


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
Subject: Announcements 03/10 – 03/16/2024
Date: March 9, 2024 at 12:45
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
Meatfare Sunday and Cheesefare Week — Tone 7
Sunday, March 10 – Saturday, March 16, 2024

[daily Scripture readings](#)

For the value of fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices; since he who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from meats, is one who especially disparages it. Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works! Is it said by what kind of works? If you see a poor man, take pity on him! If you see in enemy, be reconciled to him! If you see a friend gaining honour, envy him not! If you see a handsome woman, pass her by! For let not the mouth only fast, but also the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and the hands, and all the members of our bodies.

— St. John Chrysostom

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (Meatfare Sunday) [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, March 9

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

Sunday, March 10
Daylight Saving Time Begins

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

Thursday, March 14

- **Choir Rehearsal**, 7:00pm @ Madera

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (Cheesefare Sunday) [download musical texts](#)
The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise
St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland
Saturday, March 16

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

Sunday, March 17
OCMC Mission Sunday

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

BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT

Sunday, March 17

- **Forgiveness Vespers**, 7:00pm @ Madera

Monday, March 18

- **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**, 7:00pm @ Madera

Tuesday, March 19

- **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**, 7:00pm @ Madera

Wednesday, March 20

- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts***, 6:00pm @ Madera

Thursday, March 21

- **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**, 7:00pm @ Madera

Friday, March 22

- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts***, 6:00pm @ Irvona

2. **SPRING FORWARD = Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday**, March 10, at 2:00am. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed tonight, March 9. This change aligns with the lengthening days following the Winter Solstice, symbolizing the growing presence of light since the Nativity of Christ. The timing of our Lenten season, including Christian Passover (Pascha), is also linked to the Earth's journey around the sun—the date is set for the Sunday after the first full moon of Spring according to the Julian Calendar.

3. **MEAT "FAIR" POTLUCK THIS SUNDAY** = Join us this Sunday, March 10, for our annual **Meat Fair** at St. Michael's Hall in Irvona, which replaces our regular Coffee Hour. Coinciding with the Church's "Meatfare Sunday," today marks the day that most Orthodox Christians stop eating meat until Pascha on May 5. It is not too late to coordinate dishes using this [shared electronic sheet](#). Don't miss out on the opportunity for great food and fellowship following the Prayers of Thanksgiving, even if you can't contribute bring a food item.

4. **CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE** = Part of our Lenten discipline in preparation for Great and Holy Pascha is to dedicate some of the time we save from simplifying our life (less time spent on meals, food preparation, entertainment, electronics, and other distractions) to service to God and His Holy Church. Director Ray Mandell has scheduled **four Choir rehearsals for the next four Thursdays at 7:00pm in Madera** (with the exception of the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete on Thursday, March 21). These rehearsals are open not only to current choir members but also to anyone interested in joining our singers in offering songs of praise and thanksgiving during Presanctified Liturgies, Holy Week, and Pascha itself. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to delve into the Orthodox Church's tradition of choral singing and to develop share your musical talents!

5. **OCMC MISSION SUNDAY AND LENTEN DRIVES** = Next Sunday, the eve of Great and Holy Lent (March 17) marks [Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC) Mission Sunday, designated by the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the United States of America. On this day, we will begin two Lenten Drives: one for domestic missions and the other for foreign missions. Locally, we'll be collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations for [Clearfield County Food Pantries](#). Our foreign mission drive utilizes OCMC's **Coin Box Program**, which supports recruiting, training, placing, and sustaining missionaries, along with their initiatives and partnerships with local churches. Coin Boxes will be distributed next Sunday for us to fill throughout Great Lent.

6. **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** = This year's regional Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration will be held at [Saint John's Church in Conemaugh](#) (427 1st St.). The service will be held at 4:00pm on March 24, the Eve of the Annunciation. His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek will be our homilist for the service. There will be a meal served in the Parish Hall following the service (located nearby at 35 Main St.). All are welcome to attend the festivities.

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

Each preceded by a time of food and fellowship. Additionally, breakout sessions will help connect the retreat theme of *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](#).

* 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.

