


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 03/09 – 03/15/2025  
**Date:** March 8, 2025 at 12:15  
**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**  
**Sunday of Orthodoxy and the Second Week of Great Lent — Tone 4**  
Sunday, March 9 – Saturday, March 15, 2025  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

...[A]s Christ has assured, so we think, so we speak, so we preach, honoring Christ our true God, and his Saints, in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in icons, worshipping and revering the One as God and Lord...

— *from the Synodikon of Orthodoxy (read after the Sunday Liturgy)*

**1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** [download musical texts](#)  
**Saturday, March 8**

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

**Sunday, March 9**

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Tammy S., sponsor*)
- **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers**, 3:00pm @ Christ the Saviour Cathedral, 300 Garfield St., Johnstown  
[directions](#)

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**Wednesday, March 12**

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

**Friday, March 14**

*Spring Young Adult Retreat (now through 3/16) @ Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA*

- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts\***, 6:00pm
- **Lenten Potluck**, following

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — St. Greogry Palamas** [download musical texts](#)

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**Saturday, March 15**

- **Choir Rehearsal**, 5:00pm @ Irvona
- **Great Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Irvona
- **Confessions**, following

**Sunday, March 16**

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

**2. TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY** – All children (with their parents) are invited to bring an icon and participate in procession with the clergy and servers at the Great Entrance. Following the Divine Liturgy, those with icons are also invited to the front of the church to be a part of the annual proclamation of the triumph of Orthodox Christianity over the iconoclasts. In addition, the regional pan-Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration will be held at Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Johnstown at an earlier time of 3:00pm this year. A Lenten meal follows the service. **Blessed Feast!**

**3. YOU'RE INVITED: A WEEKEND OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL** – All are warmly invited to our annual **Parish Lenten Retreat**, taking place **Friday–Sunday, March 28–30**, in Irvona, featuring Very Rev. Protopresbyter Stephen Loposky as our keynote speaker. This year's retreat will focus on the Divine Liturgy, exploring its rich traditions, prayers, and actions, along with their deeper spiritual meaning. Fr. Stephen, ordained in 1998, served as a parish priest for 11 years before becoming Administrator of Camp Nazareth in 2009 and later Director of Youth for the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. Living at the camp with his wife, Pani Daria, and their four children, he has dedicated years to helping youth and families grow in their understanding of Orthodox life and worship.

The retreat spans the entire weekend, offering opportunities for learning, prayer, and fellowship for all ages:

- **FRIDAY** – **Lenten Vespers** at 6:00pm (in place of the Presanctified Liturgy), followed by instruction and **first confessions** for some of our parish youth.
- **SATURDAY** – **Memorial Divine Liturgy** at 9:00am, followed by a full day of keynote sessions with Fr. Stephen, interwoven with meals and fellowship, concluding with an earlier **Great Vespers** at approximately 3:15pm.
- **SUNDAY** – In place of the sermon, an interactive **Proskomide demonstration** designed for families will take place at 9:30am, immediately before the Divine Liturgy.

A flyer for the Saturday events will be posted and distributed to area churches. For more information or to RSVP (which is helpful to ensure we prepare enough food), please email [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org). **Mark your calendars!**

**4. CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE** – Director Ray Mandell has scheduled **choir rehearsals on alternating Saturdays in Irvona during Great Lent**. On **March 15 and April 5**, rehearsals will precede Great Vespers at **5:00pm**, and on **March 29**, the rehearsal will follow Great Vespers at approximately **4:00pm**. These rehearsals are open to all who wish to join in offering songs of praise and thanksgiving during Presanctified Liturgies, Holy Week, and Pascha. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your connection to the Orthodox Church's tradition of choral singing while developing and sharing your musical talents!

**5. THE ARCHDIOCESE'S ANNUAL LENTEN VESPERS SERVICE** will take place at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (8290 Thompson Run Road, Allison Park, PA) on Sunday, March 23, at 5:00pm. A Lenten meal will follow. The following two Sundays at 5:00pm, **Lenten "Mission" Vespers** will be held within our deanery—the first at St. Nicholas Church in DuBois on March 30, followed by at St. Mary's in Madera on April 6. A sign-up sheet for the Sunday meal we are hosted will be circulated later this month. **All are invited to attend.**

**6. IN MEMORIAM: FR. THOMAS HOPKO** – On **Saturday, March 22, 2025**, the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City will host a series of services and reflections to commemorate the 10-year memorial of Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko. The day will begin with Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, followed by a Memorial Service and a luncheon at noon. At 1:30pm, reflections and remarks will be offered by Serge Schmemmann and Fr. Alexander Garklavs. The commemoration will conclude with Great Vespers at 3:30pm, including a Procession of the Holy Cross. All are welcome to attend in person or join via livestream on the monastery's YouTube channel, [EllwoodCityChapel](#). **May his memory be eternal!**

**7. PARISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE** – Both the Glendale Area and Moshannon Valley School Districts have agreed to include our parish on their scholarship application lists for this year's graduating seniors. Thanks to your generosity, funds will be provided for two \$500 scholarships—one for each high school. Recipients will be selected by their respective guidance departments based on financial need and their dedication to serving others in our community. The schools have asked us to provide a scholarship name, and our councils are seeking input. Some of the names in

The schools have asked us to provide a scholarship name, and our councils are seeking input. Some of the names in consideration are:

- Ss. Mary and Michael Compassion in Action Scholarship
- Ss. Mary and Michael "Love Thy Neighbor" Scholarship
- Ss. Mary and Michael Community Service Scholarship


Please share your preference with a Council member or suggest an alternative name.

8. **CONFESSIONS** are heard by Fr. Alexander before each **Presanctified Liturgy beginning at 5:30pm**, after each **Saturday Great Vespers**, and by appointment. Father David has offered to continue hearing Confessions as well. (As a courtesy, please let Fr. Alexander know if you have gone to Confession with Fr. David or another priest.) As a reminder, membership in the parish is defined as any person over the age of 18 who has fulfilled, at a minimum, his or her annual Lenten obligation of Confession and Communion; thus, this is a requirement for anyone wanting to vote at the Annual Meeting that takes place on the second Sunday of November.

9. **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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## March Milestones

 **Birthdays:** Norah Dinsmore (March 3), Heather Dinsmore (March 9), Chelsea Stodart (March 17), and Elijah Brelo (March 25)

*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:** Dorothy, Zane, Aleksandra, Olivia, Blessed Matushka Olga

**Living:** Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Michael Eugene, Alissa, Sarabeth, Nicole, Mindy, Michael, Janet, Evan, James, David, Child Matthias, Benjamin, Grace Elisabeth, Child Elijah, Thekla, Joseph, Sophia and the child she bears, Alexandra, Juliana, Francis, Agnes, Paul, Maksim, Newly-Illumined Child Phoebe Clair, Alexis and Child Evelyn Louise newly born of her, Katherine and the child she bears, Virginia, Marilyn, Andrei, Mark, Marian, David, Paul, Shane, Tatiana, Catechumen Anzen, Robert, John, Letitia, Camryn

*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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## March Calendar

[Click here](#) to download the March Calendar **(updated)**

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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.



