


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
Sunday of Orthodoxy and the Second Week of Great Lent — Tone 5
Sunday, March 1 – Saturday, March 7, 2026
[daily Scripture readings](#)

1. UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, February 28

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

Sunday, March 1

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am @ Irvona
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am
- **Monthly Panikhida** for March, following
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Parks, sponsors*)
- **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers**, 4:00pm @ [Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Windber](#) [directions](#)

Wednesday, March 4

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

Friday, March 6

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT — St. Gregory Palamas [download musical texts](#)
Saturday, March 7

- **Parish Ministries Committee Meeting**, 4:30pm @ Madera
- **Great Vespers**, 6:00pm @ Madera
- **Confessions**, following

Sunday, March 8
Daylight Saving Time Begins.

- **Third and Sixth Hours**, 9:10am EDT @ Madera
- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am EDT

- **Divine Liturgy**, 9:30am EDT
- **Coffee Hour**, following (*Parks, sponsors*)
- **Lenten "Mission" Vespers**, 5:00pm EDT @ Irvona
- **Lenten Dinner**, following

2. **THIS SUNDAY 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 this Sunday, March 1. 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 Ss. Peter and Paul (Carpatho-Russian) Orthodox Church in Windber at 4:00pm this year. A Lenten meal follows the service. **Blessed Feast!**

3. **MARCH PANIKHIDA THIS SUNDAY** – This Sunday, March 1, following the Divine Liturgy in Irvona, we will celebrate a memorial service for all the members of our parish family who fell asleep during the month of March. [Father is collecting a list of names](#) for the monthly remembrance; if you have any to add, please be sure [to email him](#) or use the black commemoration slips that are located in the Narthex. **Memory eternal!**

4. **ORDINATION INVITATION** – The faithful of our parish are warmly invited to attend the ordination of **Dn. Evan Ashmore** to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, March 21 at 10:00am at [Holy Trinity Orthodox Church](#) in State College, by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek. A celebratory luncheon at The Gardens Restaurant at the Penn Stater will follow. All are welcome to attend the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Those who wish to attend the luncheon **must RSVP by this Saturday, March 7**, as a firm head count is required (an RSVP is not necessary for attendance at the service itself). Let us keep Dn. Evan and his family in our prayers as his ordination day approaches.

5. **LENTEN SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE SCHEDULE** – This year our deanery is continuing the traditional practice of doing rotating Lenten Vespers on Sunday evenings at various parishes throughout our region. Concelebrated by clergy from various areas, these services feature Lenten homilies and are followed by a communal meal. They offer a low-key opportunity to bring friends to interesting and far-flung venues and introduce them to Holy Orthodoxy, hence the colloquial name of "Mission Vespers."

The 2026 schedule for the Eastern Deanery of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh is as follows:

March 1, 4:00pm – Sunday of Orthodoxy
Ss. Peter and Paul Church
141 Hoffman Farm Rd, Windber

March 8, 5:00pm – St. Gregory Palamas
St. Michael the Archangel Church
163 Hemlock Rd, Irvona

March 22, 5:00pm – St. John Climacus
St. John the Baptist Church
785 Blaire Rd, Black Lick (Blairsville)

March 29, 5:00pm – St. Mary of Egypt
St. John the Baptist Church
427 1st St, Conemaugh (Johnstown)

6. **MISSION VESPERS VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP** – As above, our parish will host Mission Vespers next Sunday, March 8, at 5:00pm in Irvona, with a Lenten meal to follow. We will need volunteers to help prepare food items in advance and to assist with serving and cleanup as we welcome our guests from neighboring parishes. A sign-up sheet will be circulated by email this week so that those willing to help may indicate how they can assist.

7. **SUPPORT OUR LENTEN DRIVES** – As we journey through Great and Holy Lent, our parish is undertaking two Lenten Drives, one supporting domestic outreach and one supporting foreign missions, as recommended by the Parish Ministries Committee and approved by our Church Councils. Locally, we are collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations for Clearfield County food pantries through [Central Pennsylvania Community Action](#), providing direct assistance to those in need. For our foreign mission effort, we are participating in the Coin Box Program of the [Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC), which supports the recruitment, training, placement, and ongoing work of Orthodox missionaries and their partnerships with local churches throughout the world. OCMC Coin Boxes are available at both churches and may be taken home and filled throughout Great Lent as a family offering, uniting our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in a tangible way.

8. **UPCOMING LENTEN RETREAT** – Our annual parish Lenten Retreat will be held on **Saturday, March 28**, in Irvona, with Dr. Edith Humphrey of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary serving as keynote speaker. This year's theme, "Learning to See Christ in the Other: The Theology of Agape," will explore Christian love as the guiding principle of discernment, community life, and faithful witness, with two keynote sessions reflecting on how *agape* shapes our relationships, our worship, and our daily life in Christ. The retreat will follow our familiar pattern, including the Memorial Divine Liturgy, prayer, discussion, fellowship, and activities for both children and adults to help us prepare ourselves and our temple for Pascha. The weekend will begin with Vespers on Friday evening and First Confessions for our youth. Additional details will be shared in the coming weeks.

9. **SPRING YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** – Young adults ages 18–35 are invited to attend the Spring Young Adult Retreat, to be held March 13–15, 2026, at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. This year's theme is "Let My Prayer Arise: Encountering God Through Orthodox Music," exploring how Orthodox hymns and sacred music form our prayer, shape our theology, and

through Orthodox music, exploring how Orthodox hymnody and sacred music form our prayer, shape our theology, and draw us into deeper communion with God and one another. The retreat will feature keynote speakers Fr. David Mastroberte, Amy Hogg, and our very own Jacob Mandell, and is open to young adults from all Orthodox jurisdictions. It is hosted jointly by our Archdiocese and several other Orthodox jurisdictions, and Fr. Alexander serves on the planning committee and will be attending through Saturday afternoon. As a result, there will be no Presanctified Liturgy on Friday, March 13, and Great Vespers in Irvona will begin at the later time of 7:00pm. Registration is now open at tinyurl.com/YASR26.


10. **OCA / SUPRASL 2026 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY** – The [Orthodox Church in America](#) is offering a \$700 scholarship for one young adult (ages 18–30) from each diocese to participate in [SUPRASL 2026](#), an international Orthodox youth gathering to be held **July 28-August 6, 2026, in Supraśl, Poland**. Interested young adults of our Archdiocese are asked to submit their name, mailing address, email, phone number, a brief statement of need and interest, and confirmation of their priest's blessing by Monday, March 16, 2026, to policycoordinator@ocadwpa.org. Please note that this scholarship covers only part of the total cost, with remaining expenses, including airfare and travel, being the responsibility of the participant, potentially with parish support. All applicants will be vetted, and one participant will be selected and submitted by the diocesan deadline of April 1, 2026. For questions, please contact Fr. Alexander in his capacity as Archdiocesan Youth Committee Chair.

11. **MARRIAGE RETREAT AT ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY** – Married couples are invited to a Marriage Retreat at St. Tikhon's Monastery with Drs. David and Mary Ford on Saturday, April 25, 2026. The retreat will include two sessions on Orthodox married life, a tour of the monastery grounds and museum, participation in the Vigil, and fellowship. Lunch and dinner will be provided, and each participant will receive a complimentary copy of the Fords' book *Marriage as a Path to Holiness*. Participants are also encouraged to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, April 26. [More details and registration](#) are available through the St. Tikhon's Monastery Bookstore website, stmjpress.com.

12. **CONFESSIONS** are heard by Fr. Alexander before each Presanctified Liturgy beginning at 5:00pm, after each Saturday Great Vespers, and by appointment. 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 wishing to vote at the Annual Meeting held on the second Sunday of November. As a courtesy and for parish records, please inform Fr. Alexander if you have made your Confession with another Orthodox priest.

13. **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.

Milestones

 **Birthdays:** Paul Bihun (February 24), Michael Parks, Jr. (February 26), Bridgett Sidorick (February 27), Christian Stodart (February 27), Norah Dinsmore (March 3), Heather Dinsmore (March 9), Chelsea Stodart (March 17), Elijah Brelo (March 25).

 **Name Days:** Antonina Sidorenko (March 1), Patrick Stodart (March 17), and Riley [Gabriel] Stodart (March 26).

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: Metropolitan Dimitrios, Barbara, Wanda, Mary, William, Bonnie, Carol, Alex

Living: Patriarch Theophilos III and the Clergy and Faithful of Palestine, Metropolitan Onufriy and the Clergy and Faithful of Ukraine, Igumen David, Archpriest John, Deacon Evan, Deacon Christopher, Karen, Shane, John, Mary Kate, David, Sharon, Chase, Michael, Madelyn Grace, Ruth, Lydia, Genevieve, Ryan, Romanos, Catherine, Rachel, John, Randell, Melvin, Ashley, Alta, Ethan, Isaiah, Monte, Thekla, Alexandra, Juliana, Francis, Agnes, Alissa and the child she bears, Nino and the Child Josephine born of her, Virginia, Marilyn, Andrei, Marion, Paul, Michael, Paul, Theresa, Matthew, Milton, Maria, Evan, Laurana, Clara, Julian

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.

March Calendar

[Click here](#) to download the March 2026 Calendar. **NEW**

* to take Communion on a weeknight, begin 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 Road in Irvona, PA (all events labeled "Irvona" are held here) and Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, 151 Alexander Road, 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.

