


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
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To: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)
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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Eighth Week of Pentecost — Tone 6
Sunday, August 11 – Saturday, August 17, 2024
[daily Scripture readings](#)

Let us, considering the Mystery of the Transfiguration of the Lord in accord with their teaching, strive to be illumined by this Light ourselves and encourage in ourselves love and striving towards the Unfading Glory and Beauty, purifying our spiritual eyes of worldly thoughts and refraining from perishable and quickly passing delights and beauty which darken the garb of the soul and lead to the fire of Gehenna and everlasting darkness. Let us be freed from these by the illumination and knowledge of the incorporeal and ever-existing Light of our Savior transfigured on Tabor, in His Glory, and of His Father from all eternity, and His Life-Creating Spirit, Whom are One Radiance, One Godhead, and Glory, and Kingdom, and Power now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen!

— St. Gregory Palamas

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [download musical texts](#)
Afterfeast of the Transfiguration

Saturday, August 10

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

Sunday, August 11

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy** with the **Blessing of Fruit**, 9:30am
- **Irvona Church Council Meeting**, following
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Mandells, sponsors*)

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS [download musical texts](#)
Wednesday, August 14

- **Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Dormition***, 6:00pm @ Madera
- **Blessing of Flowers**, following

Thursday, August 15
Dormition Fast ends.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [download musical texts](#)

Saturday, August 17

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

Sunday, August 18

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

Tuesday, August 20

- **Cemetery Endowment Committee Meeting**, 6:00pm @ St. Michael's Hall and via Zoom

2. **WELCOME NEWBORN BABY BRELO** = Yesterday afternoon, Thursday, August 8, Ben and Grace-Elisabeth welcomed their second son into the world! Measuring 21 inches and weighing 7 pounds 12 ounces, he will take the name **Matthias Raphael Brelo**. May God grant the Brelo Family many years of health, peace, prosperity, and joy together!

Saints Mary and Michael parishioners can help the Brelos care for their newborn son by providing reheatable dinners over the next few weeks. To participate, simply use this [sign-up form](#) and drop off your meal at their home at 122 Saint James Street in Houtzdale on the date you choose. You can text Ben at (484) 940-1868 to let him know what time you will be stopping by. The Brelos have no known allergies or dietary restrictions.

3. **BLESSINGS ON THE FEAST** = This Sunday, we will continue celebrating the **Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord** with the singing of the festal antiphons and the festal exclamation (entrance hymn) at the conclusion of the Little Entrance. For those who were unable to have their fruit blessed last Monday night, you may bring them to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday to have it blessed near the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. *S'prazdnikom!* Joyous Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord!

3. **GREAT FEAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT** = The **Feast of the Dormition** (or "Falling-Asleep") of the Mother of God will be celebrated with a Vespereal Divine Liturgy at 6:00 p.m. in Madera on the eve of the Feast, Wednesday night, August 14. Please make a holy effort to attend so we can celebrate this feast together, the last one of the ecclesiastical year! The Dormition of the Theotokos commemorates not only the repose of the Mother of Jesus Christ but also the translation or "assumption" of her body into Paradise. This was evidenced by her empty tomb and a sweet-smelling fragrance discovered by the apostles the day after her death when St. Thomas, who arrived late, went to reverence her. For this reason, Father will bless flowers and fragrant herbs for us to keep in our homes. The **Blessing of Flowers**, which has been shown to be effective for healing family illness and strife, will take place near the conclusion of the Vespereal Liturgy.

5. **YOUTH DAY IN NEIGHBORING DIOCESE** = The [Diocese of New York and New Jersey](#) is hosting "Youth Day 2024" at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ, on Saturday, August 24, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event is open to all youth, teens, and families. Participating kids will enjoy a day of fun with field games, a water slide, bounce house, obstacle course, tug of war, water balloon toss, dunk tank, face painting, and music. The schedule includes a Molioben Service at 11 a.m., a BBQ Lunch from 12-1 p.m., and activities from 1-4 p.m., concluding with Great Vespers at 5 p.m. Register by August 15. For more info, email admin@nynjocayouth.org.


6. **FALL ARCHDIOCESAN RETREAT SCHEDULED** = The Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Christians for Life Ministry, is sponsoring a retreat with Frederica Mathewes-Green on September 7, 2024. This event, entitled "The Church's Unborn Witness to Life," will take place at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral, 8290 Thompson Run Road, Pittsburgh (15237). Frederica Mathewes-Green, a prolific author and commentator featured in publications like the Washington Post and Christianity Today, will lead sessions on "Pro-Life Orthodoxy Through the Centuries" and "Post-Abortion Women Speak." Registration is \$20 per person, with no fee for college students and younger. Check-in begins at 9:30 am, with the first session starting at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:00 p.m. and the second session at 1:00 pm. For more information or to register, contact Fr. David Vernak at frdavidvernak@verizon.net or 201-704-6217, or [click here](#). The registration deadline is September 1, 2024.


7. **SAVE THE DATE** = On **Saturday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m.** in Madera, our parish will once again host first responders from throughout our county. The morning will begin with a brief prayer service interceding for those who keep us safe and free from harm. It will be immediately followed by the blessing of their vehicles (police cars, firetrucks, ambulances, etc.), and a catered lunch in appreciation for their holy work. As a significant outreach event for our parish, please pray for the success of this gathering! If you would like to be involved in the planning and promotion of this year's luncheon, please see, email, call, or text Fr. Alexander

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8. **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**.

August Milestones

 **Birthdays:** Zachariah Cadman (August 1), Gregory Sidorick (August 2), Matthias Brelo (August 8), Janet Kalenish (August 13), John Harris (August 15), Gary Shaffer (August 16), Shane Lucas (August 21), Michael Parks, Sr. (August 25), and Sally [Sara] Sidorick (August 28).

 **Anniversaries:** Ben & Grace Brelo (August 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](#).

Prayer List

Departed: Mka. Annice, Kera, Daniel, The Blessed Matushka Olga

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, John, Joe, Marilyn, Scott, Sophia, Child Matthew, Basil, Michael, Arif, Mary, Stanley, Nadia, Alexandra, Juliana, Benjamin, Frank, Thekla, Agnes, Paul, Maksim, Grace Elisabeth and her newborn child, Anya and the child she bears, Lucy and the child she bears, Virginia, Andrei, Mark, Marian, David, Paul, Michael, Shane, Tatiana, Phyllis, Bob, Nathan, Michelle, Michael, David, Marion

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 Holy Communion on a weeknight, begin your absolute fast (i.e., no food or drink) by 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

