


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 01/14 – 01/20/2024  
**Date:** January 13, 2024 at 12:01  
**To:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org)



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)  
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)  
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**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**Thirty-Third Week (32nd Sunday) After Pentecost — Tone 7**  
Sunday, January 14 – Saturday, January 20, 2024  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

I congratulate you with the joys that I hope the Lord might send you in the coming year. I congratulate you also with the sorrows that will inevitably visit you this year: perhaps today, perhaps tomorrow, or in the near future. Incidentally, do not be confused by sorrows or fear them. Sorrows and joys are closely bound up with each other. This may seem strange to you, but remember the words of the Savior: "*A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world*" (Jn. 16:21).

Day turns to night, and night turns to day, bad weather turns to good; so also does sorrow turn into joy, and joy into sorrow... Sorrows are that very threat of fire, or trial, but we must not fear them; rather we must be like the godly children and sing unto God in our sorrows, believing that they are sent to us by God for our salvation.

— St. Barsanuphius of Optina, *Homily on the New Year* (1913)

## 1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** [download musical texts](#)  
**Saturday, January 13**

- **Great Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Irvona
- **Confessions**, following

**Sunday, January 14**

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Parks Family, sponsors*)

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**Tuesday, January 16**

- **Madera Church Council Meeting**, 7:00pm @ St. Mary's Hall

**Thursday, January 18**

- **Irvona Church Council Meeting**, 6:00pm @ St. Michael's Hall

**Friday, January 19**

[51st Annual March for Life](#) @ Washington, DC

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## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [download musical texts](#)

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Saturday, January 20

- **Great Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Madera
- **Confessions**, following

Sunday, January 21

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*B. Sidorick, sponsor*)

2. **HOME BLESSINGS HAVE BEGUN** = The month of January is reserved for the blessing of all the homes in the parish—**members, inquirers, and visitors alike!** To have your home blessed, you can indicate your general availability using [this online form](#) or contact Fr. Alexander directly by [email](#) or [text](#) and he will get back with you with a specific date and time. It is essential that all of us make use of this powerful tool to protect and set apart both us and our homes for God's glory and purpose. All you need to do in advance is have your house brightly lit, a bowl set out, and a candle ready, if you have one. Father brings everything else!

3. **COUNCILS TO MEET** = Kindly keep the representatives of our church councils in your prayers as they prepare for their First Quarter meetings this week. The Madera Council is set to meet on Tuesday, January 16, at 7:00pm, while the Irvona Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, at 6:00pm. During these sessions, the councils will review financial statements from 2023. Members will also establish a new board that will oversee a new endowment and policies dedicated to the care of our cemeteries in Patton, Irvona, and Madera. This initiative stems from the resolutions made by both churches during our Annual Meeting last November (see the [2023 Annual Report](#) for more information). If you have an interest in contributing to this effort, please reach out to your respective Council President ([Jacob Mandell](#) for Irvona or [Greg Sidorick](#) for Madera).


4. **MARCH FOR LIFE 2024** = The annual national March for Life is set to take place on Friday, January 19, 2024. This date marks the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion in the United States of America. The March will include the participation of members from the Holy Synod of Bishops, representatives from the stavropegial seminaries, and other Orthodox Christians from around the country. The Orthodox gathering for the March for Life will begin by assembling at the National Mall at 11:30am where the March for Life Rally will begin at noon. His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon will lead the other Orthodox hierarchs and faithful in a Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion. The March to Capitol Hill is from 1:00pm-4:00pm. (Note that there will be no pre-March Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral in DC this year because of Old Style Theophany.) If you would like to attend this year's March, please see Fr. Alexander to coordinate transportation.


5. **SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY** = The Sunday following the March (January 21, 2024) has been designated by the Holy Synod of Bishops as Sanctity of Life Sunday. Join us in Madera as we commemorate the victims of abortion and also stand in witness of the sacredness of human life. Special prayers will be added to the augmented litanies at Vespers and the Divine Liturgy and also at the conclusion of the Liturgy. For a list of resources that you can use to help create a culture of life and learn more about the Church's position on abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, and suicide, visit [oca.org](#) or [click here](#).

6. **STAY CONNECTED** = If you or someone you know would like to have a meeting with Fr. Alexander, you may call or text the parish's phone number, 814-862-8694, or use the [online form](#) on the parish website, [orthodoxclearfield.org](#). Appointments are available at various times of the week, according to your particular availability and needs. As a reminder, be sure to let Father know if any form of sickness is keeping you away from church so he can add you to the prayer list and **bring the healing Sacraments to you**.

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## January Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Asher Sidorick (January 14), Brandy Lovell (January 18), Cadence Stodart (January 18), Olivia Sidorick (January 20), and Frank Bakaysa (January 30)

 **Anniversaries:** Patrick & Tamara Stodart (January 14)

*Each month we will list the special days of parishioners in this section of the bulletin. Forgive any errors or omissions as this is still a work in progress. Please make sure we don't miss your special day by emailing your information to [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org) or checking your record [here](#).*

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This e-mailing list is intended for occasional messages regarding parish services, events, and announcements of the united community of St. Michael Orthodox Church, 163 Hemlock Street in Irvona, PA (all events labeled "Irvona" are held here) and Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, 151 Alexander Street, in Madera, PA (all events labeled "Madera" are held here). If you would rather not receive these messages, simply reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.