

# The Orthodox Christian Network

## What is the Orthodox Christian Network?

OCN is a pan-Orthodox media ministry, commissioned by the New Assembly of Orthodox Bishops to create a national, sustainable and effective media witness for the Orthodox Christian Church in North America. OCN's most famous program is *Come Receive the Light*, a nationally syndicated Orthodox radio show that is heard worldwide. OCN also produces three Internet radio stations, the Ark (contemporary Christian music by Orthodox musicians), the Rudder (traditional Orthodox music) and the Anchor (all talk radio), many podcasts, online videos and customized Internet radio stations for local parishes that reach people for Christ around the clock seven days a week.

Programs include

1. **Parenting and Family Life – Mission Possible** – Orthodox Parenting Today hosted by Ginny Nieuwsma.
2. **Harmony of Thunder**
3. **Journeys to Orthodoxy** hosted by Jacob Lee who tells the personal stories of individuals who have converted to the Orthodox faith.
4. **Turning to the Fathers** hosted by Fr. John McGuckin who relates the ancient wisdom of the Church Fathers to today's world
5. **Worship in Spirit and Truth**
6. **Seeds**
7. **Beyond the Veil** hosted by Dr. Jeannie Constantinou who explains the Book of Revelation
8. **Focus in North America**
9. **Special Moments in Orthodoxy**
10. **Travel blogs** to promote our sister SCOBA agencies such as the Orthodox Christian Mission Center.

## When is "Share the Light Sunday"?

Share the Light Sunday is typically held on the third week of January. Many parishes celebrate "Share the Light Sunday" on **January 15, 2012**, but your parish can choose a different date during 2012 in order to fit your church calendar.

## What is the purpose of "Share the Light Sunday"?

To spread the word throughout the country about OCN's programs and mission, and to raise financial support for the growth of its national outreach programs. Any gift your parish sends to OCN will help to create something truly valuable: An effective media outreach for the Orthodox Church throughout North America. Please consider passing a special tray and/or including OCN as a line item in your parish's budget.

## How can my parish participate in "Share the Light Sunday"?

1. You can deliver a sermon about The Orthodox Christian Network. This sermon is available on the Share the Light Sunday materials page at [www.myocn.net/stl](http://www.myocn.net/stl).
2. You can share information about OCN with your parishioners during services, coffee hours and in parish publications in the weeks leading up to Share the Light Sunday.
2. You can pass a tray in support of OCN at the end of your Sunday Divine Liturgy.
3. You can hold a special collection or a special coffee hour.
4. Encourage everyone to sign up for our **free weekly E-newsletter**.

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## An OCN Fact Sheet

- The vast majority of Americans get much of their information from mass media.
- Christian Media now reaches more people than churches do.
- All Americans are increasingly dependent on new digital technologies to acquire entertainment, products, content, information and stimulation. However, older adults tend to use technology for information and convenience. **Younger adults rely on technology to facilitate their search for meaning and connection.** These technologies have begun to rewire the ways in which people - especially the young - meet, express themselves, use content and stay connected. (BARNA Research, February, 2009)
- The growth of internet media sources like the IPod and “podcasting” means more young people are choosing how the consume media
- Overall, slightly more than **half of the nation’s adults** said they had tuned in to a Christian radio program of some type during the past month
- One out of every four adults - 23% - said they downloaded a church podcast in the past week. (BARNA Research, May 2008)
- **Three-quarters of all church ed adults** (78%) supplement their church experience with exposure to Christian media
- "The Internet has become one of the pivotal communications and community-building tools of our lifetime. Churches are well-advised to have an intelligent and foresighted Internet strategy in order to facilitate meaningful ministry," BARNA, April, 2008
- All major faith traditions in this nation have some form of mass media presence, with one notable exception
- **OCN** Produces the weekly Come Receive the Light radio program and this program is syndicated worldwide over the Internet to over 180 countries and nationwide in several communities via land-based radio.
- **OCN** is has launched two **24 hour, 7 day a week** Internet radio stations called *the Ark*, *the Rudder*, and *the Anchor*, which will feature Orthodox Christian music, Christian all-talk radio and more!
- **The New Episcopal Assembly of Orthodox Bishops** has endorsed Orthodox Christian Network to create this national media outreach tool.

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## OCN Web site Statistics

- With nearly 1 million faithful listening each year, the Orthodox Christian Network has become the premium source of Orthodox Christian theology and a better way of life.
- Our branding efforts for the new OCN Site saw an increase in visitation to The Orthodox Christian Network in 2009 over 2008 of 249%.
- When using [myocn.net](http://myocn.net) in a search it was up 320%.
- Listened to by people in over 200 countries. The top ten are: US, Canada, UK, Australia, Greece, Russia, Romania, Finland, Brazil and Macedonia. The majority of our web site visitations come from people in the US. Top ten states are: Florida, California, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Virginia, Georgia, Massachusetts and New Jersey.
- Most popular programs are: Rudder, ARK, Pod Cast Channel, CRTL, Journeys to Orthodoxy, Beyond the Veil, Real Break Constantinople, Icons in Sound, Divine Liturgy Broadcast, Web Cam Video Classes.
- There are currently over 6,500 fans on the OCN Facebook and her affiliates. 19% between the ages of 18 and 24. 44% between the ages of 25 and 44.
- **National media is costly, but remaining silent is more costly**