


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 01/05 — 01/11/2025  
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**To:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org)



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)  
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)  
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**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**Twenty-Ninth Week After Pentecost — Tone 3**  
**The Sunday Before Theophany and the Great Feast of Theophany**  
Sunday, January 5 – Saturday, January 11, 2025  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

## 1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

### **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

#### **EVE OF THE THEOPHANY**

**Sunday After the Theophany** [download musical texts](#)

**Saturday**, January 4

- **Great Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Irvona *(No Confessions)*

**Sunday**, January 5

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- Monthly **Panikhida** for January, following
- **Light Coffee Hour**, following *(Parks, sponsors)*

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### **THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**Sunday**, January 5

- **Great Vespers** with **Litya** and the **Great Blessing of Waters**, **6:00pm** @ Madera [download musical texts](#)

**Monday, January 6**

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, **8:40am @ Madera**
- **Festal Divine Liturgy** of St. Basil the Great, **9:00am** [download musical texts](#)

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**Wednesday**, January 8

#### **House Blessings begin!**

*(Use the sign-up sheets in the back of either Church, [this online form](#), or [email Father](#) your general availability.)*

**Friday**, January 10

- **Forty-Day Memorial for John Ninosky**, 10:00am @ Christ the Saviour Church, Harrisburg

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## **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Sunday After the Theophany** [download musical texts](#)

**Saturday**, January 11

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

**Sunday**, January 12

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
  - **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
  - **Outdoor Blessing of Clearfield Creek**, ~12:00n @ PA-53 Bridge near Bigler Twp. Municipal Building, Madera
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2. **JANUARY PANIKHIDA THIS SUNDAY** – This Sunday, January 5, our parish will serve a memorial for all the members of our extended parish family who reposed during the month of January. [Father is collecting a list of names](#); please be sure [to email him](#) or use the black commemoration slips that are located in the Narthex if you have any additions or corrections to the diptychs he is compiling. **Memory eternal!**

3. **GREAT FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY THIS WEEKEND** – The Twelve Days of Christmas culminate with the **Great Feast of Theophany** on January 6, when we commemorate Christ's baptism in the Jordan and the revelation of the Holy Trinity to the world. Since Theophany falls on a Monday this year, we will celebrate **Great Vespers**, **Litya**, and the **Great Blessing of Waters** on the eve of the feast, Sunday, January 5, in Madera, beginning at 6:00 p.m. During this service, water is sanctified and set aside for the blessing of our homes by Fr. Alexander (see below). On Monday, January 6, the **Festal Divine Liturgy** will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in Madera.

4. **CANCELLATION NOTICE** – Severe winter weather is expected to pass south of our region late Sunday night into Monday, sparing us from the worst of the storm. No winter weather advisory or storm warning is currently anticipated for our area.

- **Sunday Night**: Services will proceed as scheduled. Please make every effort to attend.
- **Monday Morning**: If the Moshannon Valley School District announces a two-hour delay or cancellation, the Festal Divine Liturgy will be canceled, else services will proceed. However, please use extreme caution and consider attending the Divine Liturgy in either State College (9:00 a.m.) or DuBois (10:00 a.m.) if your local road conditions are safer.

Regardless of Monday's outcome, we will sing the festal antiphons and continue our **Theophany celebrations** on Sunday, January 12 (see below).

5. **OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATERS** – As part of our continuing Theophany celebration, we will hold an **Outdoor Blessing of Waters** at Clearfield Creek on Sunday, January 12, following the Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour in Madera. Father and the servers will process to Clearfield Creek after Coffee Hour, while others are invited to drive over and park in the municipal building parking lot. The blessing will take place on the bridge on PA-53, near the Bigler Township Municipal Building. All are welcome to join us as we pray for the sanctification of all creation, with a special prayer for our local community. A similar blessing event for Clearfield Creek in Irvona will be held in 2026.

6. **PARISH CALENDARS FOR 2025** have arrived! Pick up one for your family today, and consider taking an extra one for someone who might benefit from following the feasts and fasts of the Orthodox Church and attending services at Ss. Mary and Michael's. May our Lord add to our parish daily those who are being saved this year!

7. **HOME BLESSINGS BEGIN** – Fr. Alexander will begin blessing homes on **Wednesday, January 8**, with the month of January reserved for this important tradition. In light of the sicknesses and spiritual challenges many of us have faced recently, it is essential that we use this powerful blessing to protect and consecrate both ourselves and our homes for God's glory and purpose. To prepare, simply ensure your home is brightly lit, have a bowl and a candle ready (if you have one), and Father will bring everything else! To sign up, [click here](#) or see Fr. Alexander.

8. **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Because of the strict fast on the Eve of Theophany, our parish's annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, in Irvona following the Divine Liturgy. The parish will provide the main dish; we invite you to bring a festive side or dessert to share as we celebrate together the redemption of all creation through Christ's Incarnation and the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the waters of the Jordan River. A sign-up sheet will be circulated next week to help coordinate our favorite festive dishes. Let's celebrate together—**Bon appétit!**

9. **ANCIENT FAITH SINGLES RETREAT** – Registration is now open for the 2025 retreat! While rooms have sold out, commuter passes are still available for \$245. The Ancient Faith Singles Retreat 30+ is for Orthodox Christians who are at least 30 years old, unmarried (single, divorced, or widowed), and seeking to meet a spouse or make new friends within the Orthodox community. The weekend will include daily matins, vespers, and Sunday Divine Liturgy. Participants will engage in leader-led discussions, community service opportunities, games, social activities, and free time for relaxation and fellowship. For questions, please email Ellie Bernasol at [ellie@ancientfaith.com](mailto:ellie@ancientfaith.com), or to register [click here](#).

10. **GLORIFICATION DATE OF MATUSHKA OLGA SET** – The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America has announced Matushka Olga's official glorification as a saint to be held in Kwethluk, which is located in remote far-western Alaska, on **June 19-20, 2025**, with further celebrations in Anchorage on June 21-22. Her feast day will be celebrated annually on October 27, beginning in 2025. If there is sufficient interest, Father Alexander is willing to lead a pilgrimage to these events. The projected cost for the five-day trip, including travel, food, lodging, and worship in both locations, will be in the range of \$2,000-\$2,500 per person, with the potential of our parish conducting fundraising opportunities to offset some of the expense. Please let Father Alexander know as soon as possible if you are interested.

11. **PRO-LIFE EVENTS THIS MONTH** – St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral will host an Archdiocesan Pro-Life event on Thursday, January 16, 2025. The evening begins with a Moleben service at 7:00 p.m., followed by a presentation by Amy Scheuring, Executive Director of the Network of Life, at 7:45 p.m. titled "Network of Life: Forty Years and Counting." Refreshments will be provided. Additionally, Fr. Alexander is considering joining fellow Orthodox clergy and laity in Washington, DC, for the annual March for Life on Friday, January 24. If you are interested, please speak with him.

12. **MOVE-OUT WORK PARTY** – Join us on Saturday, January 11, at the Brelo's former home, 122 Saint James Street in Houtzdale (16651), to help them move out as they prepare for the next stage of their journey caring for **Child Matthias** at CHOP in Philadelphia, their other son **Child Elijah**, and members of their extended family including Timothy (**Ignatius**) and **Child Emmanuella** in east-central Pennsylvania. Please arrive between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. The parish will provide pizza and beverages. Thank you in advance—**many hands make light work!**


13. **GIVING "PLEDGE" LETTERS** – Pledge forms for 2025 are available in the Narthex. Completed forms can be placed in the offering basket or given to a Church Council Treasurer (Crystal Parks or Sally Sidorick). Let us work together to meet our stewardship goals. Thank you for your continued support of Ss. Mary and Michael's.

14. **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](http://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.

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## January Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Asher Sidorick (January 14), Brandy Lovell (January 18), Cadence Stodart (January 18), and Olivia Sidorick (January 20).

 **Anniversaries:** Patrick & Tamara Stodart (January 14)

*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](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org) or checking your record [here](#).*

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## Prayer List

**Departed:** Matushka Eugenia, John, Alan, Blessed Matushka Olga

**Living:** Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Archpriest Thomas, Michael, Alexia, Zachariah, Jeremy, Heather, Norah, Child Carly Mae, Christine, Child Matthias, Thekla, Grace-Elisabeth, Benjamin, Elijah, Joseph, Catherine, Patricia, Sharon, Brian, Eric, Debbie, Christopher Patrick, Joseph, Basil, Mary, Ignatius, Child Emmanuella, Sophia and the child she bears, Alexandra, Juliana, Francis, Agnes, Paul, Maksim, Newly-Illumined Child Michael Ephraim, Lucy and the child she bears, Alexis and the child she bears, Virginia, Marilyn, Andrei, Mark, Marian, David, Paul, Michael, Shane, Tatiana, Catechumen Anzen, 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.*

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## **January Calendar**

[Download Calendar](#)

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.

