


From: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish info@orthodoxclearfield.org 
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St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, [Irvona](#)
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, [Madera](#)
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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Third Week of Great Lent — Tone 5
Sunday, March 16 – Saturday, March 22, 2025
[daily Scripture readings](#)

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians,
O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, always intercede before the Lord that our souls
may be saved!

— *Troparion to St. Gregory Palamas*

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — St. Gregory Palamas [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, March 15

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

Sunday, March 16

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

Wednesday, March 19

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

Friday, March 21

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — Sunday of the Cross [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, March 22

- **In Memoriam: Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko (+2015)** with *Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service.*

Luncheon, and Talks, 9:30am @ Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City [directions](#)

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

Sunday, March 23

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Maureen G. & Rachelle S., sponsors*)
- **Archdiocesan Vespers**, 5:00pm @ St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park [directions](#)

ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Monday, March 24

- **Vespertal Divine Liturgy***, 6:00pm @ Madera [download musical texts](#)
- **Festal (Lenten) Potluck**, following (*fish permitted*)

Tuesday, March 25

- **Vespers** (for the Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel) and **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**, 10:00am @ St. Nicholas Church, DuBois [download musical texts](#) [directions](#)

2. **WELCOME FR. SOCHKA** – This weekend, we welcome **Archpriest Michael Sochka**. Father Michael joined us on Friday night for the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts and will also serve at Great Vespers tonight (Saturday) at 6:00pm and the Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, with all services held in Irvona. Thank you for warmly welcoming Fr. Michael, and please keep in your prayers the **Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Retreat**, which Fr. Alexander is attending on behalf of our Archdiocese. By God's grace, registration has grown to more than 50 attendees, ages 18-39! Glory to Jesus Christ! If you are in this pivotal age group, mark your calendars for the Fall Retreat, scheduled for October 17-19.

3. **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT: RSVP & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – Our **Parish Lenten Retreat** taking place the weekend of **March 28-30 is quickly approaching!** [A flyer with details about Saturday's events](#) has been prepared for distribution, and we encourage everyone to share it with friends and area churches. To help us prepare enough food, please RSVP by March 25 by emailing info@orthodoxclearfield.org. Additionally, volunteers are being sought to prepare Lenten desserts for the Saturday lunch. If you can assist, please let us know. Thank you for helping make this a spiritually enriching and welcoming event!

4. **FIRST CONFESSIONS** – On the eve of our Parish Retreat, Friday, March 28, following Lenten Vespers at 6:00pm (in place of the Presanctified Liturgy), children around the ages of 8 to 10 are invited for instruction on making their first confession, with the opportunity for some of the parish youth to receive this sacrament afterward. Families are encouraged to participate in this important step of their children's spiritual journey.

5. **YOU'RE INVITED: PROSKOMIDE DEMONSTRATION** – In place of the sermon on Sunday, March 30, an interactive Proskomide demonstration designed for families will take place at 9:30am, immediately before the Divine Liturgy. Each family is invited to submit the names of the living for commemoration during the Proskomide service. You may use the slips (red for living, black for departed) in either Narthex or email them to fralex@orthodoxclearfield.org to be included on the master list prepared by Fr. Alexander. Please mark non-Orthodox individuals with an asterisk (*). The current list of departed loved ones can be viewed [here](#).

6. **LENTEN SUNDAY VESPERS SERVICES** – The annual **Archdiocesan Lenten Vespers** service will take place at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (8290 Thompson Run Road, Allison Park, PA) next **Sunday, March 23, at 5:00pm**, with a Lenten meal to 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 **St. Mary's in Madera on April 6**. A sign-up sheet for the Sunday meal we are hosting will be circulated later this month. All are invited to attend.

7. **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 Protosphyter 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!**

memory be eternal:

8. **PARISH ETIQUETTE REMINDER** – In keeping with the Orthodox understanding that rules nurture spiritual freedom, it is good to revisit our church etiquette from time to time. As warmer weather approaches, parents may take young children outside for a break if they become agitated during services. Please ensure that any toys or food given to them are quiet and gentle (i.e., no crinkly wrappers). Additionally, for all of us, let's remember to refrain from loud or unnecessary conversation during the **Hours** (before Liturgy) and **Prayers of Thanksgiving** (after Liturgy), so that we may preserve the reverence and peace of our temple—Coffee Hour is a great time to catch up with your brothers and sisters in Christ. To view an electronic booklet of widely circulated best practices that mostly apply to our settings here, [click here](#).

9. **RESEARCH GIFT SUPPORTS PARISH OUTREACH** – Our parish recently participated in the Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC) research project. As a thank-you, we received a **\$200 Amazon gift card**, which has been placed in our Outreach Fund to support parish events and hospitality. If more than ten parishioners participated in the survey, we will also receive a personalized report about our parish. Thank you for your continued support in fostering fellowship within our community!

10. **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.

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. 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.

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 or checking your record [here](#).

Prayer List

Departed: Dorothy, Zane, Blessed Matushka Olga

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Child Matthias, Michael Eugene, Subdeacon Matthew, Michael, Tina, Alissa, Sarabeth, Nicole, Mindy, Michael, Evan, David, 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.

* 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.

