

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory Forever!

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday Vigil

5pm – Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy

Sunday

10am – Divine Liturgy

Weekdays

Weekday Divine Liturgy: Check bulletin

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession)

Saturdays: 4:00-4:30pm

Sundays: 9:00-9:30am

(Also available by appointment)

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 voicemail
- press 2 for a sacramental emergency

Email

saint.thomas.pastor@gmail.com

Website

www.stabcc.org

Office Hours

By appointment only.



Father Adam Peter Lowe

Parochial Administrator

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 liturgical prayers are chanted.

We welcome visitors who wish to share in our sacred worship services.



“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Lk 5:4

Gratitude and Blessings!

Thank you! Gracias! D’akujem! Ευχαριστούμε!

“I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.” (2 Timothy 1:3)

A huge thank you to everyone for the wonderful food and reception on Sunday October 16!

It is a great Joy for us to be able to officially call this wonderful parish our home!

Rich blessings to you all!

~ Fr. Adam Lowe, Pani Amanda, Grace (13) Joyanna (Jojo, 10) and Eleisa (Ellie, 7)

Hello St. Thomas Family,

I wanted to thank all of you for your contributions to the wonderful celebration we had for Fr. Adam last Sunday. Thank you everyone who provided a delicious dish. Thank you, especially to Cassy Holzhauer who made several tasty Greek dishes. You went above and beyond!

Thank you to those who decorated in the morning. It looked beautiful!

Thank you to Jeff and Lynn Simms for going out and purchasing all the dinnerware, and all the other behind the scene things you both do.

Thank you to all of you who stayed and cleaned up! That is a big blessing and big job!

I can totally turn this into a gratitude email for all the things people and clergy do ongoing at St. Thomas, but I’ll contain myself and just say thank you. If it ever goes unnoticed remember “treasure in Heaven”❤

*Blessing always,
Rhiannon*

*“Thank you Rhiannon for the gracious and heartfelt thanks to all of us, speaking for myself and my family we were thrilled with the welcome, the reception and the food. Thanks again to everyone - and I’m still enjoying the cheesecake!!”
~ Fr. Adam*

*“Thank you Rhiannon for stepping up on unbelievably short notice to take lead responding in putting the entire potluck together. Your management and many other skills, experience, and meritorious effort was instrumental to its sterling success. Thank *YOU* and your team on behalf of the entire parish! ~ Dcn. Mike*

We are all very blessed at St. Thomas in that we have each other!



“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Lk 5:4

Liturgical Schedule



Tuesday, November 1
Feast of the Blessed Martyr Theodore Romzha, Bishop of Mukachevo

Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
 Philippians 3:7-11; Luke 22:24-30
Intention: †Helen Ferencz (†Al Ferencz)

Saturday Evening, November 5

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: †Lars Arriola (Forbes Family)

Sunday, November 6 **Tone 5**
22nd Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Father Paul the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople
 Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
 Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
 Galatians 6:11-18; Luke 8:41-56
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



Tuesday, November 8
Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Michael & All the Angelic Powers

Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM
Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM
 Hebrews 2:2-10; Luke 10:16-21
Intention: Father Phil (Dcn. Mike)

Saturday Evening, November 12

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM
Intention: †Richard Kerr (Jason Kowalczyk)

Sunday, November 13 **Tone 6**
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Father John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople
 Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
 Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
 Ephesians 2:4-10; Luke 10:25-37
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

November 15-December 24
Phillip's (Advent) Fast

The Ruthenian Metropolia has identified this period as a penitential season. By tradition it is a period of strict abstinence with the usual mitigations. In particular, Christmas Eve, December 24, is by tradition a day of strict abstinence. Common practice in recent years has been to adopt at the very minimum some increased level of abstinence beyond that of non-penitential seasons. The observance of this fast is voluntary.

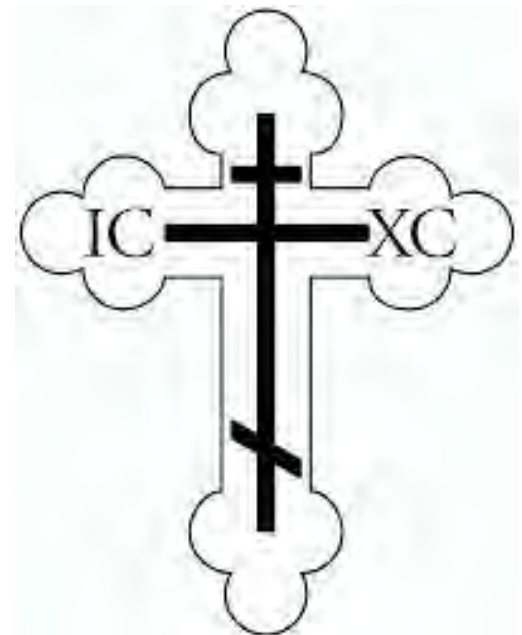
Saturday Evening, November 19

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM
Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM

Intention: †Peter Broznak (Anna Broznak)
Sunday, November 20 **Tone 7**

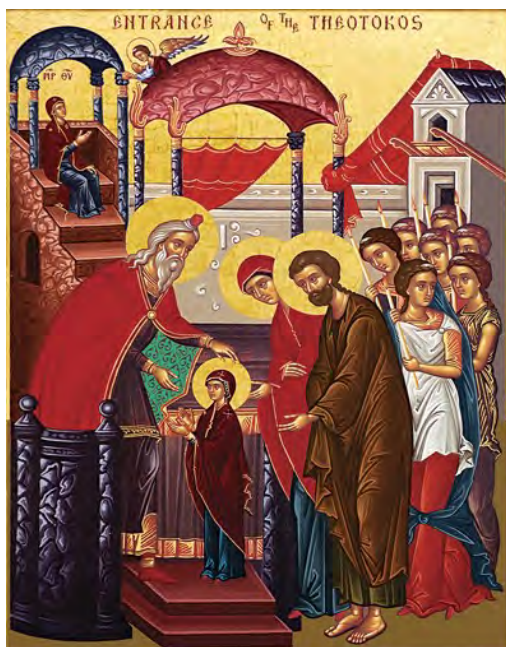
24th Sunday after Pentecost

Prefestive Day of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple;
 Venerable Father Gregory the Decapolite;
 Holy Father Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople
 Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM
 Third Hour 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
 Ephesians 2:14-22; Luke 12:16-21
Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas



“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Lk 5:4

Liturgical Schedule



Monday, November 21

Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM

Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM

Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Intention: Reg Parker (Dcn. Mike)



Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Day

Holy Great Martyr Catherine

Holy Great Martyr Mercury

Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM

1 Timothy 6:6-11,17-19;

Luke 12:13-15,22-31,42-48

Intention: Kincaid Family (Lochlan McCarthy)

Saturday Evening, November 26

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM

Intention: †Joey T. Kowalczyk (Kowalczyk Family)

Sunday, November 27 **Tone 8**

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Martyr James the Persian

Venerable Father Palladius

Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM

Third Hour 9:45 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 13:10-17

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

Saturday Evening, December 3

Confessions 4:00-4:30 PM

Vigil Vespers Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM

Intention: †Kevin Nixon (Siobhán Sullivan)

Sunday, December 4 **Tone 1**

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Great Martyr Barbara

Venerable Father John of Damascus

Confessions 9:00-9:30 AM

Third Hour 9:45 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Ephesians 5:9-19; Luke 17:12-19

Intention: Parishioners of St. Thomas

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents or concerns, please contact:

Subdeacon Paul F. Kilroy

Safe Environment Program

Coordinator

Cell: (702) 498-5972 –

Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 203 --

Email: sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org

Deacon Michael Hanafin

Victim Assistance Coordinator

Cell: (480) 307-5182

Email: vac@ephx.org



“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Lk 5:4

Collections

Summary for September 1 – September 30, 2022

Total deposits \$11,786.25
 *Minus special collections -0.00
 Total for St. Thomas: \$11,786.25

Offline Tithes: \$3,312.00
 Online Tithes: \$6,904.50
 Holyday Tithes 150.00
 Donations: source not identified 398.00
 Donations in lieu of flowers on behalf of †Al Ferencz 781.00
 Krogers' Rebates 11.00
 Candles 229.75
 Total for St. Thomas: \$11,786.25



Happy Anniversary!

Joseph & Janice Barnes Nov 2
 Gregory & Carole Bullock Nov 7
 Jeff & Janet Park Nov 7
 Brian & Marla Fitterer Nov 8

Happy Birthday!

Wilma Kafora Nov 1
 Julia Aguayo Nov 3
 Anne Bacovcin Nov 3
 Kris Forbes Nov 3
 Caroline Bronson Nov 3
 Dominic Bronson Nov 5
 Paul Antonios Nov 6
 Thom Petteruti Nov 6
 Jacob Aguayo Nov 8
 Florence Park Nov 10
 Danny Forbes Nov 12
 Bryden Danilich Nov 15
 John Hratko Nov 16
 Lynn Sims Nov 16
 Mike Hrynik Nov 20
 Emily Holzhauser Nov 20
 Dennis Bondra Nov 21
 Greg Bartlett Nov 23
 Peter Kostyun Nov 29
 Nicole Hvasta Nov 30
 Don Thompson Nov 31

Did we forget your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know so that we can update our records and include it in our bulletin next year.

Remember Those Who Request Our Prayers

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

Father Phil, Reg Parker, John Kafora, Father Michael Kirila, & Beth Little,

All those serving our country in the military including:

Michael Khromiak.

†Eternal Memory!

“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.”

†Al Ferencz, †Jonathan Bronson, & †Fr. Brian Escobedo,

Parish Advisory Board

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



“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Lk 5:4

EASTERN ADVENT WREATH

First Sunday of Advent (Nov 20)

Candle: green (faith)

Symbolism: The first candle reminds us of faith, the faith we have in God that He will keep His promise to send His Son.

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 40:3-5; 52:7

Theme: God's promise to send the Messiah.

Second Sunday of Advent (Nov 27)

Candle: blue (hope)

Light both candles and review the meaning of the first candle.

Symbolism: The second candle reminds us of the hope we have that Christ will come again this year to bring new joy into our lives.

Scripture: Luke 1:5-31

Theme: Ways in which Christ brings joy to our hearts today and why should a Christian be joyful.

Third Sunday of Advent (Dec 4)

Candle: gold (love)

Light all three candles and review the meaning of the first two candles.

Symbolism: Remember the words of St. John, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

Scripture: St. Luke 1:26-38.

Theme: The life of St. Nicholas who was known for his great generosity in distributing gifts and money to the poor. He preferred to deliver his gifts after dark and in disguise so that no one would know who left them. How can we follow his example by giving gifts to the needy?

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec 11)

Candle: white (peace)

Always review the meaning of the previous candles as the candles are being lit.

Symbolism: This candle reminds us of the Angel's message to the shepherds, "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

Scripture: Luke 2:1-18

Theme: Reflect on whether there is someone who has something against us, or if we have something against anyone. Are there relationships that need repairing or people we need to forgive? Forgive and be forgiven.

Fifth Sunday of Advent (Dec 18)

Candle: purple (repentance)

Review the meaning of the first four candles.

Symbolism: This candle reminds us of our need to repent before we can meet the coming of Christ. "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8, 14-15.

Theme: Discuss repentance and then prepare oneself with a thorough self-examination followed by confession and communion.

Sixth Sunday of Advent (Dec 25)

Candle: red (Holy Communion)

Symbolism: Christ, Who was born in Bethlehem and Who will come again at the end of time, comes to us now in the great Sacrament of Holy Communion. The reason He was born in Bethlehem was that we might allow Him to come and be born in the manger of our hearts.

Scripture: John 1:1-18 and John 6:52-58.

Theme: Reflect on Holy Communion

Seventh Sunday of Advent (Dec 25)

Candle: a specially decorated white candle such as the one used at baptism or during Pascha (Christ)

Begin by lighting all seven candles. Review the meaning of the first six candles.

Symbolism: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given and His name shall be called Wonderful."

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

Theme: The meaning of Christ's coming.

"The Ancient Prophecies foretold..."



"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Lk 5:4



Holy Protection of Mary *Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix*

8131 North 16th Street
Phoenix AZ 85020

Telephone 602.861.9778
www.ehphx.org

Prot. No. 0012-2022-TJO

10 October 2022

Via email and U.S. Mail

Reverend Adam Lowe
2125 South Rogers
Mesa AZ 85202

Dear Reverend Lowe,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

By this letter, in accord with Canon 229 of the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO)*, I hereby appoint you Administrator of the Byzantine Catholic parish of Saint Thomas the Apostle in Gilbert, Arizona, effective 15 October 2022.

In preparation for this new assignment, please carefully review Canons 279 through 297 of the *CCEO*. These provide for the specific and requisite spiritual and temporal norms deemed essential by the Holy Catholic Church for the proper care of souls and parish administration, which you therefore must strive to reflect in the ministry now being entrusted to you. Please review, as well, the eparchy's *Pastoral Handbook* and *Safe Environment Policy*, copies of which should be found in the parish office and for which you hold primary administrative responsibility for the term of your appointment.

In your good work as Administrator of the parish of Saint Thomas, I ask that you love its members, encourage them in all that is beneficial to their spiritual life and relationship with Christ Jesus, admonish them when necessary and, above all, be a gracious and wise steward of the souls and temporal resources placed in your care during the course of this appointment. As you labor, may the Holy Spirit be your sure guide for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls, with the Christ Himself as the model of your priestly service.

Thank you for your acceptance of this appointment and may God bless abundantly, and make most fruitful, your priestly ministry to His people.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, D.D., J.C.D.

Apostolic Administrator, *sede vacante*, of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

Given at the Pastoral Center of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix this 14th day of October 2022, in witness thereof:

Reverend Monsignor Kevin W. McAuliffe, J.C.L.
Judicial Vicar and Chancellor

C: Very Reverend Robert Rankin, Acting Regional Syncellus
Reverend Monsignor Kevin W. McAuliffe, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar and Chancellor
Ms. Patricia Henderson, Finance Officer
Deacon Michael Sullivan
Subdeacon Paul Kilroy
Broadcast



Holy Protection of Mary
Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix

8131 North 16th Street
Phoenix AZ 85020

Telephone 602.861.9778
www.ehphx.org

Prot. No. 0013-2022-TJO

10 October 2022

Via email and U.S. Mail

Very Reverend Diodoro Mendoza, Administrator
St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church
Post Office Box 667
Gilbert AZ 85299-0667

Dear Father Mendoza,

Christ is Among Us!

Effective 15 October 2022 I hereby release you from your assignment as Administrator of St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church in Gilbert, Arizona.

Thank you for the priestly service you provided to the faithful of St. Thomas during the course of this assignment and may God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, D.D., J.C.D.
Apostolic Administrator, *sede vacante*, and Bishop of Phoenix

Given at the Pastoral Center of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix this 14th day of October 2022, in witness thereof:

Reverend Monsignor Kevin W. McAuliffe, J.C.L.
Judicial Vicar and Chancellor

C: Very Reverend Robert Rankin, Acting Regional Syncellus
Deacon Michael Sullivan
Subdeacon Paul Kilroy
Ms. Patricia Henderson
Broadcast

Bishop Thomas Olmsted's address to our parish during his visit to St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church on October 15 & 16, 2022

My dear Sons and Daughters in Christ,

It has been over four years that I have had the privilege of serving as Apostolic Administrator, and I regret I have not had more time to spend with the people, but you have been in my prayers each day, and I thank you for the prayers you have offered for me as well.

I am very mindful that this church is named after the patron saint that I have as well, St Thomas the Apostle, and one of the things that is very striking to me, especially as I come here today after a very difficult year for all of you, is that St Thomas said *"unless I can see, and touch the wounds of Jesus Christ crucified, I cannot believe he is risen and alive"*. And Jesus came, and showed him his glorified wounds, and said *"Believe! No longer persist in your unbelief"*. I have had the privilege of spending the last 40 days in prayer, on a directed retreat, and my retreat director told me ***"the wounds of Jesus make the devil tremble and flee"***. There is something about the power of the Cross and the Resurrection, but it's the glorified wounds we need to remember, they make all the wounds we suffer individually, or with others, the larger family of the parish, or the Church, those glorified wounds are our salvation, our hope! I am sure St Thomas the Apostle was a strong proponent of that, of preaching that Good News for others. I pray that the wounds of Jesus will continue to bring healing among all of you!

I am desiring above all that you would find in the Lord Jesus all you need. Indeed wherever we are, whatever is happening in our life, we need to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus. I'm so grateful for the ways you have done that. Hebrews 12:2 says ***"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith"***. He never abandons us. He does say *"take up your cross and follow me"*, but he never abandons us, and in his last words, he said ***"Behold I am with you always"***.

In a special way I want to say how grateful I am to Fr Adam Lowe for his ministry among you, and I'm grateful to God that I can be here today as he becomes now officially, the pastor of this parish. I also want to say a special word of thanks to all of you for your patience and perseverance especially in your homes. The faith is really alive in marriage and family life. I also want to say how I've been impressed just by those families that I know, for the way you are making your homes a place where the Risen Christ is alive, and where his healing wounds are bringing unity and peace.

I was introduced on the feast this year of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept 14th) to a number of Akathist hymns in praise of the Name of Jesus. I have been praying one of these every single day for the whole of the Eparchy of Phoenix, but in particular offering it for all those in this parish of St Thomas the Apostle. So I invite you to pray with me as I read one of these hymns, because it has such meaning to me and I trust it will to you as well, for it is so deeply rooted in the tradition of the Eastern Church (quoted from followin page as excerpted from from *Akathist Hymn – Office of Praise to the Name of Jesus*, Madonna House Pub. 9781897145975):

 ODE FOUR 
Breath of the Gospel

And she touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I can only touch his cloak I shall be well again." Jesus turned round and saw her, and he said to her, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has restored you to health." And from that moment the woman was well again (Matthew 9:21-22).

— Glorious Jesus, my Lord! Oh, how glorious you are!

Song of My Soul

Unworthy as I am, I come to you

to sing a hymn of thanksgiving and repentance.

Like the woman in the crowd, I reach out,
knowing that you will make me whole;

like the Canaanite woman, I call to you;

like the blind man, I ask for healing,

so that I may say to you:

Alleluia!

Sighs of My Heart

O Jesus, healing Fire whose touch no one can feel and remain unchanged; O Jesus, shining light who enlighten those in darkness, O Jesus, heavenly Music, true Song of my soul: You healed the woman who touched you, you converted Paul who persecuted you, you loved Mary who listened to you. In like manner, heal my infirmities, and shed light upon my darkness, let me sit at your feet and sing to you:

Jesus, my powerful King,
Jesus, my mighty God,
Jesus, Fire in my heart!

Jesus, my eternal Lord,
Jesus, my glorious Creator,
Jesus, Light of my eyes!

Jesus, my Guide most gentle,
Jesus, my Pastor most caring,
Jesus whose touch is my health!

Jesus, my Master most compassionate,
Jesus, my Savior most merciful,
Jesus who lead me to peace!

Jesus, burn in my heart with your cleaning flame.
Jesus, shine in the darkness within me.
Jesus, restore me who am worn down by sin.

Jesus, rid my mind of every vain thought.
Jesus, shield my heart against evil desires.
Jesus, guard my will against self-love.

Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner!