


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
Subject: Announcements 02/02 – 02/08/2024
Date: February 1, 2025 at 13:00
To: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)
orthodoxclearfield.org • (814) 862-8694 • info@orthodoxclearfield.org

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Thirty-Third Week After Pentecost — Tone 7
Sunday, February 2 – Saturday, February 8, 2025
[daily Scripture readings](#)

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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

- Confessions, 6:30pm
- **Great Vespers** with **Litya** for the Meeting of our Lord, **7:00pm @ Irvona**

Sunday, February 2

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

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE
Beginning of the Lenten Triodion [download musical texts](#)
Fast-Free Week

Saturday, February 8

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

Sunday, February 9

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

Friday, February 14

- **Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance @ St. Nicholas Church, 301 S. State St., DuBois**

2. **GREAT FEAST THIS WEEKEND** – This **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. Because of the later start time this week only, Confessions will precede Great Vespers for those that need to go. 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!**

3. **MONTHLY PANIKHIDA FOR FEBRUARY** – This Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, being the first Sunday of the month, we will once again celebrate our monthly panikhida service. To submit your names for February, you may [email them to Fr. Alexander](#) or use the black commemoration slips located in the Narthex of St. Michael's. Last names and dates are helpful for the [parish diptychs](#) that Father is continuing to compile. **May their memories be eternal!**

4. **ARCHDIOCESAN RETREAT CONFIRMED** – 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 will begin at 10 a.m. with prayer, followed by two sessions, lunch, and a conclusion by 3 p.m. Father Alexander is coordinating transportation for anyone who would like to travel to the retreat with fellow parishioners. Please see or [contact him](#) if you have questions or wish to travel with our group.

5. **SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE** – Our parish continues working toward our goal of raising \$10,000 to establish an endowed scholarship fund through the [Clearfield County Charitable Foundation](#). This fund will provide need-based scholarships each year to graduating seniors in the Glendale and Moshannon Valley School Districts who have demonstrated a care for others in our immediate community. In keeping with our resolution at the last annual meeting, we will continue soliciting donations through the Sunday of the Last Judgment, when the Gospel reminds us to care for the least of our brethren. If the full endowment amount is not reached, our Church Councils will still work with the school districts to award scholarships directly. Thank you for your generosity in helping us invest in the future of our local students.

6. **2024 GIVING STATEMENTS AVAILABLE** – Giving statements for IRS purposes have been prepared and are available for pickup this **Sunday, February 2**. Any statements not picked up will be mailed during the following week. Thank you for your generosity and support of our parish!

7. **BIWEEKLY CATECHESIS BEGINS** – Beginning February 8, Fr. Alexander will lead a biweekly catechesis class in Madera before Great Vespers, every other Saturday at 4:00 p.m. These sessions will be designed especially for catechumens preparing for Holy Illumination, but are also well suited for inquirers and anyone interested in learning more about the fundamentals of Orthodox Christianity. Classes will continue through the fifth Saturday of Great Lent (April 5).

8. **HOME BLESSINGS CONTINUE** – Following the Great Feast of Theophany, all members, inquirers, and visitors are invited to have their homes blessed, dedicating their dwellings to God's glory and purpose. To schedule a blessing, please indicate your general availability using this [online form](#) or contact Fr. Alexander directly via by [email](#) or [text](#). He will follow up with a specific date and time. In preparation, please ensure your home is brightly lit and have a bowl and candle ready (if available). Father will bring everything else. If you haven't scheduled yet, please do so as soon as possible, so blessings can be completed before Great Lent begins (March 3).

9. **VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER & DANCE** – St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, located at 301 South State Street, in DuBois, is hosting a **Valentine's Day-themed polka dinner-dance party** the fast-free Friday of February 14 from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. The evening features music by the Vagabonds, dancing, and a delicious menu including kielbasa sandwiches, pierogis, halushki, soft drinks, beer, and wine. Admission is \$15 per person; all proceeds benefit the church's Building Maintenance Fund. **All are invited!**

10. **SAVE THE DATE: SPRING YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** – Our Archdiocese is pleased to cosponsor the upcoming **Spring Young Adult Retreat** along with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Y2AM, the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. This retreat will take place at beautiful Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA, and is open to young adults ages 18-35. Father Timothy Paproski will lead participants in an enriching weekend exploring the theme *Living the Liturgy*—why the Divine Liturgy is central to Orthodox spiritual life and how we can live and share it beyond the church walls. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

11. **PRO-LIFE ESSAY & SPEECH CONTESTS** – Students in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's annual essay and speech contests.


- **Essay Contest:** Write a pro-life essay (500 words for grades 7-9, 750 words for grades 10-12) on abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. Prizes: \$200, \$150, and \$100 for the top three finishers. Entries due by **March 1, 2025**.
- **Speech Contest:** Write and record a 5-7 minute pro-life speech on the same topics. Junior Division (grades 9-

10) prizes: \$300, \$200, and \$100 for the top three finishers. Senior Division (grades 11-12) grand prize: An all-expense-paid trip to the 2025 National Right to Life Conference to be held in Kansas City June 20-21. Entries due by **April 18, 2025**.

For complete rules and cover page requirements, visit paprolife.org. Email entries to lifelines@paprolife.org.

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.

February Milestones:

 **Birthdays:** Mka. Jennifer Cadman (February 7), Vladimir Sidorick (February 12), Jonathan and Kennadie Kalenish (February 15), Aleksei Sidorick (February 21), Paul Bihun (February 24), Michael Parks, Jr. (February 26), Bridgett Sidorick (February 27), and Christian Stodart (February 27)

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: Hunter, Harley, Luke (Lewis), Archbishop Anastasios, Sharon, Matushka Susanne, Matushka Eugenia, Blessed Matushka Olga

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Archpriest Michael, Archpriest Thomas, Michael Eugene, James, Alissa and the child she bears, Stephanie, Nadia, Matthew, Patricia, Catherine, Christine, Jayden, Basil, Mary, David, Michael, Alexia, Zachariah, Child Matthias, Benjamin, Grace Elisabeth, Child Elijah, 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.

February Calendar

[Click here](#) to download the February 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.

