


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 03/17 – 03/23/2024  
**Date:** March 16, 2024 at 14:26  
**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**  
**Forgiveness Sunday and the First Week of Great Lent — Tone 8**  
Sunday, March 17 – Saturday, March 23, 2024  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

— *Matthew 6:14-15 (read at the Sunday Liturgy)*

**1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**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*)

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**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
- **Lenten Potluck**, following

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts\***, 6:00pm @ Irvona
- **Lenten Potluck**, following

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** [download musical texts](#)

Saturday, March 23

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

Sunday, March 24

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

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**Forefeast of the Annunciation**

Sunday, March 24

- **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** (for the Forefeast of the Annunciation), 4:00pm @ St. John the Baptist Church, 427 1st St, Johnstown (Conemaugh) [directions](#)

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**ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

Monday, March 25

- **Vesperal Divine Liturgy\***, 6:00pm @ Madera
- **Festal (Lenten) Potluck**, following (*fish permitted!*)

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Wednesday, March 27

- **Confessions**, 5:30pm @ Madera
- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts\***, 6:00pm
- **Lenten Potluck**, following

Thursday, March 28

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

Friday, March 29

*No Presanctified Liturgy*

2. **GREAT LENT BEGINS** with the beautiful service of **Forgiveness Vespers**, which will be celebrated tonight **Sunday, March 17, at 7:00pm in Madera**. Everyone in the parish is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to attend, be edified by our Lord's teachings on fasting and repentance, and receive forgiveness from one another. Let us begin this season of increased prayer and almsgiving **together with joy!** Make preparations now to pace yourself through this solemn time of repentance and attend as many services during Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha as you and your family can.

3. **PARISH PILGRIMAGE A SUCCESS** = Last Wednesday, parishioners embarked on a pilgrimage to venerate the "Tender Heart" icon of the Theotokos at St. George's Church in Taylor, PA. (Father was gifted some myrrh from the icon and will anoint anyone who wishes following the Divine Liturgy today, Sunday, March 17.) The next day, the group worshipped at and toured the grounds of St. Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary in South Canaan, PA. The journey was concluded with a delightful lunch shared with Seminarian Evan Ashmore and his family, whom our parish is supporting. To see a photo album of the trip, [click here](#).

4. **OCMC MISSION SUNDAY AND LENTEN DRIVES** = This Sunday, the day before 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.

**5. 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 next Sunday March 24, the Eve of the Annunciation. Although the Synodikon of Orthodoxy will be read and an icon procession performed, the musical texts will be exclusively for the Annunciation and celebrants will wear blue. 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.

**6. GREAT FEAST NEXT MONDAY** = On Monday, March 25, at 6:00pm in Madera, we will observe one of the twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church: the [Annunciation of the Theotokos](#). This significant event serves as a tribute to Mary, the Mother of God, and her willingness to consent to God's divine plan of salvation. The Annunciation, denoted as "Good News," symbolizes Mary's pivotal role in facilitating the incarnation of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. Following Great Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, everyone is invited to partake in a festal (Lenten) potluck at St. Mary's Hall. Aside from Palm Sunday, this feast is one of the rare instances during the Great Fast when a tradition of eating fish is embraced.

**7. 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 **Choir rehearsals for the next three 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 and share your musical talents!

**8. YOU'RE INVITED: A BLESSED DAY OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL = On Saturday, April 6**, our parish will host a Lenten retreat entitled "**Koinonia: Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Churches and Lives**," led by Orthodox author and psychologist, Dr. Albert Rossi. The retreat will take place at St. Michael's in Irvona, beginning with a Memorial Divine Liturgy to honor our departed parishioners and family members. Following the service, Dr. Rossi will lead two keynote sessions, each preceded by opportunities for food and fellowship. Breakout sessions and activities will connect the retreat's theme of "koinonia" (meaning fellowship or joint participation) with 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 make every effort to attend!**

**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](#). 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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## 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](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.



