From: **Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish** info@orthodoxclearfield.org
Subject: Announcements 05/24 – 05/30/2026
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To: Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish announcements@orthodoxclearfield.org

Ss. Mary and Michael Orthodox Parish

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, Irvona
Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, Madera
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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS
Seventh Week of Pascha and the Afterfeast of the Ascension — Tone 6
Sunday, May 24 – Saturday, May 30, 2026
daily Scripture readings

O Christ God, Thou hast ascended in Glory, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

— Troparion of the Feast of the Ascension

1. **UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS**

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council download musical texts
Saturday, May 23

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

Sunday, May 24

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

- **Coffee Hour**, following *(Parks, sponsors)*

Wednesday, May 27

- Confessions, 5:30pm @ Madera
- **Vespers**, 6:00pm
- **Catechesis and Conversation**, following

HOLY PENTECOST: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY download musical texts
Saturday, May 30

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

Sunday, May 31

- Baptisms and Chrismations, **9:00am** @ Madera
- Sixth Hour**,** following
- **Festal Divine Liturgy** with the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost, following

- **Reception in Celebration of the McDonald Family**, following *(sponsored by their sponsors)*

2. **YOU'RE INVITED: McDONALD FAMILY BAPTISMS** – With all glory to our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the **McDonald Family** will be fully received into the Orthodox Christian Faith through **Baptism and Chrismation on the Feast of Pentecost**, next Sunday, May 31, at St. Mary's in Madera. Please plan to arrive a bit earlier, as the service will begin at the special time of 9:00 a.m. and continue uninterrupted through the Chrismations. While the McDonald family dries off and changes, we will chant the Sixth Hour and begin the Festal Divine Liturgy for Pentecost, during which the newly illumined servants of God will process during the singing of the baptismal hymn, "As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ," and receive the rite of tonsure following the Scripture readings. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will join the newly illumined in invoking the Holy Spirit upon the Church through the **Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost**. A reception celebrating this blessed occasion will follow for all, sponsored by their sponsors, Ray and Katya, and Nick and Maureen. Please make every effort to join us for this joyful and Spirit-filled day.

3. **PREPARING PRAYERFULLY FOR OUR NEXT RECTOR** – **His Eminence Archbishop Melchisedek** will make an archpastoral visit to our parish on June 13-14. This visit was originally scheduled earlier in the year but was postponed due to January's severe winter storm. Although this visit is not formally connected to the parish's upcoming pastoral transition, the **Madera Church Council will meet on June 2** and the **Irvona Church Council will meet on June 4** to review and continue our parish's own preparations for this transition and for the next chapter of our shared life together. The fruit of those discussions will then be offered to His Eminence during his visit for his prayers and blessing, and for sharing with leaders throughout the broader Church. Parishioners who have questions, concerns, hopes, or suggestions they would like considered during this process are encouraged to speak with a member of their respective Parish Council or email transition@orthodoxclearfield.org, which has been set up to forward correspondence directly to our Council Presidents and Dean.

4. **BLESSING OF GRAVES RESCHEDULED AGAIN** – The rainy weather continues. As such, the progressive blessing of graves at St. Michael's Cemetery in Irvona and Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Patton has once again been rescheduled and will now take place on **Sunday, June 7**, following the **June Panikhida** and Coffee Hour. Although the formal Paschal season concluded with the Leavetaking of Pascha on May 20, we will continue to sing "Christ is Risen!" during these cemetery blessings as we proclaim the joy of the Resurrection over those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

5. **MIRACULOUS ICON TO VISIT** – The Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Mother of God from Hawaii is making its way through our area and will visit the **Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration** near Ellwood City on Thursday afternoon, May 28, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. You are invited to visit and pray before this miraculous icon and be anointed with the holy myrrh. The singing of hymns and services to the Mother of God will be ongoing as the faithful offer their petitions, and ask her intercessions. For more information, call (724) 758-4002 or email omtnuns@gmail.com.

6. **RECEPTION FOR FR. DAVID** – **Mark your calendars!** With the recommendation of our Parish Ministries Committee and the full support of both Parish Councils, the parish will host a catered reception for our former rector, Igumen David (Lewis), at his new parish, St. Nicholas Church, 301 S. State St., DuBois, following Great Vespers at **5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6**. Join us as we honor Fr. David with a true going-away celebration, which will also serve as a welcome reception into his new parish family. An offering will be collected following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 24, to help cover the cost of the meal. ***Bon voyage*, Fr. David!**

7. **LOCAL MUSEUM GRAND OPENING** – The Coalport Area Coal Museum will celebrate the Grand Opening of its new location at 825 Main Street in Coalport on Sunday, May 24, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The community is invited to attend this free event, which will include refreshments, museum tours, raffles, souvenir sales, and entertainment throughout the afternoon. The Grand Opening marks an exciting new chapter for the museum as it continues its work of preserving and sharing the rich coal mining heritage of the Coalport area. There is no admission fee. For additional information, contact the Coalport Area Coal Museum at (814) 329-9598 or coalportmuseum@gmail.com.

8. **AMERICA 250: OUR MISSION TO OUR NATION** – In response to the recent statement of the Holy Synod of Bishops marking the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States of America, special prayers of thanksgiving and intercession for our country and for the Orthodox Christian mission in this land will be offered during a special Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the **Synaxis of the Holy Apostles** on **Monday, June 29**. As the Apostles were sent forth to proclaim the Gospel to all nations, we likewise pray for the continued witness and growth of Christ's Holy Church in this land, and for Father Alexander as he departs to continue this apostolic work in fields white for harvest. Following the liturgy, the parish will gather for a festal potluck celebrating our shared mission in America and Father Alexander's final service with us.

May Milestones:

🎂 **Birthdays:** Catherine Mandell (May 1), Jay [Benjamin] Rush (May 3), Emiliya Sidorick (May 6), Patrick Stodart (May 8), Virginia Skebeck (May 15), Sharon Grubbs (May 19), Bill [Basil] Zapsky (May 27), and Marilyn Cusick (May 30).

💍 **Anniversaries:** Gregory & Bridgett Sidorick (May 15), Bill [Basil] & Jane Zapsky (May 16), Paul & Cindy [Agnes] Bihun (May 23), Fr. Alexander & Mka. Jennifer [Genevieve] (May 25), James & Michelle Sawyer (May 27), and Michael & Sally [Sara] Sidorick (May 30).

☦️ **Names Days:** Tamara Stodart (May 1), Brandon Stodart (May 16), and Letitia [Lydia] Clapper (May 20).

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: Archpriest John, Warren John, Sandy, Frank, Kimberly, Joanne, Carl, Lisa, George, John, Joseph

Living: Patriarch Theophilos and the Clergy and Faithful of the Holy Land, Metropolitan Onufriy and the Clergy and Faithful of Ukraine, Igumen David, Archpriest Alexis, Deacon Christopher, Emiliya, John, Aleksei, Jon, Sarah, Jacob, Ruth, Jill, Matthew, Genevieve, Mary, Michael, Matthew, Sharon, Randell, Melvin, Ashley, Alta, Child Ethan, Child Isaiah, Child Monte, Thekla, Alexandra, Juliana, Francis, Agnes, Alissa and the child she bears, Helen and the child she bears, Mary Kate and the child she bears, Kate and the child she bears, Anya and the child she bears, Nino and the Child Josephine born of her, Virginia, Marilyn, Agnes, Andrei, Marion, Mark, Paul, Michael, Ryan, Kelly, Dorothy, Beverly

Catechumens: 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.

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.