


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
The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem • Great and Holy Week
Friday, April 11 – Saturday, April 21, 2025
[daily Scripture readings](#)

The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In readings taken from both Old and New Testaments, in hymns, processions, and liturgical commemoration, we see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, and the mighty acts by which God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, grants us forgiveness for our sins, and rescues us from the pain of eternal death.

— Introduction to "[Journey to Pascha: A Daily Guide Through Holy Week](#)"

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Friday, April 11

- **Confessions**, 5:30pm @ Irvona
- **Lenten Great 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

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

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY

Monday, April 14

- **Bridgroom Matins** of Great and Holy Tuesday, 7:00pm @ Madera

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY

Tuesday, April 15

- **Bridgroom Matins** of Great and Holy Wednesday, 7:00pm @ Irvona

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

Wednesday, April 16

- **Matins** of Great and Holy Thursday, 7:00pm @ Irvona

Thursday, April 17

- **Vesperal Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am @ Irvona

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Thursday, April 17

- **Twelve Passion Gospels (Matins** of Great and Holy Friday), 7:00pm @ Madera

Friday, April 18

- **"Un-nailing" Vespers** of Holy Friday, 4:30pm @ Madera

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Friday, April 18

- **Lamentations (Matins** of Great and Holy Saturday) with **Funeral Procession**, 6:30pm @ Madera

Saturday, April 19

- **Vesperal Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am @ Madera

HOLY PASCHA — THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Saturday, April 19

- **Nocturns**, 10:30pm @ Madera
- **Rush Procession** and **Paschal Matins**, 11:00pm

Sunday, April 20

- **PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY***, 12 midnight @ Madera
- **Blessing of Baskets** and **Paschal Meal**, following
- **Agape Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Irvona

Bright Monday, April 21

- **PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY**, 9:30am @ Irvona
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and eyewitnesses of the Passion of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Download or check the Nave for a printed [calendar](#) and a [helpful guide to Holy Week](#). As in years past, the entire Paschal Triduum (that is, the “Three Days” in which we commemorate the Passion, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ), will take place in one location—Madera—beginning with the Twelve Passion Gospels on Thursday, April 17. Keeping with our local practice, all early week Holy Week services will take place in Madera, and the Matins (sung Wednesday night) and the Vespers Divine Liturgy of Great and Holy Thursday will take place in Irvona. By anticipation, the beautiful and solemn Holy Week Bridegroom Matins (morning) services will be held **nightly at 7:00pm** beginning this Sunday, April 13; and the Sunday, April 20 **Paschal Divine Liturgy is moved up to midnight** with the blessing of baskets and meal following. Remember, each church gets a Paschal Divine Liturgy! Irvona’s celebration will take place on Bright Monday, April 21, at 9:30am with **Agape Vespers** served the evening before at 6:00pm. **Kalo Pascha!**

3. HOLY UNCTION SERVICE TONIGHT – To commemorate the end of the Forty Days of Great Lent and to give us strength for the Great and Holy Week ahead, the **Holy Unction service** will follow the 6:00pm Vespers tonight. (As a sacrament, the unction service is only for those who have united themselves to Christ through Baptism, Chrismation, and recent Confession.) May God bless and keep you as we complete our journey to Pascha!

4. MEMORY ETERNAL: MICHAEL E. SIDORICK – Please continue to pray for the repose of the soul of the newly departed servant of God **Michael Eugene Sidorick**, his family, **Michael, Sara, Nicholas, Kaytlynn, Tristen**, and all who mourn his passing. Michael, who journeyed with us through Great Lent and was reunited with the Orthodox Faith through Holy Unction in February and Confession and Communion at the beginning of the Forty Days, fell asleep in the Lord unexpectedly on Monday, April 7, 2025, at the age of 49. His return to the Church was the fulfillment of his family’s lifelong prayers and a witness to God’s mercy. He now continues on the journey with us from the other side of the Cross of our Lord to help us on our own path toward the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. **May his memory be eternal!**

5. 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**, tomorrow, **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!**

6. SIGN UP FOR HOLY WEEK READINGS – To allow as many as possible to offer their talents during Great and Holy Week, an electronic [Reader Sign-Up list](#) has been created. Volunteer opportunities for reading include the **Six Psalms** at all matins services, **kathismas** (sections of psalm readings) for all Bridegroom Matins services, **Psalm 50** for the Passion Office, and one of the fifteen (15) **Old Testament Readings** on Great and Holy Saturday. No formal experience is required, but readings should be rehearsed ahead of time. Beginners may opt to chant on one note only or plain read for a straightforward delivery of the text(s). Please be bold if a member of the Choir approaches you to read, and let us all make a joyful proclamation onto the Lord!

7. CONFESSIONS – Lazarus Saturday evening (tomorrow, April 12) is the **last scheduled opportunity for Confessions before Pascha**. (See or [contact Fr. Alexander](#) if you would like to schedule a confession at home or in the church during Holy Week.) Please note that the **annual** (at a minimum) **Lenten obligation of Confession and Communion** is the basis for parish membership, which is used to determine quorum and voting eligibility at the Annual Meeting held each November. Accordingly, please let Fr. Alexander know if you have gone to another priest for Confession this Lent.

8. 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.**

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](#). 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](#).

Weekly Prayer List:

Departed: Michael Eugene, C. J., Mka. Sophia, Ronald, Roger, Blessed Matushka Olga

Living: Metropolitan Onufriy, Igumen David, Michael, Sara, Nicholas, Kaytlynn, Tristen, Eugene, Patricia, Tom, Evan, Christine, Michael, Subdeacon Matthew, Michael, Tina, Child Matthias, 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.

* to take Communion on Great and Holy Pascha, start your absolute fast (no food or drink) at or around 6:00pm on Great and Holy Saturday, 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

