


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 02/18 – 02/24/2024  
**Date:** February 17, 2024 at 11:14  
**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-Eighth Week (37th Sunday) After Pentecost — Tone 4**  
Sunday, February 18 – Saturday, February 24, 2024  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

— *Gospel Reading for Zacchaeus Sunday (Luke 19:8-9)*

## 1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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

#### **Sunday of Zacchaeus**

**Saturday**, February 17

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

**Sunday**, February 18

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Joint Madera and Irvona Church Councils Meeting**, 11:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Sally S., Chris F., and Brandy L., sponsors*)

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### **SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE**

#### **Beginning of the Lenten Triodion** [download musical texts](#)

**Saturday**, February 24

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

**Sunday**, February 25

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

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**Tuesday**, February 27

- **Madera Church Council "Town Hall" Meeting on Proposed Bylaws, 7:00pm @ St. Mary's Hall**

**2. THE IRVONA AND MADERA CHURCH COUNCILS** will meet briefly today (Sunday, February 24) in a joint session following the Prayers of Thanksgiving.

**3. FEEDBACK REQUESTED ON MADERA BYLAWS** = As a reminder, your comments, questions, and suggested changes on the [draft bylaws prepared](#) for Nativity of the Theotokos (St. Mary's) Church can be emailed to [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org) or given in writing to Council President Greg Sidorick. These bylaws were written not only to govern the church in Madera but also to envision and lay a foundation for a unified parish structure with multiple churches and organizations, each having representation on one Council.

A special session will be held on Tuesday, February 27, at 7:00pm, in Madera, to review the feedback received and answer questions from those who wish to attend. The Madera Council will also set the date for a Special Meeting to approve or reject the proposed bylaws, highlighting any revisions in a separate correspondence, while ensuring there are at least three Sundays of announcements in the bulletin and from the Ambon before the vote.

While the draft bylaws pertain specifically to St. Mary's Church, and only Madera members can vote to ratify them, feedback from St. Michael's members is also strongly encouraged. The Irvona Council has expressed interest in adopting the same bylaws at a later date. **May God bless our efforts!**

**4. BAPTISM OF CARLY MAE DINSMORE** = The Dinsmores invite you to attend the baptism of their daughter, Carly Mae, on **Saturday, February 24 at 10:30am in Madera**. A reception will follow the blessed event in St. Mary's Hall. May God grant many years to Jeremy, Heather, Norah, and especially Carly Mae!

**5. ORPHEUS SINGERS PERFORMANCE** = The Orpheus Singers, an auditioned chamber choir comprising of community members and students at Penn State University, will present "Meditations on the Cross" on Sunday, February 25, at 4pm, at Faith United Church of Christ in State College, PA. The evening features Lenten choral music spanning from the masterpieces of J. S. Bach to the contemporary compositions of Alice Parker, all under the direction of our very own Jacob Mandell. Tickets are available for purchase [online](#), with general admission priced at \$12. Senior citizens and students can avail of a discounted ticket for \$8 by entering the code SENIOR or STUDENT at checkout. Children under 5 can attend for free. As we embark on our Lenten journey (the performance aptly takes place on Zacchaeus Sunday), don't miss this opportunity to be transformed through hymns of both preparation and anticipation.

**6. POLKA DINNER DANCE** = St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, located at 301 South State Street, in DuBois, is hosting a polka dinner dance party on Friday, March 1, 2024 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. The evening features music by the Vagabonds, dancing, and a delicious menu including kielbasa sandwiches, pierogis, halushki, soft drinks, beer, and wine. Admission is \$15 per person; all proceeds benefit the church's Building Maintenance Fund. **All are invited!**


**7. TRIP TO NORTHEASTERN PA. HOLY SITES** = You are invited on a pilgrimage organized by John Harris, with the blessing of Fr. Alexander, on March 6-7, 2024. Participants will depart Wednesday afternoon, venerate the miraculous myrrh-flowing "Tender Heart" icon of the Theotokos at St. George's Church in Taylor, PA, and then go out for dinner on Wednesday evening. The following day, the group will worship at and tour the grounds of St. Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary in South Canaan, PA. Accommodation for Wednesday night will be in dorm rooms (for males) and a guest house (for females) provided by the seminary. There is no participation fee, but a free-will offering will be collected to cover rental vehicle expenses, gas, and a donation to St. Tikhon's for housing. Currently, there is space for two more travelers. For additional information, please reach out to John Harris or Fr. Alexander.

**8. ARCHDIOCESAN LAITY RETREAT** = The Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania is hosting a retreat for laity on Saturday, March 9 at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, located at 8290 Thompson Run Rd, in Allison Park, PA (15101). Registration is available at the door for \$20. The day will commence with a Memorial Liturgy at 9:00am, followed by a Continental Breakfast. Stephen Christoforou, Director of Operations and Community Engagement for Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve (FOCUS) North America will offer two sessions on the topic "What Do People Need From the Church" at 11am and 1:15pm, with lunch provided at 12pm. For registration and further inquiries, please contact Fr. David Vernak at [frdavidvernak@verizon.net](mailto:frdavidvernak@verizon.net) or (201) 704-6217.

**9. 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](http://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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## February Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Mka. Jennifer Cadman (February 7), Vladimir Sidorick (February 12), Jonathan and Kennadie Kalenish (February 15), Alexsei Sidorick (February 21), Paul Bihun (February 24), Michael Parks, Jr. (February 26), Bridgett Sidorick (February 27), and Christian Stodart (February 27)

*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.

