


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
Subject: Announcements 03/03 – 03/09/2024
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To: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)
orthodoxclearfield.org • (814) 862-8694 • info@orthodoxclearfield.org

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Week of the Prodigal Son — Tone 6
Sunday, March 3 – Saturday, March 9, 2024
[daily Scripture readings](#)

Therefore, since the prodigal son... [returned], his father did not remember the wrongs that he had committed against him, but accepted him with open arms. Why? Because he was a father and not a judge. Then, there took place dances, sumptuous feasts, and festivals; and the entire house was beaming with joy and exceeding gladness. What are you saying? These are rewards of wickedness? Not of wickedness, O man, but of the return. Not of sin, but of repentance. Not of cunningness, but of change toward the better.”

— *St. John Chrysostom on the Prodigal Son*

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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*)

Wednesday-Thursday, March 6-7

- *Pilgrimage to [St. George Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church](#) in Taylor, PA and St. Tikhon's [Monastery](#) and [Seminary](#) in South Canaan, PA (departure times vary, see John Harris)*

Saturday, March 9

- [Archdiocesan Memorial Divine Liturgy and Lay Retreat](#), 9:00am-3:00pm @ St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (Meatfare Sunday) [download musical texts](#)

Saturday, March 9

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

Sunday, March 10

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **"Meat Fair" Potluck**, following

2. **MARCH PANIKHIDA THIS SUNDAY = On Sunday, March 5**, following the Divine Liturgy in Madera, 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!**

3. **MEAT "FAIR" POTLUCK NEXT SUNDAY =** Our parish community will once again have a **Meat Fair** at St. Michael's Hall in Irvona in place of our regular Coffee Hour next Meatfare Sunday, March 10, the last day for eating meat until Pascha. A sign-up sheet will be shared later this week to make sure there's a good selection of your favorite foods. (Please note that this week is the last "regular" week of fasting until after Bright Week, with meat and dairy excluded on Wednesday and Friday.)

4. **TRIP TO NORTHEASTERN PA. HOLY SITES =** You are invited to join a pilgrimage organized by John Harris, with the blessing of Fr. Alexander, taking place this Wednesday and Thursday, March 6-7. Participants will depart Wednesday early afternoon to venerate the miraculous myrrh-flowing "Tender Heart" icon of the Theotokos at St. George's Church in Taylor, PA. Following this, they will enjoy a seafood dinner together 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, before departing and stopping for a late lunch/early dinner on the way home.

Overnight accommodations are available upon request. Please inform Fr. Alexander no later than today, Sunday, March 3, if you require lodging for Wednesday night. Dorm rooms are provided for males, while a guest house is available for females, courtesy of the seminary. In addition, please inform John Harris today whether you plan to travel in the 8-passenger van or follow in a caravan.

There is no participation fee, but a free-will offering will be collected to help cover rental vehicle expenses, continental breakfast items for after the 6:30am Divine Liturgy on Thursday, and a donation to St. Tikhon's. **All are welcome to attend!**

5. **ARCHDIOCESAN LAY 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.

6. **SPECIAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MADERA BYLAWS =** A special session of the Madera Church Council convened on Tuesday, February 27, to review the feedback on the draft bylaws circulated last month. Following a thorough review, the Madera Council unanimously decided to present the proposed bylaws in their current form to the entire Nativity of the Theotokos (St. Mary's) Church Body. **A Special Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, April 14**, following the Divine Liturgy in Madera, exclusively for the purpose of accepting or rejecting this new governing document. All St. Mary's members will receive official notification from the Ambon and by post. Attendance is particularly encouraged for those registered as voting members in the Madera Census (which was taken September 1, 2023, indicating those 18 years of age or older who have fulfilled their annual obligation of Confession and Communion last Lent and Pascha).

7. **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 **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!**

8. **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.**

March Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Norah Dinsmore (March 3), Heather Dinsmore (March 9), and Chelsea Stodart (March 17)

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](#).

St. Michael's Orthodox Church —
163 Hemlock St, Irvona, PA

Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church —
151 Alexander St, Madera, PA



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Monthly Potluck @ March @ Madera Coffee Hour @ Irvona			6 Parish Pilgrimage to Tangle Hill and St. Ylakov's Monastery and Seminary (Nov 17/7)			9 Forty Martyrs of Sebaste Antiochian Memorial Divine Liturgy and Lay Service 9am @ Irvona @ Clearfield, PA (hosted) Great Vespers 6:00pm Confessions @ Irvona
10 Sunday of the Last Judgment (St. George) Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am "Star Fast" Potluck @ Irvona				Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm @ Madera		Great Vespers 6:00pm Confessions following @ Madera
17 Forgiveness Sunday (Katerinos) OCMC Mission Sunday Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am @ Madera Coffee Hour @ Irvona Forgiveness Vespers 7:00pm @ Madera	18 Great Lent Begins Great Lent Begins Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am @ Madera Coffee Hour @ Irvona Confessions 5:30pm 6:00pm @ Madera	19 Great Lent Begins Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am @ Madera Coffee Hour @ Irvona Confessions 5:30pm 6:00pm @ Madera	20 Confessions 5:30pm Penitential Liturgy 6:00pm @ Madera Potluck @ Irvona	21 Confessions 5:30pm Penitential Liturgy 6:00pm @ Irvona Potluck @ Irvona	22 Confessions 5:30pm Penitential Liturgy 6:00pm @ Irvona Potluck @ Irvona	23 St. Timothy of Ephesus Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Coffee Hour @ Irvona Sunday of Orthodoxy 1:00pm, 4:00pm @ St. John Church, Clearfield
24 Sunday of Orthodoxy Feast of the Annunciation Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am @ Irvona 6:00pm @ Madera Feast Potluck @ Irvona	25 ANNUNCIATION Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am @ Irvona 6:00pm @ Madera Feast Potluck @ Irvona	26 Feast of the Annunciation Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am @ Irvona 6:00pm @ Madera	27 Confessions 5:30pm Penitential Liturgy 6:00pm @ Madera Potluck @ Irvona	28 Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm @ Madera	29 (No Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)	30 Reader's Vespers 6:00pm @ Madera (No Confessions)
31 St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am @ Madera	1 April 2024	2	3 Confessions 5:30pm Penitential Liturgy 6:00pm @ Madera Potluck @ Irvona	4 Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm @ Madera	5 Confessions 5:30pm Penitential Liturgy 6:00pm @ Irvona Potluck @ Irvona	6 Memorial Liturgy 9:00am Parish Luncheon 10:30am Easter Celebration Great Vespers 6:00pm Confessions following @ Irvona

Feasting Legend

 Feasts (not observed)

 Fast days (not observed)

 Days when the fast is relaxed (not observed)

 Days when the fast is completely relaxed (not observed)

Office Hour Schedule

3/3 – Bright S, @ Great B, 3/10 – Potluck, 3/17 – Tanny S.

3/24 – Manda, 3/31 – Soft S, Great E, @ Bready L.

Archpriest Alexander Carlson, Rector

Parish Office Number: 814-862-8604 (Call or Text)

Parish Office Email: info@orthodoxclearfield.org

Fr. Alexander's Email: alex@orthodoxclearfield.org

Irvona-Madera-March-2024

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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.

