


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
Subject: Announcements 01/19 – 01/25/2025
Date: January 18, 2025 at 15:49
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
Thirty-First Week After Pentecost — Tone 5
Sunday, January 19 – Saturday, January 25, 2025
[daily Scripture readings](#)

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [download musical texts](#)

Saturday, January 25

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

Sunday, January 26

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

Tuesday, January 28

- **Irvona Church Council Meeting**, 6:00pm @ St. Michael's Hall (*rescheduled from January 16*)

2. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – This Sunday, January 19, 2025, following the Divine Liturgy in Irvona, Ss. Mary and Michael's will host its annual Christmas Party. The parish will provide the main dish (chicken from Leyo's in Coalport!), and we invite you to bring a festive side or dessert to share. Although our party is a little later this year, it's never too late to celebrate the redemption of all creation through Christ's Nativity and the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the waters of the Jordan River. If you haven't already, there's [still time to sign up](#) and coordinate dishes using the sheet that was sent

out earlier this week. Bon appétit!

3. OUTDOOR BLESSING OF CLEARFIELD CREEK FEATURED IN GANT NEWS – The recent Outdoor Blessing of Clearfield Creek, held last Sunday in an ongoing celebration of Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, was featured in [Gant News](#). This annual tradition invokes God's blessings for the waters, the local community, and all creation, commemorating the sanctification of the natural world through Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River. The article highlights the beauty and significance of this ancient Orthodox Christian service and the gathering of clergy and faithful to pray for the county and its people. This public witness of faith serves as a reminder of the sacredness of God's creation and His abundant blessings. For a gallery of photos from the event, you can find them on Ss. Mary and Michael's [Facebook page](#).

4. 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.

5. 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 or (814) 321-4473. Payments can be made via check, money order, or Venmo at venmo.com/u/ocadwpa. Reservations and payments are due by January 27. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and fun.

6. ANCIENT FAITH SINGLES RETREAT – Registration is now open for the **2025 retreat**, taking place **February 20–23!** 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, or to register, [click here](#).

7. 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.

8. ARCHDIOCESAN PRO-LIFE EVENT RESCHEDULED – The Pro-Life event at [St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral](#) has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 23, 2025, due to inclement weather. The evening will begin 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. Her talk, "Network of Life: Forty Years and Counting," will highlight the incredible work of the organization. Refreshments will be provided.

9. MARCH FOR LIFE 2025 – Orthodox clergy and faithful will join the annual [March for Life](#) in Washington, DC, this Friday, January 24, 2025. This year's schedule of activities is as follows:

- **9:00 a.m.:** Divine Liturgy, followed by a breakfast reception at St. Nicholas Cathedral (3500 Massachusetts Avenue NW).
- **12:00 p.m.:** Meet at the National Mall, on Madison Drive between 7th and 9th Street NW.
- **12:30 p.m.:** Orthodox hierarchs and faithful will gather for the Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion.
- **1:00 p.m.:** March for Life begins, with the Orthodox group singing hymns while processing.
- **4:00 p.m.:** March concludes at the Supreme Court (Orthodox participants will exit the March early).

If you are interested in attending the March this year, please see Fr. Alexander for more information and travel tips.

10. 42ND ANNUAL SCHMEMANN LECTURE – In celebration of the Feast of the Three Hierarchs, St. Vladimir's Seminary in New York will host a day of special events on **Thursday, January 30, 2025**. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. at Three Hierarchs' Chapel. Later that evening, the Mid-Year Commencement Ceremony will take place at 7:00 p.m., followed by the **42nd Annual Father Alexander Schmemann Memorial Lecture**. This year's keynote presentation, "*Heaven to Earth, Earth to Heaven: Neoplatonic Theology and the Art of Byzantine Churches*," will be delivered by Dr. Henry Maguire, Emeritus Professor of the History of Art at Johns Hopkins University. You are invited to attend the Liturgy, Commencement, and Lecture in person or watch live online. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

11. 2024 APPEAL RESULTS – Throughout the year, parishioners generously contributed to various charitable efforts. In total \$9,818.34 was raised above and beyond our individual stewardship offerings (see below), which represented more than a 300% increase over last year's total of \$2,295.31. Here are the results of the 2024 appeals: **Gloria to**

more than a 500% increase over last year's total of \$2,299.51. Here are the results of the 2024 appeals. **Glory to Jesus Christ!**

Charity	Collection Times	2024 Amount
Brelo Family Appeal	December	\$4,872.05
New Scholarship Fund Support	Dec.–Feb. '25	\$1,250.00
Hurricane Relief (IOCC)	October	\$1,200.00
Seminarian Appeal	Ongoing	\$1,100.00
Orthodox Christian Mission Center (Coin Boxes)	Lent	\$351.29
Clearfield County Food Bank (CPCA)	Lent/Advent	\$350.00
College Student Sunday (OCF)	September	\$326.00
Diocese of Alaska (OCA)	December	\$217.00
Stewards of the OCA	November	\$152.00
Charitable Fund Additional Support	Ongoing	\$150.00*
Outreach Fund Additional Support	Ongoing	\$100.00*


* Indicates contributions beyond each church's annual \$1,800 donation to each of the parish's Outreach and Charitable Funds, for a total of \$3,600 per church.


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. 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.

Your 2024 Stewardship

Location	Stewardship Offering
Nativity of the Theotokos Church (Madera)	\$48,966.85
St. Michael the Archangel Church (Irvona)	\$49,719.06
<i>2025 Budgeted Goal:</i>	<i>\$52,000 per church</i>

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 or checking your record [here](#).

Prayer List

Departed: Matushka Eugenia, Alan, Blessed Matushka Olga

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Archpriest Thomas, Mka. Susanne, 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, 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.

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.

