


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 02/23 – 03/01/2025  
**Date:** February 22, 2025 at 13:22  
**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**  
**Meatfare Sunday and Cheesefare Week — Tone 2**  
Sunday, February 23 – Saturday, March 1, 2025  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

## 1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

**SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (Meatfare Sunday)** [download musical texts](#)  
Saturday, February 22

- **Catechesis**, 4:30pm @ Madera
- **Great Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Madera
- **Confessions**, following

**Sunday**, February 23

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **"Meat Fair" Potluck**, following

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**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (Cheesefare Sunday)** [download musical texts](#)  
*The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise*  
Saturday, March 1

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

**Sunday**, March 2  
*OCMC Mission Sunday*

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

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**BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT**  
**Sunday**, March 2

- **Forgiveness Vespers**, 7:00pm @ Madera

**Monday**, March 3

- **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**, 7:00pm @ Madera

**Tuesday**, March 4

- **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**, 7:00pm @ Madera

**Wednesday, March 5**

- **Confessions**, 5:30pm @ Madera
- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts\***, 6:00pm @ Madera
- **Lenten Potluck**, following

**Thursday, March 6**

- **Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete**, 7:00pm @ Madera

**Friday, March 7**

- **Confessions**, 5:30pm @ Irvona
- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts\***, 6:00pm @ Irvona
- **Lenten Potluck**, following

**2. MEAT “FAIR” POTLUCK THIS SUNDAY** – Our parish “Meat Fair” Potluck is this Sunday, February 23, at St. Mary’s Hall in Madera, replacing our regular Coffee Hour. This is the last day Orthodox Christians traditionally eat meat before Pascha, so join us for a festive meal and fellowship! The [sign-up link](#) has already gone out—thank you to everyone bringing a dish. Even if you didn’t sign up, you’re still welcome to bring something to share or simply enjoy the meal. See you there!

**3. SUPPORT LUKE SIDORICK AND THON** – A member of our parish family, **Luke Sidorick**, is participating in THON this weekend, a 46-hour dance marathon at Penn State dedicated to supporting children and families affected by childhood cancer. THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, raising funds for Four Diamonds to cover medical expenses, research, and support for young patients. If you’d like to support Luke and this incredible cause, you can learn more or donate at [his personalized THON page](#). Donations made by tonight (Saturday night) at 11:59pm will count toward this year’s total. Congratulations to Luke and all his fellow fundraisers! **For The Kids!**

**4. JOINT COUNCILS’ MEETING RECAP** – Our **Joint Church Councils’ Meeting** took place last Sunday following the Divine Liturgy in Irvona, where both councils strategically decided to focus our efforts on **growing our combined community through charitable outreach**.

As part of this commitment, our **Lenten Drives** will begin next month, benefiting **Central Pennsylvania Community Action** to support local food banks and the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center** for foreign missions. This fall, we plan to expand our outreach further by supporting local schools through a back-to-school drive and enhancing our ministry to shut-ins with the creation of a **new pan-Orthodox choir**.

(Additionally, our drive to support area **graduating seniors through need-based scholarships** will wrap up this Sunday.)

To continue gathering insights, the councils have decided to **keep the [strategic planning survey](#) open throughout Lent**, inviting your further participation and reflection on the life of our combined community. Thank you to all who have contributed so far—your feedback is invaluable as we work together toward a stronger and more vibrant parish!

**5. ARCHDIOCESAN RETREAT FINAL REMINDER** – With the blessing of His Eminence, an **Archdiocesan Retreat for clergy and laity** will be held next Saturday, March 1. The retreat will feature Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Philadelphia, speaking on “The Book of Job: Suffering and Victory of Christ over Satan.” The day will begin at 10:00am with prayer, followed by two sessions, lunch, and a conclusion by 3:00pm.

To make travel easier, group transportation has been secured through a vehicle from Enterprise Rent-a-Car, allowing parishioners to travel together. All costs will be covered by the parish, with a suggested donation of **\$50 per person** to the Outreach Fund to help cover retreat registration, food, and travel expenses.

RSVPs are needed by the end of the day Sunday, February 23 so we can provide a final count to retreat organizers before the Monday, February 24 deadline. John Harris, who is coordinating transportation, will inform you of your pickup time on Saturday morning the 1st. Pilgrims will return in time for Great Vespers at 6:00pm in Irvona.

If you have any questions or would like to join the group, please see John Harris.

**6. SAVE THE DATE** – With the full support of our Church Councils, the annual parish **Lenten Retreat** will take place on **Saturday, March 29, in Irvona**, featuring **Very Rev. Protopresbyter Stephen Loposky** as the keynote speaker. This year’s retreat will focus on the **Divine Liturgy**, exploring the beautiful traditions and actions we share in worship and their deeper meaning. Fr. Stephen, ordained in 1998, served as a parish priest for 11 years before becoming Administrator of [Camp Nazareth](#) in 2009 and later the Director of Youth for the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. Living at Camp with his wife, Pani Daria, and their four children, he has dedicated years to helping youth and families deepen their understanding of Orthodox life and worship. In addition to his keynote sessions, the **daylong retreat will extend through Sunday**, featuring activities for the whole family, including **first confessions** for some of the parish’s youth and a **Proskomide demonstration** before Sunday’s Liturgy. Opportunities for fellowship and discussion will be woven throughout the day. The retreat is open to all, with further details to be announced in the coming weeks.

**7. 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](#).

8. **GREAT LENT MEDITATIONS** – Great Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—a spiritual journey preparing us for the joy of Pascha. Yet, the distractions of the world can pull our focus away, which is why the Church calls us to reflect on the significance of Christ's Resurrection. To aid your Lenten journey, St. Vladimir's Seminary is offering Great Lent Meditations, a collection of daily spiritual reflections and scriptural readings. Sign up to receive these meditations via email from March 2 through April 20. Visit [svots.edu](http://svots.edu) or [click here](#) for the direct link to sign up and share this opportunity with friends and family who may also benefit.

9. **LENTEN "MISSION" SERVICE SCHEDULE CONFIRMED** – This year our deanery is reviving the traditional practice of doing rotating "mission vespers" on Sunday nights at various parishes throughout our region. Mission vespers, concelebrated by clergy from various areas, feature special lenten homilies and are followed by a communal meal. They offer a low-key opportunity to bring friends to interesting and far-flung venues and introduce them to Holy Orthodoxy, hence the name "mission vespers." Our deanery's schedule for 2025 is:

**March 9, 3:00pm — Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
Christ the Savior Cathedral  
300 Garfield St, Johnstown

**March 23, 5:00pm — Sunday of the Cross**  
St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral  
8290 Thompson Run Rd, Pittsburgh

**March 30, 5:00pm — St. John Climacus**  
Nativity of the Theotokos Church  
151 Alexander Rd, Madera


**April 6, 5:00pm — St. Mary of Egypt**  
St. Nicholas Church  
301 S State St, DuBois

10. **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY CHOIR INVITATION** – All singers from our parish are cordially invited to join the combined choir to sing the responses to the Sunday of Orthodoxy service at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown. Choir practices are scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 2:00 pm in the Cathedral Auditorium, and Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 1:30 pm before the beginning of the service.

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

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## Prayer List

**Departed:** Zane, Aleksandra, Olivia, Hunter, Harley, Luke (Lewis), Archbishop Anastasios, Sharon, Matushka Susanne, Blessed Matushka Olga

**Living:** Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Archpriest Michael, Michael Eugene, Alissa, Sarabeth, Nicole, Mindy, Michael, Janet, Evan, James, Stephanie, Nadia, Matthew, Patricia, Catherine, Christine, Zachariah, David, 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, 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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\* to take Communion on a weeknight, start your absolute fast (no food or drink) no later than noon, unless directed otherwise by your spiritual father.

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.



