


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 01/12 – 01/18/2025  
**Date:** January 11, 2025 at 16:22  
**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](#)  
[orthodoxclearfield.org](http://orthodoxclearfield.org) • (814) 862-8694 • [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**Thirtieth Week After Pentecost — Tone 4**  
Sunday, January 12 – Saturday, January 18, 2025  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

## 1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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

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

**Saturday**, January 11

- **Forty-Day Memorial for John Ninosky**, 5:30pm @ Madera **– rescheduled from 1/10 –**
- **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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**Tuesday**, January 14

- **Madera Church Council Meeting**, 7:00pm @ St. Mary's Hall

**Thursday**, January 16

- *The Irvona Church Council Meeting has been postponed. A make-up date will be announced.*

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### **THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** [download musical texts](#)

**Saturday**, January 18

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

**Sunday**, January 19

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am

- **Annual Christmas Party**, following

2. **OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATERS** – As part of our continuing Theophany celebration, we will hold an **Outdoor Blessing of Waters** at Clearfield Creek this 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.

3. **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.

4. **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Because of the strict fast on the Eve of Theophany, our parish's annual Christmas Party will be held next 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 this week to help coordinate our favorite festive dishes. Let's celebrate together—**Bon appétit!**

5. **THANK YOU PARISH MOVING CREW** – A heartfelt thank you to the 14 parishioners who came together on Saturday, January 11, to help the Brelors move out of their home. Your generous support and hard work made a challenging task much lighter! As the Brelors embark on the next stage of their journey—caring for **Matthias** at CHOP in Philadelphia and **Elijah** in the Harrisburg area—we send them with our prayers, love, and best wishes. They will also support their extended family members Timothy (**Ignatius**) and **Emmanuella** during this time. May God bless and guide them on this new chapter.

6. **HOME BLESSINGS HAVE BEGUN** – The month of January is reserved for the blessing of all the homes in the parish—**members, inquirers, and visitors alike!** To have your home blessed, you can indicate your general availability using [this online form](#) or contact Fr. Alexander directly by [email](#) or [text](#) and he will get back with you with a specific date and time. It is essential that all of us make use of this powerful tool to protect and set apart both us and our homes for God's glory and purpose. All you need to do in advance is have your house brightly lit, a bowl set out, and a candle ready, if you have one. Father brings everything else.

7. **COUNCILS TO MEET** – Kindly keep the representatives of our church councils in your prayers as they prepare for their First Quarter meetings this week. The Madera Council is scheduled to meet on **Tuesday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m.**, while the Irvona Council Meeting, originally planned for Thursday, January 18, has been postponed; a new date will be announced soon. During these sessions, the councils will review 2024 financial statements, select a representative to attend future meetings at their sister churches (Irvona and Madera), and begin drafting a timeline for strategic planning initiatives for 2025. These efforts are in response to resolutions passed by both churches during our Annual Meeting last November. For more information, please refer to the [2024 Annual Report](#).

8. **ARCHDIOCESAN FAMILY SKATING EVENT** – Join brethren from throughout the Archdiocese for a delightful afternoon of skating at [The UPMC Rink at PPG Place](#) in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh on **Sunday, February 2, 2025, from 3:00 to 4:45 p.m.** Cost is \$17.00 per person, including skate rental. To reserve your spot, email or text Father Alexander at [fralex@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:fralex@orthodoxclearfield.org) or (814) 321-4473. Payments can be made via check, money order, or Venmo at [venmo.com/u/ocadwpa](https://venmo.com/u/ocadwpa). Reservations and payments are due by January 27. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and fun.

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 inviting fellow Orthodox


...and speaking. Arrangements will be provided. Additionally, Fr. Alexander is considering joining other 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. **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, Alan, Blessed Matushka Olga

**Living:** Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Archpriest Thomas, Basil, Mary, David, Michael, Alexia, Zachariah, Christine, Child Matthias, Thekla, Grace-Elisabeth, Benjamin, Elijah, Joseph, Catherine, Ignatius, Child Emmanuella, Sophia and the child she bears, Alexandra, Juliana, Francis, Agnes, Paul, Maksim, Newly Illumined Child Michael Ephraim, Lucy and the Child Phoebe Clair newly born of her, Alexis and the child she bears, Virginia, Marilyn, Andrei, Mark, Marian, David, Paul, Michael, Shane, Tatiana, Catechumen Anzen, Robert, Christopher Patrick, Maher, Nashwa, Thomas

*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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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.

