


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
Sixth and Final Week of Great Lent — Tone 8
Sunday, April 6 – Saturday, April 12, 2025
[daily Scripture readings](#)

Having accomplished the forty days for the benefit of our souls, we pray to Thee, O Lover of Man, that we may see the holy week of Thy passion, that in it we may glorify Thy greatness and Thine unspeakable plan of salvation for our sake.

— *from Vespers of Lazarus Saturday (sung Friday night)*

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — St. Mary of Egypt [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, April 5

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

Sunday, April 6

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

Rest of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America
Sunday, April 6

- **Lenten “Mission” Vespers**, 5:00pm @ Madera [download musical texts](#)
- **Lenten Dinner**, following

Monday, April 7

- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*** for the 100th Anniversary of the Rest of St. Tikhon, 6:00pm @ St. John the Baptist Church, Black Lick [directions](#) [download musical texts](#)

Tuesday, April 8

- **Choir Rehearsal**, 7:00pm @ Raymond Mandell’s Home, 201 Weaver St., Clearfield **rescheduled from April 12**

Wednesday, April 9

- **Confessions**, 5:30pm @ Madera
- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts***, 6:00pm [download musical texts](#)
- **Lenten Potluck**, following

Friday, April 11

- **Confessions**, 5:30pm @ Irvona
- **Lenten Vespers at the Completion of the 40 Days**, 6:00pm [download musical texts](#)
- **Holy Unction**, 6:45pm
- **Confessions**, following

Saturday, April 12

Lazarus Saturday

- **Baptism of Anzen Kovalak**, 9:00am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 10:00am [download musical texts](#)
- **Reception / Irvona Church Decoration & Clean-Up**, following

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (Palm Sunday) [download musical texts](#)

Saturday, April 12

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

Sunday, April 13

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:00am @ Irvona
- **Blessing of Palms**, 9:20am
- **Festal Divine Liturgy with Palm Procession**, 9:30am
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Parks, sponsors*)

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY

Sunday, April 13

- **Bridegroom Matins of Great and Holy Monday**, 7:00pm @ Madera

2. CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAYS – As we prepare our temples for Holy Week and Pascha, we will come together in fellowship for light "housework" in our Houses of God. **Please note that the formal clean-up day at St. Mary's in Madera, along with catechesis and refreshments, has been postponed.** However, Nicholas I. Sidorick will still be present today at 3:00pm to lead an informal cleaning session for those who would like to participate. On Lazarus Saturday, April 12, following a reception for the newly illumined Nicholas (see below), **we will decorate St. Michael's in Irvona**, adorning it with green and greenery in preparation for Palm Sunday. Look for additional opportunities in the announcements in the coming days to help beautify our temples as we journey through the last week of Great Lent and into Holy Week and Pascha. Thank you in advance for your help—many hands make light work!

3. JOIN US FOR MISSION VESPERS AT MADERA – For generations, **Mission Vespers** has brought Orthodox Christians together on Lenten Sunday evenings for prayer, reflection, and fellowship. This year, our deanery is reviving this tradition with three host locations, and we have the blessing of hosting **this Sunday, April 6, at 5:00pm**. The service will feature powerful prokeimenon verses, penitential troparia, the Prayer of St. Ephraim, a sermon from a visiting speaker, and a simple Lenten supper provided by our parish. Last Sunday in DuBois, more than 50 faithful attended—let's build on that momentum with a strong showing from Ss. Mary and Michael's parishioners! **Please plan to attend and invite others.** [A sign-up sheet for food contributions](#) has been shared; thank you to those who have already signed up. If the event is a success, Irvona may have the opportunity to host next year!

4. ST. TIKHON CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION – This year marks the **100th anniversary of the repose of St. Tikhon**, Patriarch of Moscow, a key figure in Orthodox Christianity in North America, who died as a confessor under the Soviet yoke. St. Tikhon tirelessly labored for the Church, guiding it through immense challenges with wisdom, humility,

and steadfast faith. To honor his memory, our deanery will gather for a special Presanctified Liturgy on Monday, April 7, at 6:00pm at [St. John the Baptist Church in Black Lick](#), near Blairsville. All are encouraged to attend as we commemorate this great saint and his enduring legacy.

5. **CHOIR REHEARSAL UPDATE** – The choir rehearsal originally scheduled for Lazarus Saturday, April 12, has been moved to **Tuesday, April 8, at 7:00pm**. It will take place at the home of Choir Director Raymond Mandell, 201 Weaver Street, Cleveland. Please update your schedules accordingly!

6. **YOU'RE INVITED: BAPTISM OF ANZEN KOVALIK** – You are warmly invited to witness and celebrate the baptism of our catechumen, Anzen Kovalik, as he is received into the Orthodox Faith through Holy Illumination on **Lazarus Saturday, April 12, at 9:00am** just before the Resurrectional Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. At his baptism, Anzen will take the name **Nicholas**, in honor of the Royal Passionbearer, Tsar Nicholas II, who will be his patron saint. Please keep him in your prayers, especially as special petitions for those preparing for Holy Illumination are now being offered at each Presanctified Liturgy—only two remain (including the service at Black Lick) before his illumination. A reception in honor of the newly illumined servant of God Nicholas will follow the Divine Liturgy. **May God grant him many years!**


7. **HOLY UNCTION SERVICE** – On **Friday, April 11**, to commemorate the end of the Forty Days of Great Lent and to give us strength for the Great and Holy Week that follows, the customary Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts and Lenten Potluck will be replaced with Lenten Vespers and the **Holy Unction service**. As such, per the directive of His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek, please note that there will be **no** unction service celebrated on the evening/dawn of Great and Holy Wednesday/Thursday, May 1. May God bless you and keep you as we complete our journey to Pascha!

8. **LAZARUS SATURDAY EVENING** (April 12) is the **final scheduled opportunity for Confessions** before Pascha. While no formal times are set during Holy Week, [appointments may be made in cases of necessity](#). Please remember that the annual Lenten obligation of Confession and Communion determines Church membership and affects quorum and voting eligibility at the November Annual Meeting. If you have made your Confession with another priest this Lent, kindly inform Fr. Alexander as a courtesy.

9. **LENTEN ALMSGIVING CONCLUDES** – Thomas Sunday, **April 27, is the last opportunity** for you to contribute to the parish's Lenten Charitable Drives. Please bring your non-perishable food items for the Clearfield-based [Central Pennsylvania Community Action](#) and your filled coin box for the [Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) to either church on or before that date. Monetary donations will also be accepted for either cause (be sure to put "Food Pantry" or "OCMC" in a specially-marked offering envelope or on the memo line of your check). **Thank you for your generosity.**

10. **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.

April Milestones

 **Birthdays:** Philip Cmor (April 7), Nicholas Harris (April 10), Michelle Sawyer (April 24), Andrew Kalenish (April 27), and Jane Zapsky (April 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: Mka. Sophia, C.J., Ronald, Roger, Blessed Matushka Olga

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Sara, Eugene, Patricia, Tom, Evan, Christine, Michael, Subdeacon Matthew, Michael, Tina, Child Matthias, Michael Eugene, David, Thekla, Joseph, Viktor, Sophia and the child she bears, Alexandra, Juliana, Francis, Agnes, Paul, Maksim, 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, Kennadie, Ethan, Abigail, Giana, Robert, John, Letitia, Camryn, Erin

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.

April Calendar

[Click here](#) to download the April Calendar, which includes **Holy Week** and **Pascha**

* 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.

