


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

Sunday of Orthodoxy and the Second Week of Great Lent — Tone 1

Sunday, March 24 – Saturday, March 30, 2024

[daily Scripture readings](#)

...[A]s Christ has assured, so we think, so we speak, so we preach, honoring Christ our true God, and his Saints, in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in icons, worshipping and revering the One as God and Lord...

— *from the Synodikon of Orthodoxy (read after the Sunday Liturgy)*

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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*)

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](#)

ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS [download musical texts](#)

Monday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday, March 28

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

Friday, March 29

No Presanctified Liturgy

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT [download musical texts](#)

St. Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to America

Saturday, March 30

- **Reader's Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Madera
(No Confessions following)

Sunday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

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

Friday, April 5

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

Saturday, April 6

- **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT: "Koinonia: Cultivating Christ's Presence in Our Churches and Lives"** with Dr. Al Rossi, 9:00am-5:00pm @ Irvona

2. **TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** = All children (with their parents) are invited to bring an icon and participate in procession with the clergy and servers at the Great Entrance. Following the Divine Liturgy, those with icons are also invited to the front of the church to be a part of the annual proclamation of the triumph of Orthodox Christianity over the iconoclasts. **Blessed Feast!**

3. **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS** = This year's regional pan-Orthodox 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 this 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 the 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.

4. **GREAT FEAST THIS 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.

5. **PARISH RETREAT IN JUST TWO WEEKS** = 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, and will begin and end with worship (a Memorial

Divine Liturgy and Great Vespers, respectively). Dr. Rossi will lead two keynote sessions interspersed with opportunities for good food and fellowship. Interactive activities will connect the retreat's theme with our current and future parish life. Stay tuned for a detailed schedule and volunteer opportunities to contribute Lenten desserts via email next week. The retreat, sponsored by the Ss. Mary and Michael Outreach Fund, is open to all, free of charge. Don't miss being a part of this enriching, one-of-a-kind experience!

6. SPECIAL MEETING FOR MADERA BYLAWS = A Special Meeting is scheduled for all members of Nativity of the Theotokos (St. Mary's) Church on Sunday, April 14, after the Divine Liturgy. The purpose is to **vote on new Bylaws**, which can be [viewed or downloaded here](#). Attendance is crucial, as we need at least 16 voting members present, therefore fulfilling a quorum of not less than 51% as required by the new Bylaws. Those registered as voting members in the Madera Census from September 1, 2023, are strongly encouraged to attend. For inquiries regarding your membership status, please contact Fr. Alexander directly.

7. CONFESSIONS are heard by Fr. Alexander before each **Presanctified Liturgy beginning at 5:30pm**, after each **Saturday Great Vespers**, and by appointment. Father David has offered to continue hearing Confessions as well. (As a courtesy, please let Fr. Alexander know if you have gone to Confession with Fr. David or another priest.) As a reminder, membership in the parish is defined as any person over the age of 18 who has fulfilled, at a minimum, his or her annual Lenten obligation of Confession and Communion; thus, this is a requirement for anyone wanting to vote at the Annual Meeting that takes place on the second Sunday of November.

8. THE ARCHDIOCESE'S ANNUAL LENTEN VESPERS SERVICE is scheduled to take place at the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, 8290 Thompson Run Road, in Allison Park, PA, at 6:00pm on Sunday, April 7. A Lenten meal will take place downstairs in church hall immediately following the Vespers. **All are invited 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.**

March Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Norah Dinsmore (March 3), Heather Dinsmore (March 9), Chelsea Stodart (March 17), and Elijah Brelo (March 25)

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.

