



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, January 14

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

Tuesday, January 16

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, January 18

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours

Saturday, January 20

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Vigil

Sunday, January 21

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

To be Orthodox means to have the God-man Christ constantly in your soul, to live in Him, think in Him, feel in Him, act in Him. In other words, to be Orthodox means to be a Christ-bearer and a Spirit-bearer."

— St Justin Popovich

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector

Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached

Deacon John Skowron, Attached

Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Leavetaking of the Feast of Theophany

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

January 14, 2024

Announcements

➤ **Offering envelopes** are available for those who need them. Anyone who would like a full packet of donation envelopes (with weekly, monthly and feast day envelopes) should request one at the candle desk. This year we also have single envelopes that will be at the candle desk all year long for those who don't need a full packet of envelopes. Thank you for your generosity!

➤ As we begin 2024, our parish will be entering into the next phase of our **dome replacement project**. **We ask you to prayerfully consider giving specifically to these enhancement projects, above and beyond your regular giving.** These projects will certainly require our sacrificial giving in order to have a suitable place of worship now and for years into the future.

➤ Our **annual Yearly Parish Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 28 after the Divine Liturgy. Only adult parish members in good standing (participants in the sacramental life of the church and financially supporting) may vote in the meeting. Any questions about eligibility should be directed to Fr Thomas.

➤ **Yearly reports** for the annual meeting are due in electronic format to Deb Burgess by next Sunday, January 21. Please contact Deb for info.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized* (none); *Home:* John Mahalchak (son). Donya Yewisiak. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ **From Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family and Donya Yewisiak. **From Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant, brother, Raymond; for the health of Marsha. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, father, Charles and brother, Raymond. **From Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Donya Yewisiak, Elaine Hamilton, and Rowyn Scott. **From Richard & Sonia Blaha** for the departed servants, Aunt Maryann, Estelle, parents, Pete, Dorothy, Betty, and brother, Robert; for the health of family, friends, siblings, and serving soldiers; for birthday of wife, Sonia and other family birthdays.

Thank you

➤ to our **January donors:** Matushka Nancy MNell and Gregory Mell (All categories: Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$25, Communion Wine \$40, Incense \$10) in loving memory of the departed servant of God, Deacon Joseph Mell.

Looking ahead:

Monday, March 18 – Great Lent Begins

Sunday, March 31 – Western Easter

Sunday, May 5 – Holy Pascha



St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Epistle of St James

Verse (younger classes): James 3:5- "Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles."

Questions to ask/review:

- What did God give us the tongue for?
- Describe a time when you were hurt by someone's words.
- Describe a time when your words hurt another.
- How can our tongue hurt others?
- How can words burn others like a fire?

Verse (older classes): James 4:1-2- "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?"

Questions to ask/review:

- Who was James? What was his relationship to Jesus?
- Describe examples in your life and the Scriptures when someone was consumed with anger.
- What did the anger push them to do? What damage was done? Was it worth it? Why not?
- Why do we get angry? What is behind the anger?
- Why is most anger sinful? How does it harm us? How does it harm the Church?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Make a "tongue jar", decorate it, and put a penny in each time a family member says something that hurts someone else.
- Explore the tongue with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter things with a blindfold on.
- Seek forgiveness for recent times when you have hurt someone in your words or anger.

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for the acts of my mighty tongue and help me to control it better tomorrow. OR Lord, forgive me for my anger and bring me peace. Amen.

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, January 14

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change
weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,
and called Thee His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself//
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Tone 4 Troparion (St Nicholas)

You appeared to your flock as a rule of faith,
an image of humility, and a teacher of
abstinence.
Because of your lowliness heaven was opened to
you!
Because of your poverty riches were granted to
you!
O holy Bishop Nicholas,
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying
its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and
cry:
“The Savior has come to those in faith;//
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 Kontakion (Feast)

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O
Lord,
and the light of Thy countenance has been
marked on us.
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises:
“Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,//
O unapproachable Light.”

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The
Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps.
28:11)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Feast)

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the
Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself
to us. (Ps. 117:26b, 27b)

Epistle of the Sunday (Ephesians 6:10-17)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and
in the power of His might. Put on the whole
armor of God, that you may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil. For we do not
wrestle against flesh and blood, but against
principalities, against powers, against the rulers
of the darkness of this age, against spiritual
hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that
you may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with
truth, having put on the breastplate of
righteousness, and having shod your feet with
the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all,
taking the shield of faith with which you will be
able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked
one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the
sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Gospel of the Sunday (Luke 18:35-43)

Then it happened, as He was coming near
Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road
begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he
asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus
of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out,
saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Then those who went before warned him that he
should be quiet; but he cried out all the more,
“Son of David, have mercy on me!”

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be
brought to Him. And when he had come near, He
asked him, saying, “What do you want Me to do
for you?”

He said, “Lord, that I may receive my sight.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight;
your faith has made you well.” And immediately
he received his sight, and followed Him,
glorifying God. And all the people, when they
saw it, gave praise to God.

Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin
Theotokos,
more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O
Theotokos;
even angels are overcome with awe praising
thee.
But since thou art good, accept our faith;
for thou knowest our love inspired by God!
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we
magnify thee.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The grace of God has
appeared for the salvation of all men. (Titus
2:11) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Saint Constantine School Great Books Discussion

The human person is more than just a collection
of atoms. The cosmos is more than an
assortment of molecules. But isn't matter
important? Don't our bodies matter?

Join us as we look at the ancient understanding
of the soul, how that understanding changed in
the 17th century, and revisit the famous dictum:
"I think, therefore I am." All these
considerations we'll place against the backdrop
of the feast of Theophany, which has something
to say about the issue.

The Saint Constantine School offers monthly
guided discussions on an important text and
topic. These discussions enable our budding
school community the opportunity to come
together, contemplate, and discuss something
valuable. Admission is free and childcare is
provided.

why matter
matters

Descartes' Meditations and
Christ's Baptism

GREAT BOOKS SERIES

Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 PM

Location:
Mt. Assisi Library
1515 Quail Ave, Pittsburgh PA

THE SAINT CONSTANTINE
SCHOOL