


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
Third Week of Great Lent — Tone 2
Sunday, March 31 – Saturday, April 6, 2024
[daily Scripture readings](#)

During our interactions with others, we know when we give them strength and hope. That is, we know when we empower them or when we diminish them. All we have to do is observe them as we interact and then watch the way they walk afterward.

— Parish Retreat Speaker Dr. Albert Rossi
from his book, [Becoming a Healing Presence](#)

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT [download musical texts](#)
Sunday of the Cross

Sunday of the Cross

Saturday, April 6

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

Sunday, April 7

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Monthly Panikhida for April**, following

- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Parks Family, sponsors*)
- *Archdiocesan Lenten Vespers*, 6:00pm @ [St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park](#)

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

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

Friday, April 12

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

Saturday, April 13

- **Annual Paschal Clean-Up**, 3:30pm @ Madera
- Refreshments following

2. PARISH RETREAT THIS SATURDAY = This 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. A full schedule and a sign up sheet for volunteers to provide Lenten desserts will be sent by email this 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!

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. APRIL PANIKHIDA NEXT SUNDAY = Next Sunday, April 7, 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 April. [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!**

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

7. **CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAYS** = To prepare our two temples for Holy Week and Pascha, we will enjoy fellowship while conducting light "housework" in the Houses of God the second and third Saturdays of April. All are invited to gather around 3:30pm at Irvona and Madera, respectively, on April 13 and 20, respectively. After a few hours of indoor and outdoor activities, we will break for refreshments and then worship in our beautiful churches. Many hands make even lighter work!

8. **ARCHDIOCESAN NIGHT AT PNC PARK RETURNS** = Our Archdiocese of Pittsburgh is excited to announce the return of a diocesan night at Pirates PNC Park Baseball on Bright Friday, May 10, 2024, at 6:40 PM, marking the first such trip in years! This event is open to everyone in the diocese and guests invited by you. Though labeled "Youth Day," it's for all ages, and what better way to enjoy Bright Friday than with a delicious ballpark dog! Tickets cost \$33 per person, which includes a \$10 food and beverage credit. Make checks payable to the Archdiocese of Western PA and send your RSVP and payment to Fr. Alexander Cadman by April 10, at 131 Archers Glen Rd, Bellefonte, PA 16823. Purchased tickets will be mailed to participants. For further information, contact [Fr. Alexander](#) at (814) 321-4473. **Let's go Buccos!**

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.**

* 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.

