


**From:** Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)   
**Subject:** Announcements 03/23 – 03/29/2025  
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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](#)  
[orthodoxclearfield.org](http://orthodoxclearfield.org) • (814) 862-8694 • [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org)

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**Fourth Week of Great Lent — Tone 6**  
Sunday, March 23 – Saturday, March 29, 2025  
[daily Scripture readings](#)

"See, however desired and deservedly amiable the Cross is made today, it was the most terrible and shameful sign of the cruellest execution in antiquity! And the Cross makes the best ornament on the imperial crown, the most precious in all the world. The image of the Cross is now found on you, both masters and servants, both wives and husbands, both maidens and married... no one is ashamed and does not blush at the thought that the Cross is a sign of a shameful death. To the contrary, all of us honor this as an adornment for ourselves, which has surpassed crowns and diadems and precious stones. Let us not run, let us not be frightened, but let us kiss and honor it as an invaluable treasure."

— St. John Chrysostom on the Holy Cross

## 1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

**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](#)

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**ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**Monday**, March 24

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

**Tuesday, March 25**

*Vespers (for the Queens of Archangel Gabriel) and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, 10:00pm @*

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

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Wednesday, March 26

*Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel*

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

Friday, March 28

- **Lenten Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Irvona
- **First Confessions** for Parish Youth, following

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Saturday, March 29

- **PARISH LENTEN RETREAT: "The Divine Liturgy: Unveiled"** with Protopresbyter Stephen Loposky, 9:00am-3:00pm @ Irvona

*FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — St. John Climacus* [download musical texts](#)

- **Great Vespers**, 3:15pm @ Irvona
- **Confessions** and **Choir Rehearsal**, following

Sunday, March 30

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Proskomide Demonstration** in Nave, 9:30am
- **Divine Liturgy**, ~10:15am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Mandells, sponsors*)

2. **GREAT FEAST THIS WEEK** – On Monday, March 24, at 6:00pm in Madera, we will celebrate the **Great Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos** with **Vespers** for the feast followed by the **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**. As in previous years, a festal (Lenten) potluck will follow at St. Mary's Hall, with fish permitted in keeping with the Church's tradition.

The broader Orthodox tradition typically celebrates the Annunciation with a Vespereal Divine Liturgy on March 25, incorporating evening hymns that anticipate the leave-taking of the feast (March 26) and the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. However, as you are probably aware, our parish has been blessed by His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek with a pastoral *economia* to serve a Vespereal Divine Liturgy on the eve of each of the Church's Great Feasts. To maintain consistency and avoid confusion, we will continue this practice for this week's celebration of the Annunciation. This adjustment allows us to uphold our parish's established liturgical rhythm, hear the hymns for the feast itself, and remain faithful to our Lenten discipline, all while honoring the feast in a way that best serves our community's needs.

For those who wish to observe the feast in the more traditional fashion, a Vespereal Divine Liturgy will be held in DuBois on March 25 at 10:00am. While it is technically permissible to commune at both services (Madera and DuBois), as they occur on different liturgical days, Fr. Alexander recommends choosing one or the other based on your schedule and spiritual needs. **Blessed Feast! S'prazdnikom!**

3. **PARISH RETREAT THIS SATURDAY** – Join us at St. Michael's in Irvona for this year's Lenten retreat, [The Divine Liturgy: Unveiled](#), led by Fr. Stephen Loposky, Chancellor-Elect of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. Together, we will explore the meaning and movements of our worship, deepening our understanding of why we do what we do. The day begins with a **Memorial Divine Liturgy** at 9:00am and concludes with **Great Vespers and Confessions** at approximately 3:15pm, with engaging sessions and opportunities for food and fellowship in between. The retreat is fully sponsored by the Ss. Mary and Michael Outreach Fund, with a suggested donation of \$20. **Please RSVP by March 25** at [info@orthodoxclearfield.org](mailto:info@orthodoxclearfield.org) or (814) 862-8694 so we can prepare enough food. A full schedule of the weekend's activities and a **sign-up sheet for volunteers to provide Lenten desserts** will be sent out on Monday, March 24. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in wisdom and understanding of our Orthodox Christian faith!

4. **FIRST CONFESSIONS** – On the eve of our Parish Retreat, Friday, March 28, **children around ages 8 to 10 and older** are invited to prepare for their first confession following Lenten Vespers at 6:00pm (which will be served in place of the Presanctified Liturgy). This session will include brief instruction on the sacrament, followed by an opportunity for some of our parish youth to make their first confession. Families are encouraged to attend and support their children in this important step of their spiritual journey.

5. **YOU'RE INVITED: PROSKOMIDE DEMONSTRATION** – In place of the sermon next 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](mailto: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) tonight, **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 on March 31. All are invited to attend.

7. **SAVE THE DATE: BAPTISM OF ANZEN KOVALIK** – With great joy, you are invited to **witness and celebrate the baptism** of Anzen Kovalik, our catechumen, as he is received into the Orthodox Faith through Holy Illumination on **Lazarus Saturday**, April 12, at 9:00am, just prior to the Festal Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. Anzen will take the name Nicholas, in honor of the Royal Passionbearer Tsar Nicholas II, who will be his patron saint. Please keep Anzen in your prayers, especially as special petitions for those **preparing for Holy Illumination** will be offered during the Presanctified Liturgy next week. A reception in honor of the newly illumined servant of God, **Nicholas**, will follow the Divine Liturgy. All are invited to join in celebrating this joyous occasion!

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:** Protopresbyter Thomas, Ronald, Roger, Dorothy, Zane, Blessed Matushka Olga

**Living:** Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Child Matthias, Michael Eugene, Christine, Sara, Michael, 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, Ethan, Abigail, Giana, Kennadie, 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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\* 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.

