


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 01/26 – 02/01/2024  
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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**  
**Thirty-Second Week After Pentecost — Tone 6**  
Sunday, January 26 – Saturday, February 1, 2025  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

## 1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** [download musical texts](#)

Sanctity of Life Sunday

**Saturday**, January 25

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

**Sunday**, January 26

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

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**Tuesday**, January 28

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

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**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Sunday of Zacchaeus**  
**THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE** [download musical texts](#)

**Saturday**, February 1

- **Great Vespers** with **Litya** for the Meeting of our Lord, **7:00pm @ Irvona**
- **Confessions**, following

**Sunday**, February 2

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Festal Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Mandell Family, sponsors*)

2. **SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY** – This Sunday, January 26 has been designated by the Holy Synod of Bishops as

**Sanctity of Life Sunday.** Join us in Madera as we commemorate the victims of abortion and also stand in witness of the sacredness of human life. Special prayers will be added to the augmented litanies at Vespers and the Divine Liturgy and also at the conclusion of the Liturgy. For a list of resources that you can use to help create a culture of life and learn more about the Church's position on abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, and suicide, [click here](#).

3. **GREAT FEAST NEXT WEEKEND** – Next **Saturday night at 7:00pm** (note later time) we will commemorate the [Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple](#) in Irvona with the singing of **Great Vespers and Litya** with its blessing of wheat, wine, and oil, which is shared with the faithful following the service. Being a Sunday, the **Festal Divine Liturgy** will take place at its regular time at 9:30am, also in Irvona.

One of the Orthodox Church's twelve great feasts, this celebration marks the time when Mary, the Bearer of God (Theotokos) brought her forty-day-old Divine Child to the Temple according to the [Law of Moses](#). The feast's liturgical color is blue, as all Marian feasts are, because the Theotokos humbly fulfills the law and the prophecy revealed to St. Simeon the God-Receiver that he would not die until he held the Messiah in his arms. Our daily vesperal prayer of "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation..." is a living memorial of this holy event. **Blessings on the Feast! S'prazdnikom!**

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 next **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.


6. **SAVE THE DATE: ARCHDIOCESAN RETREAT** – With the blessing of His Eminence, an Archdiocesan Retreat for clergy and laity will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025. The retreat will feature Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia, as the guest speaker. Fr. Victor will speak on the topic: "The Book of Job: Suffering and Victory of Christ over Satan." The event is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. with prayer, followed by two sessions, lunch, and a conclusion by 3 p.m. More details and an event flier will be available soon.


7. **OPEN HOUSE AT ST. VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY** – St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary will host its Winter Admissions Open House on February 16–17, 2025. Prospective seminarians are invited to experience life at the seminary, including worship with the community in the chapel, attending classes, and speaking with seminarians and professors about the spiritual, academic, and residential aspects of seminary life. The seminary has a rich history of preparing Orthodox men and women to serve the Church in various ministries, including clergy, scholars, teachers, choir directors, and other leadership roles. Attendees who are in the application process can also schedule interviews during their visit. For more information and to access the event page, [click here](#).

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](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:** Archbishop Anastasios, Louis, Mka, Susanna, Sharon, Matuchka, Eugenia, Blessed Matuchka, Olga

**Departed:** ARCHBISHOP ANASTASIOS, LEWIS, MRS. SUSANNE, SHARON, MATUSHKA EUGENIA, BLESSED MATUSHKA OIGA

**Living:** Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Archpriest Michael, Archpriest Thomas, Patricia, Catherine, Christine, Jayden, Basil, Mary, David, Michael, Alexia, Zachariah, Child Matthias, Thekla, Joseph, 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.*

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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.

