


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
Subject: Announcements 06/23 – 06/29/2024 (Correction)
Date: June 22, 2024 at 14:55
To: announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org



(Please note: all services the weekend of June 28-30 will take place at Irvona. An earlier draft of this email was sent mistakenly. Please forgive the error.)



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)
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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS
First Week of Pentecost — Tone 7
Saturday, June 22 – Friday, June 28, 2023
[daily Scripture readings](#)

We're celebrating the day of Pentecost, the day of the Descent of the Holy Spirit onto the Apostles, the day of the hope of perfection, the end of expectation, the longing for salvation, the fulfilment of prayer and the image of patience. Today the Spirit Who acted to scatter the nations in the time of Heber has formed tongues of fire among the Apostles.... [A]mid tongues of fire, the deeds performed by the activity of the Holy Spirit [are] aimed at enabling us to receive teaching, in fulfilment of the will of God.

— St. John Chrysostom, On Pentecost

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

HOLY PENTECOST: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, June 22

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

Sunday, June 23

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Festal Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- “Kneeling” **Vespers of Pentecost**, following
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Sally S., Chris F. & Brandy L.*, sponsors)

Day of the Holy Spirit
Nativity of the Forerunner and Baptist John
Monday, June 24
Fast Free Week Begins

Thursday, June 27

- **Work Party**, 6:00pm @ St. Mary's Cemetery, Madera

The Holy Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul [download musical texts](#)
Friday, June 28

- **Great Vespers** with *Litya*, 6:00pm @ Irvona

Saturday, June 29

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 8:40am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:00am

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: All Saints Sunday [download musical texts](#)

Saturday, June 29

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

Sunday, June 30

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

2. KNEELING VESPERS OF PENTECOST = Immediately following the Divine Liturgy this Sunday, the Vespers of Pentecost will be sung. What makes this service unique is the addition of three poetical prayers which are offered to our Lord in recognition and appreciation for the Holy Spirit being sent down upon us. Those who are able kneel during these prayers are encouraged to do so, as prostrations return to parish and personal piety after an absence of 50 days (prostrations are not made during the entire Paschal season and on Sundays throughout the year in celebration of the Resurrection). These prayers mark the fulfillment of Christ's saving work which was completed and promised at His Ascension into heaven. Coffee Hour will take place following Kneeling Vespers. Let us extol the grace of the Holy Spirit in spiritual hymns!

3. CEMETERY WORK PARTY = Taking advantage of these longer evenings of summer, the Madera Council is inviting the men of the parish to a weekday evening sprucing up Nativity of the Theotokos Cemetery, located up the hill from the church on 645 Alexander Rd. A volunteer crew will help dismantle the shed there beginning at 6pm this Thursday, June 27. Thank you in advance for your efforts in beautifying our churchyard in Madera; many hands do indeed make light work.

4. FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL NEXT WEEKEND = It's already the end of June, which means it's time to commemorate the All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles Saints Peter and Paul. Because their feast day falls on a Saturday this year, and because this Friday is a day without fasting in celebration of Pentecost, we will serve Great Vespers with *Litya* in Irvona on Friday evening, June 28, at 6:00pm, and return the following day for the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom at 9:00am on Saturday, June 29 (note the earlier time on Saturday). The Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul traditionally ends a period of preparation, the Apostles Fast, which begins on the Monday following the Fast-Free Week immediately after Pentecost, but alas we will already be in July at that time! This period of preparation is traditionally one of the four main times each year when frequent-communing Orthodox Christians go to Confession, so even amidst this time of rejoicing the Church invites you to avail yourself of this important sacrament over the next several weeks. **Blessings on the Feasts!**

5. PARISH PICNIC OFFICIALLY SCHEDULED = On Sunday, July 28, 2024 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm we will have our annual Orthodox Family Picnic at Curwensville Lake! This afternoon of food, fun, and games is a great way to enjoy fellowship with fellow parishioners and other Orthodox Christians from around the area—we will again be inviting those from many nearby Orthodox parishes to join us. The parish will provide the meats, condiments, and drinks (bottled water and sodas), so all you need to bring a guest or two, and perhaps a covered side dish, dessert, or additional beverages to share as you wish. And, if you have friends who attend other Clearfield County parishes, please invite them to contact Fr. Alexander to serve on a pan-Orthodox planning committee.

6. SEMINARIAN VISIT = On the weekend of July 6-7, Master of Divinity candidate Reader Evan Ashmore and his family of four will visit Nativity of the Theotokos Church in Madera. During and after the liturgy, he will have the opportunity to share with us and involve us in his ongoing calling to serve the Church, and Reader Evan will be offering the homily. A special collection will be taken during the Prayers of Thanksgiving to support him. The Ashmores begin their second year at St. Tikhon's Seminary this fall. Thank you in advance for your support of our parish's Seminarian Fund.


7. NEWS FROM AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE = A group from Ss. Mary and Michael's traveled to St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Pittsburgh last Thursday to attend an Archdiocesan pro-life prayer service and speaking event on the importance of after-abortion care and counseling. Expanding on the themes of this past event, the Archdiocese and the Cathedral's Orthodox Christians for Life ministry are planning a retreat featuring renowned Orthodox speaker and author Frederica Mathewes-Green to be held on Saturday, September 7. Frederica is a prolific author with work featured in publications like the Washington Post and Christianity Today, and has spoken at prestigious universities


such as Yale and Harvard. More details on the retreat schedule and registration will follow. Save the date!

8. **"EARLY BIRD" DISCOUNT ENDS MONDAY** = The [Parish Development Forum](#) returns in 2024, promising to build upon the success of its previous year's record attendance. Scheduled from 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, through noon on Thursday, July 11, the forum will be held at the Woodside Event Center at Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights, Ohio. This year's theme, "Our Parish and the Future: Equipping to Serve in a Secular World," addresses the challenges churches face in a rapidly secularizing society. Expect engaging keynote presentations, small group discussions, and opportunities for worship. Registration is now open, and you can navigate to the registration page from the press release on [OCA.org](#) or directly via [this link](#). The registration page includes detailed information on session times, hotel accommodations, agenda elements, and more. The "Early Bird" registration fee of \$110, a \$50 savings, is available until June 24. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible to ensure your spot if you wish to attend. Last year, the event was sold out.

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**.

June Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Zoie Sidorick (June 2), Cindy [Agnes] Bihun (June 3), Crystal [Christina] Parks (June 9), Maureen Gathagan (June 12), Joyce [Christina] Lucas (June 22), Maksim Sidorick (June 23), Tamara Stodart (June 25), Nicholas I. Sidorick (June 27), Benjamin Brelo (June 29), Jeremy Dinsmore (June 30),

 **Anniversaries:** Brandon & Chelsey Stodart (June 21), Raymond [Romanos] & Catherine Mandell (June 30)

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, Larry, Andrew, Nathan

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Archpriest Alexander, Mka Genevieve, Child Matthew, Cecily and the child she bears, Basil, Janet, Thomas, Meredith and newborn child Lydia, Frank, Kate, Emma, Juliana, Francis, Susanne, Thekla, Mary, Catherine, Nicholas, Judith, Agnes, Paul, Maksim, Michael, Shane, Tatiana, Grace Elisabeth and the child she bears, Virginia, Marilyn, Andrei, Mark, Marian, David, Paul, Phyllis, Bob, Nathan, Michelle

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.

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

