPECIAL DEPOSIT

\$20,000 from Ihnat Family Living Trust.
\$10,000 specified for new roof
\$10,000 unspecified

*A BIG THANK YOU TO JOHN & WILMA IHNAT
FOR INCLUDING US IN THEIR WILL.*

May 14, 2017:

General parishioner tithes: \$1,458.00
Other donations: \$152.50
*Bishop Appeal: \$875.00
*Catholic Home Missions: \$50.00
Total deposit to checking: \$2,535.50
Total for St. Thomas: \$1,610.50

May 21, 2017:

General parishioner tithes: \$2,428.00
Holy day--Ascension: \$40.00
Gift Shop: \$7.00
Other donations: \$191.50
*Bishop's Appeal: 800.00
Total deposit to checking: \$3,466.50
Total for St. Thomas: \$2,666.50

May 28, 2017:

General parishioner tithes: \$948.00
Holy day--Ascension: \$45.00
Rent--Chaldeans: \$300.00
Other donations: \$65.41
*Bishop's Appeal: 1,600.00
Total deposit to checking: \$2,958.41
Total for St. Thomas: \$1,358.41

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

Happy Birthday

Mike Little	June 4
Greg Hendricks	June 4
Bill Kohl	June 9
Alberto Gomez	June 16
Fr. Michael Bezruchka	June 19

Happy Anniversary

John and Debra Hratko	June 12
Denis & Michelle Bondra	June 15
Fr. Michael Bezruchka (priests anniversary)	June 18
Deb & Cal Karnya	June 22
Ted & Christy Bronson	June 25

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.

CALENDAR

- **June 4: Feast of Pentecost.**
Most of Church calendar is in reference to Pentecost.
- **June 18: Father's Day Brunch.**
- **June 19-23: Clergy Conference in Phoenix.**
(Fr. Michael & Dcn. Michael less accessible)
- **June 29: Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul:**
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy at 7pm on June 28. Divine Liturgy at 7pm on June 29.
- **July 9: Parish potluck**
- **August 13: Parish potluck**
and 35th Anniversary celebration.
(August 15 is the real anniversary)
- **August 15: Dormition of the Mother of God:**
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. Divine Liturgy at 7pm.
- **October 21: Oktoberfest**
celebration at Church hall.
- **October 23-27: Clergy Retreat**
in Carefree, AZ. (Fr. Michael & Dcn. Michael less accessible)
- **November 4: Eucharistic Procession**
beginning at 9am from St. Anne's to St. Thomas and back.