


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 the Cross and Fourth Week of Great Lent — Tone 3
Sunday, April 7 – Saturday, April 13, 2024
[daily Scripture readings](#)

True fasting lies in rejecting evil, holding one's tongue, suppressing one's hatred and banishing one's lust, evil words, lying and betrayal of vows.

— *St. Basil the Great*

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — Veneration of the Cross [download musical texts](#)
St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America
Saturday, April 6

- **Great Vespers**, at conclusion of Parish Retreat (approx. 4:15pm) @ 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — St. John Climacus [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, April 13

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

Sunday, April 14

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Bridgett S. and Grace B., sponsors*)

Wednesday, April 17

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

Friday, April 19

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

Saturday, April 20

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

2. **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.

3. **SEMINARIAN EVAN ASHMORE** sent us [an update letter](#) regarding his family's time at St. Tikhon's Seminary. You can read his update and see his latest family photo by visiting the parish's website, [orthodoxclearfield.org](#). To support Evan and his family of four, please consider adding a few dollars to the "Seminary Fund" tins located in each Church, or by [donating online](#) (select the "Seminarian Appeal—Parish" dropdown). Your generous contributions are sent to the Ashmores quarterly.

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 THIS SUNDAY** = **This 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. **ARCHDIOCESAN DAYS AT CAMP NAZARETH** = Youth of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh (OCA) are invited to join our friends in the Carpatho-Russian Diocese (ACROD) for a week of camping in an enriching pan-Orthodox environment right here in Western Pennsylvania. This July 21-27 camping week will take place at the beautiful [Camp Nazareth](#) located within the boundaries of our Archdiocese in Mercer, PA, for our diocesan youth 8-18 years of age. An added bonus is that our very own **Luke Sidorick** will once again reprise his role as one of the camp's staff that week! This is an important step toward our diocese having its own week at Camp Nazareth, which is currently being planned for 2025. To register for this year's camp, visit [campnazareth.org](#) and select Week 2, or for more information, contact [Fr. Alexander](#).

10. **SPEAKING OF CAMP NAZARETH**, there is still room available for young adults **aged 18-35** of all Orthodox jurisdictions to attend the annual **Young Adult Spring Retreat** held at the camp next weekend, April 12-14, 2024. Keynote speaker Fr. Jonathan Tobias will address the topic "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Through insightful discussions, Fr. Jonathan will explore questions such as: Is there a distinction between natural and "man-made" adversities? Does God's will play a role in unfortunate events? What is our best course of action in the face of adversity? For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

11. **ORTHODOX YOUTH RETENTION SURVEY** = All parishioners are invited to contribute to a national study being completed by Nicola Nunu, a seminarian at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Nicola is dedicated to conducting a meaningful examination on how we can best serve the youth of our Church. Adults of all ages are encouraged to take part. [The survey](#) will only take approximately seven (7) minutes of your time. Thank you in advance.

12. **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**.

April Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Philip Cmor (April 7), Nicholas Harris (April 10), Andrew Kalenish (April 27), and Jane Zapsky (April 27)

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](#).

Weekly Prayer List:

Departed: The Blessed Matushka Olga, Archpriest Anthony, Joseph, Nancy, William, Amy

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Matushka Genevieve, Subdeacon Jonathan, Rodney, Frank, Jacob, Tatiana, John, Chris, Andrew, Gary, Basil, Agnes, Paul, Anthony, James, Michael, Michael, Shane, Grace Elisabeth and the child she bears, Virginia, Marilyn, Zachariah, Andrei, Mark, Marian, Nicholas, David, Phyllis, Bob, John, Marion, Joseph, Trish, Ronald

To have you or your loved one(s) added to the parish's 40-day commemoration lists, please use the black (departed) and red (living) slips located in the Narthex of each Church, or [contact Fr. Alexander](#) directly. Persons are kept on the list for forty (40) days unless otherwise requested.

* 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.

mail with unsubscribe in the subject line.

