


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 01/28 – 02/04/2024  
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**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-Fifth Week (34th Sunday) After Pentecost — Tone 1**  
Sunday, January 28 – Saturday, February 4, 2024  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

— *The Gospel According to St. Luke (2:29–32)*

**1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** [download musical texts](#)  
**Saturday, January 27**

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

**Sunday, January 28**

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

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**THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE** [download musical texts](#)  
**Thursday, February 1**

- **Vesperal Divine Liturgy\***, 6:00pm @ Madera

**Friday, February 2**  
*Blessings on the Feast!*

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**THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Afterfeast of the Meeting** [download musical texts](#)  
**Saturday, February 4**

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

**Sunday, February 5**

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am

- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Tammy S., sponsor*)

2. **GREAT FEAST THIS WEEK** = On **Thursday night at 6:00pm**, we will commemorate the [Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple](#) with the singing of Vespers and the Divine Liturgy. One of the Orthodox Church's twelve great feasts, this celebration marks the time when Mary, the Bearer of God (Theotokos) brought her forty-day-old Divine Child to the Temple according to the [Law of Moses](#). The feast's liturgical color is blue, as all Marian feasts are, because the Theotokos humbly fulfills the law and the prophecy revealed to St. Simeon the God-Receiver that he would not die until he held the Messiah in his arms. Our daily vesperal prayer of "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation..." is a living memorial of this holy event. Let us also receive our Lord this Thursday and behold the salvation that's granted to us by the partaking of His Holy Body and Blood (see footnote below).

3. **HOME BLESSING REMINDER** = **Next Sunday, February 4 is the deadline** to schedule a home blessing. 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 date and time that works for all. Thank you to all the members of our parish family (even those who are not yet Orthodox!) who have used this powerful tool to set apart their homes for God's glory and purpose.

4. **MONTHLY PANIKHIDA FOR FEBRUARY** = Next Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, being the first Sunday of the month, we will once again celebrate our monthly panikhida service. To submit your names for February, you may [email them to Fr. Alexander](#) or use the black commemoration slips located in the Narthex of St. Michael's. Last names and dates are helpful for the [parish diptychs](#) that Father is continuing to compile. **May their memories be eternal!**

5. **NEW MADERA BYLAWS** = The Madera Council has dedicated the past few months to crafting new bylaws for Nativity of the Theotokos Church, replacing those declared lost last year. A final draft has been produced and will be distributed to Madera members, the broader parish community, and His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek, along with other ecclesiastical authorities, for their review.

The Madera Council values your input and will carefully consider all feedback received, making any necessary revisions. A summary of this feedback, with highlighted changes, will be shared. Subsequently, a Special Meeting with the membership of St. Mary's will convene to either accept or reject the bylaws, with due notification having been made. If accepted, the bylaws will come into effect pending approval from Archbishop Melchisedek.


In the coming week, you can expect a special email followed by a mailed letter, outlining the rationale behind the bylaws—envisioned for one parish with multiple church buildings—a detailed description of this process, and the timeline for implementation. All feedback is welcomed and encouraged, particularly from members of St. Michael's. The Irvona Council supports this process and aims to adopt the same bylaws, fostering the possibility of eventual official unification of our two Churches. Your prayers for all involved are greatly appreciated. **May God bless our efforts!**


6. **COUNCILS FUND NEW ENDOWMENT** = The Madera and Irvona Church Councils met earlier this month and unanimously voted to apply the balance of their respective church's memorial fund toward the new endowment for our cemeteries in Patton, Irvona, and Madera. Volunteers are still being sought for a committee to establish investment objectives and policies toward ensuring that our churchyards will be perpetually maintained and cared for. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please see Fr. Alexander or your respective Council President ([Jacob Mandell](#) for Irvona or [Greg Sidorick](#) for Madera).

7. **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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\* to take Communion on a weeknight, start your absolute fast (no food or drink) no later than noon, unless directed otherwise by your spiritual father.

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.