


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
Subject: Announcements 09/15 – 09/21/2024
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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
Thirteenth Week of Pentecost — Tone 3
Sunday, September 15 – Saturday, September 21, 2024
[daily Scripture readings](#)

Without the Cross, life would be impossible... On the practical level, it means that suffering, struggle, and pain have significance. Without the Cross, they don't. And if they don't, then we spend our lives in one of two ways. Either we try to deny suffering, struggle, and pain by using any and all substances and activities to numb our senses; or, we capitulate to despair and cry: Life is hopeless; there's no way out. And so, we give up.

Through the shame and the pain of the Cross, Christ turned his death into triumph. He trampled it down. No longer would death be the last word. In Christ, no longer would pain or death itself defeat man. Joy has come into the world because there is a way out. And the way out is a person, Christ himself. As we take up our Cross, remember the One who carried his own and emerged from the grave victoriously. Without it, life is over before it ever truly begins.

— Fr. John M. Reeves (+2022)

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [download musical texts](#)
Sunday After the Elevation
Saturday, September 14

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

Sunday, September 15

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy** with **Festal Antiphons** for the Elevation of the Cross, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Mandells, sponsors*)
- **Cemetery Endowment Committee Meeting**, during Coffee Hour

Tuesday, September 17

- **Madera Church Council Meeting and Strategy Session**, 7:00pm

Thursday, September 19

- **Irvona Church Council Meeting and Strategy Session**, 6:00pm

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

Saturday, September 21

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

Sunday, September 22

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

Saturday, September 28

- **Baptism of Matthias Raphael Brelo**, 10:30am @ Madera

2. **COUNCIL STRATEGY SESSIONS** = Please pray for members of both the Irvona and Madera Church Councils, who will be meeting next week. In addition to conducting regular quarterly business, each Council will be taking extra time to devote to planning for future projects and needs of their respective churches and our parish as a whole. Their guidance will be used by Fr. Alexander to draft 2025 budgets for both churches, as well as any new parish initiatives, which will be reviewed and approved at a joint session of both Councils in October. Council members will meet in Madera and Irvona on Tuesday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m., and Thursday, September 19, at 6:00 p.m., respectively. For more information, or to bring up items for consideration, please see or email your Council President: [Jacob Mandell](#) (Irvona) or [Greg Sidorick](#) (Madera).

3. **MUSIC AVAILABLE FOR OUTREACH** = Our Ss. Mary and Michael's Outreach Fund has acquired a selection of CDs performed by the **St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Choir** in Minneapolis, when it was under the direction of our very own Zach Mandell. These CDs are a wonderful way to introduce non-Orthodox family and friends to the beautiful music of the Orthodox Church. The CDs will be available at both our churches in exchange for any size donation to our parish's outreach fund. Please leave a check with "Outreach CDs" in the memo line or cash in a specially marked envelope in the offering basket.

4. **FIRST RESPONDERS PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON** = 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.

5. **COLLEGE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS** = Do you have a student or know of a student who is currently in college? If so, be sure to let them know about the 2024 Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) College Conference, taking place December 27-30. There are two nearby locations: College Conference Midwest at St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, WI, or College Conference East at Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA. Participants will have the opportunity to explore their faith amidst life's distractions. The theme, "Christ, the King of All," aims to help students grow spiritually, intellectually, and personally. Registration is now open at ocf.net.

6. **YOUNG ADULT RETREAT AT CAMP NAZARETH** = Orthodox Christians aged 18-35 are invited to a weekend of reflection, fellowship, and spiritual renewal at the Young Adult Fall Retreat, happening the weekend of October 25-27, 2024, at Camp Nazareth. This year's theme, "Caring for God's Creation: The Self," will be explored by keynote speaker Alex Balouris, who will guide participants in understanding how we can honor God by caring for our mental, physical, and spiritual health. Our Archdiocese is co-hosting the retreat with the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2AM, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Father Alexander and Luke Sidorick from our parish will serve on the planning committees and attend the event. For more details and registration, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yafall2024>.


7. **ON THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION** = As a reminder, Confessions are regularly scheduled nearly every Saturday of the year after the 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers, which is the preferred time. Confessions can also be arranged by appointment throughout the week (morning, afternoon, or evening) by contacting Fr. Alexander through the Parish Office (details below). Father is available to meet at either church or through a home visitation. As is customary in the Orthodox Church. Confessions before the Divine Liturgy on Sunday are typically reserved for extraordinary

circumstances when those preparing to receive the Holy Mysteries are unexpectedly troubled by their conscience and were unable to receive the sacrament of Confession on another day.

8. STAY CONNECTED = If you or someone you know would like to meet with Fr. Alexander, you can call or text the parish number at (814) 862-8694 or use the [online form](#) on the parish website, orthodoxclearfield.org. Appointments are available throughout the week, tailored to your schedule and needs. If illness prevents you from attending church, please inform Father so he can add you to the prayer list and arrange to **bring the healing Sacraments to you** if needed. In case of an emergency after hours, repeated phone calls will automatically bypass silent mode and connect you directly to Father.

September Milestones

 **Birthdays:** Josiah Cadman (September 10), Laura [Elisabeth] Rush (September 14), Hope Mandell (September 14), Brandon Stodart (September 17), Christine Ferlitch (September 18), and Mary Lanser (September 26).

 **Anniversaries:** Michael & Katrina Lucas (September 11), Jay [Benjamin] & Laura [Elisabeth] Rush (September 23), and Michael & Crystal [Christina] Parks (September 26).

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: The Blessed Matushka Olga, Anthony

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Kristen, Basil, Frank, Grace Elisabeth and the Child Matthias newly born of her, Don, Basil, Michael, John, Joseph, Sophia and the child she bears, Arif, Mary, Alexandra, Juliana, Francis, Thekla, Agnes, Paul, Maksim, Anya and the child she bears, Lucy and the child she bears, Virginia, Marilyn, Andrei, Mark, Marian, David, Paul, Michael, Shane, Tatiana, Nadia, Ethan, Abigail, Giana, Phyllis, Bob, Nathan, Michelle, Michael, David, Marion, Robert

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

