


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
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St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)
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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Week of the Publican and Pharisee (Fast Free) — Tone 5
Sunday, February 25 – Saturday, March 2, 2024
[daily Scripture readings](#)

[And Jesus said,] "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

— Luke 18:14 (from the Gospel reading for the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee)

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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*)

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28
Fast-Free

Friday, March 1
Fast-Free

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, March 2

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

Sunday, March 3

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Monthly Panikhida for March**, following
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Bridgett S. and Grace B., sponsors*)

2. **WELCOME ARCHBISHOP MELCHISEDEK** = His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek is joining us this weekend on an unofficial visit! Vladyka made his way out to our neck of the Archdiocese to attend today's (Sunday, February 25) Orpheus Singers performance *Mediations on the Cross*. Tickets are available at the door (see below for more information). *Eis polla eti despota!*

3. **MANY YEARS TO CARLY MAE** = We rejoice with the Dinsmore Family in the baptism of their daughter, Carly Mae, on **Saturday, February 24**. May God grant many years to Jeremy, Heather, Norah, and especially Carly Mae!

4. **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 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!**

5. **ORPHEUS SINGERS PERFORMANCE** = The Orpheus Singers, an auditioned chamber choir comprising of community members and students at Penn State University, will present *Mediations on the Cross* today, 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 the evening upon which we open the *Triodion*, the musical book of Lent), don't miss this opportunity to be transformed through solemn hymns of 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 this Friday, March 1 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. **MARCH PANIKHIDA NEXT SUNDAY** = **On Sunday, March 5**, following the Divine Liturgy in Irvona, we will celebrate a memorial service for all the members of our parish family who fell asleep during the month of March. [Father is collecting a list of names](#) for the monthly remembrance; if you have any to add, please be sure [to email him](#) or use the black commemoration slips that are located in the Narthex. **Memory eternal!**

8. **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. For additional information, please reach out to John Harris or Fr. Alexander.


9. **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 or (201) 704-6217.

10. **SAVE THE DATE** = With the full support of our two Church Councils, renowned Orthodox author and psychologist Dr. Albert Rossi will offer a daylong Lenten retreat for our parish entitled 'Koinonia: Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Churches and Lives! The day of spiritual reflection and guided discussion takes place at St. Michael's in Irvona on

Churches and Lives. The day of spiritual reflection and guided discussion takes place at St. Michael's in Irvona on **Saturday, April 6**, commencing with the celebration of a Memorial Divine Liturgy for all parishioners and family members who have departed this life before us. Following the liturgy, there will be two keynote sessions from Dr. Rossi, each preceded by a time of food and fellowship. Additionally, breakout sessions will help connect the retreat's theme on *koinonia* (a Greek word for fellowship or joint participation) to our current and future parish life. The retreat is open to all and is offered free of charge, sponsored by the Ss. Mary and Michael Outreach Fund. **Please save the date!**

11. **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.**

February Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Mka. Jennifer Cadman (February 7), Vladimir Sidorick (February 12), Jonathan and Kennadie Kalenish (February 15), Alexei 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 or checking your record [here](#).

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.

