

# Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

*A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America*

Fr. John Hopko, Pastor • Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

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## Sunday, April 2, 2023

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. St Mary of Egypt.** Virgin Martyr Theodora of Tyre. Ven. Titus the Wonderworker (9th c.). Martyrs Amphianus (Apphianus) and Edesius (Aedesius) of Lycia (306). Martyr Polycarp of Alexandria (4th c.).

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/04/02>

## Services and Events, Upcoming

**Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 PM:** Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts, followed by a Bring-and-Share Lenten Supper

**Friday, April 7, 7:00 PM:** Vespers to conclude Great Lent and to mark the Eve of Lazarus Saturday.

**Saturday, Lazarus Saturday, April 8, 9:15 AM:** Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday, Commemorating the occasion when Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from among the dead.

**Saturday, April 8, Eve of Palm Sunday, 6:00 PM:** Great Vespers and Litya, Commemorating Palm Sunday, Our Lord's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem.

**Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday, 9:15 AM:** Festal Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday, followed by a Coffee Social Hour.

**IN NEW BRITAIN: Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday, 4:00 pm:** CT Deanery Bridegroom Matins to begin Holy Week, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, New Britain.

**Great and Holy Monday, April 10, 7:00 PM:** Bridegroom Matins

**Great and Holy Tuesday, April 11, 3:00 PM:** Bridegroom Matins. *(This service is being scheduled earlier in the day than usual. This will allow those who are not able to travel after dark to more easily attend.)*

**Great and Holy Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 PM:** Matins of Great and Holy Thursday, Commemorating the Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples

**Great and Holy Thursday, April 13, 10:00 AM:** Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Great and Holy Thursday, Commemorating the Our Lord Jesus Christ's Last Supper with His Disciples

**Great and Holy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 PM:** Matins of Great and Holy Friday, with the Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

**Great and Holy Friday, April 14, 3:00 PM:** Vespers commemorating the Death and Burial of Our Lord, with the Bringing out of the Winding Sheet (The "Plashchinitsa/Epitaphion")

**Great and Holy Friday, April 14, 7:00 PM:** Matins of Great and Holy Saturday, with the Lamentations over the Tomb, and the Procession

**Great and Holy Saturday, April 15, 10:00 AM:** Vespers and Divine Liturgy over the Tomb of Christ, with the Many Old Testament Readings, the Changing of the Liturgical Colors from Dark to Bright, and the First Proclamation of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the Dead.

**Great and Holy Saturday, April 15, 11:30 PM, leading into the Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 16:** Pascha Midnight Services (Nocturnes, Paschal Matins, and Paschal Divine Liturgy), with the Proclamation of Our Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the Dead – Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

**Bright Monday, April 17, 9:15 AM:** Paschal Divine Liturgy, followed by a festive procession around the Church, and then by a Bring-and-Share Paschal Brunch.

**Bright Wednesday, April 19, 8:00 AM:** Paschal Matins (in a somewhat abbreviated form), followed by some Paschal fellowship (Coffee and Goodies) for those who would enjoy sharing such fellowship.

**Bright Saturday, April 22, 9:00 AM – Grounds-Keeping Morning here at the Church:** On Saturday, April 22, beginning at 9:00 AM, we will have a grounds-keeping morning here at the Church, when we will be doing work to beautify the grounds and flower beds around the Church building.

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**Lenten Confessions – Only One Week Left!** Each and every Christian should (must!) participate in the saving Sacrament of Holy Confession during the Lenten season, as part of his or her own "Lenten journey." If you have not yet done so, please contact Fr. John now to make your Confession appointment. Please make your Lenten confession before the end of Great Lent, that is, by Friday, April 7. By the time we reach Holy Week and Pascha, every member of the Parish should (must!) have participated in the Sacrament of Confession in the Lenten season.

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**Thank you!** We thank all those who gathered on Saturday, April 1, for the Spring Cleaning of the Church. Thank you and God bless you!

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**Congratulations!** We congratulate our Parish Council President who has entered retirement from his secular employment after 56 years of labor. God bless you, Paul. Many Years!

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### **Candle Prices Increasing**

For the first time in more than two decades, we are increasing candle prices here at Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville. We must do this because the price that we pay to purchase these candles from our suppliers has gone up. Beeswax is more expensive than it used to be.

So, beginning on Saturday, April 1, 2023, the cost of what we call "the dollar candles" will increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25. These candles are the thirteen-and-a-half-inch-long, half-inch-wide beeswax candles (what are traditionally called in the candle trade "standard 'lampadas'"), which we most commonly use in our parish.

Please, if you are a candle purchaser, try to bring exact change, in cash, for your candle purchases at Church. This will make things work efficiently at the candle desk. (We will have some change available at the candle desk, however, let's try to make things easy. Thanks!)

Even with this increase in prices, we will still have among the lowest candle prices that I have seen. So, please, keep buying and lighting candles.

For more about candles, and their use in Church, please read this excerpt from our Parish Life Handbook:

*Candles are used in the Orthodox Church as symbols and offerings during the liturgical services. In our parish we use traditional 100% beeswax tapers, as well as paraffin votive candles. (Note: Traditionally, oil-burning votive lamps are used in the Orthodox Church. However, many years ago our parish opted to use the paraffin votives, probably for reasons of convenience.)*

*In a general sense, the lighting of a candle in Church symbolizes the life of a Christian person. Until a candle is lit it is cold and hard. Once lit it is warmed and softened and then consumed by the flame. In the same way, we human beings can be spiritually "cold and hard" until our hearts and minds are "warmed and softened" by the grace of God. When we, faithful Christians, allow ourselves to become "on fire" with God's love we can be consumed by that divine love in a beautiful and powerful way.*

*In a more particular and specific sense, the lighting of a candle in Church is an offering. The faithful purchase candles, thus making a monetary offering to the Church, and then they light those candles as an offering of prayer. The candles are set in stands in significant parts of the Church, usually near a particular icon of Our Lord, His Mother, or a particular saint or group of saints. When we offer a candle by lighting it and placing it in a particular place in the Church we should simultaneously offer a prayer. For example, we may light a candle and place it to burn near an icon of a particular saint and, at the same time, ask that saint's intercession before God on behalf of our self or a person for whom we wish to pray. We, also, may light and place candles at the Memorial Table (which is located by the large Crucifix situated in the front left corner of the Nave of the Church) as offerings of prayer on behalf of the departed. Additionally, candles may be lit not only as petitions asking for God's blessings to be given, but as prayerful offerings of gratitude for blessings already received.*

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**Pussy Willows:** Pussy Willows may now be in the proper stage of development to be cut and prepared for Palm Sunday. If you have any pussy willows that you wish to cut and then donate to the Church, please see Fr. John.

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## **Pertaining to Pascha**

- **Paschal Appeals:** Please give generously to our Parish's General Paschal Appeal and to the Easter (Paschal) Flower Offering. We always have lovely flowers in the Church for Pascha and our contributions help cover the cost of these beautiful additions to our Paschal worship. Your support of these two appeals is deeply appreciated.
- **Blessing of Paschal Baskets:** The Blessing of Paschal Baskets will take place at the conclusion of the Paschal Midnight Services in the Church Basement Social Hall, after which time the Parish Paschal "Agape" Meal will take place in the same location.
- **Paschal Agape Meal:** The Parish Paschal "Agape" Meal, which will happen after the Paschal Midnight Divine Liturgy, will take place in the Church Basement Social Hall, immediately following the Blessing of the Paschal Baskets. We will not have a general food table, but will be eating from and sharing the contents of our family Paschal Baskets, while enjoying each other's company. If you are planning to stay for this meal, please bring everything you need with you—your own plates, cups, and cutlery, your own beverages and condiments, etc. (P.S. The word "agape," pronounced "ah-GAH-pay," means "love" in the Greek language and is the traditional word used to describe this Paschal meal.)

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**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Please, consider signing up to host one (or some) of our Sunday morning Coffee Social Hours. Thank you!

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**AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Purchase and Training:** At their most recent meeting our Terryville Parish Council authorized the purchase of an AED and also budgeted money for the cost of training persons in its use. The AED, including both the primary unit and its peripherals, will cost about \$2,800.00. The training will cost about \$85.00 per person for a six-hour course, through Bristol Hospital. To host the course here at Church, we need at least six volunteers to participate, and not more than nine. **If you volunteer or this training, our Parish will cover the costs of your participation—there is no cost to you.** So, if you would like this training, which actually goes far beyond how to use the AED, and addresses, more broadly, addressing a heart-related health emergency, please, let Fr. John know. Fr. John himself will be undergoing the training, too, with the others who volunteer from our Parish. Thanks for your interest.

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**LOOKING AHEAD – Terryville Parish Council Meeting, Monday evening, May 8, 7:00 PM:** Our next Terryville Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday evening, May 8, beginning at 7:00 PM. Please be reminded that our Parish Council Meetings are “open” meetings. Any parishioner may attend the Parish Council meeting and will be allowed to participate, unless the Council decides to go into a closed, off-the-record, so-called “executive” session. Only Parish Council members may make motions and participate in votes, but all parishioners are allowed to participate by being present to observe the proceedings and to participate in the conversation with the permission of the meeting chairperson. (Note: The Parish Council is not meeting in April, due to the month being dominated by the last week of Great Lent, Holy Week, Holy Pascha, and Bright Week. Thank you for your understanding.)

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**Sewing and Needlecraft Ministry:** We are looking to establish a Sewing and Needlecraft Ministry in our Parish, to meet the needs of repairing and, even, crafting liturgical paraments (the cloth covers that we place on Church furniture) and vestments. If you are interested in this ministry, please, let Fr. John know. We are planning, after Holy Pascha, to establish this ministry. We will begin with repairing some of our vestments, and then move on to make a new set of gold-colored coverings (paraments) for use in our Church.

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**New Picnic Table:** Our Terryville Parish is the happy recipient of a picnic table and benches that was once used in the Waterbury Parish. We thank Subdeacon John Paul Szepel for storing that outdoor furniture over the winter and then bringing it to us now. We are looking for a parishioner who has the necessary experience and skills to have a look at that furniture and to assess if it needs any repairs or renovation. Please, let Fr. John know if you are interested in performing that task.

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**Church Pictorial Directory:** Some have been asking that we prepare a new pictorial directory of our Church, which would include contact details for all our parishioners. If you think this is a good idea, please, let Fr. John know. If you would rather not participate, please, also, let Fr. John know. (Please know that we will NOT share anyone’s photograph or contact information without their express permission!)

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### **Annual ONE Stewards Appeal**

**ONE (Orthodox New England) Stewards is a group within the Diocese of New England that contributes** money to the Diocese for the purpose of supporting outreach (and “in-reach”) ministries in the Diocese beyond what the annual budget of the Diocese is able to support. These ministries include charitable grants, scholarships and youth programs.

Historically, our parish membership has a wonderful record of ONE Stewards membership. Many members of our parish have been annual supporting members of ONE Stewards for many consecutive years.

Every year at about this time ONE Stewards conducts its annual membership appeal. Please consider supporting this program. Donations may be made by writing a check made out to “ONE Stewards—Diocese of New England” and then sending it to ONE Stewards, c/o Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, PO BOX 1569, Lanesborough, MA 01237-1569.

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# PARISH PRAYER LIST

Again we pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, warfare, and acts of terror and senseless violence throughout the world—both those who have died and those who have suffered and yet still live. We especially pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Lord, hear us and have mercy!

## + THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!*

### *Newly Departed*

William "Bill" (Vasily) Markovich—Joan's husband d. 3/11/23  
Jared—cousin of Corey F. d. 3/7/23  
Armand—Mike A.'s uncle—98 year-old WW2 (D-Day) Navy Veteran d. 2/24/23

### *Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!*

Helen Morozuk 4/2/1968  
Pelagia Mozalak 4/2/1969  
John Witick 4/2/1974  
Maria Yatsenick 4/3/1931  
Peter Klachany 4/3/1951  
Etylie Papach 4/3/1964  
Philip Gabor 4/3/1974  
Dimitry Pisaretz 4/5/1931  
Theodore Kowal 4/5/1968  
Archpriest Vladimir Sovyrda 4/5/1987  
Michael Toropilo 4/7/1944  
Alexander Grezuk 4/8/1952  
Steven Wazorko 4/8/1958  
Carol Johnson 4/8/2019

## THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

### *Persons captive and suffering for the Faith*

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

### *Those who are sick and suffering*

Archpriest Andrew Tregubov—priest in New Hampshire; recently unwell  
Matushka Anne Hosking—chronic illness; in need of our prayers  
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)  
Donna—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease  
Dayrl—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease-awaiting transplant  
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer  
MaryEllen—Louine K.'s daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease  
Katie and Aubrey—a mother & daughter for whom we have been asked to pray  
Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage  
Claudia A.—Waterbury parishioner; health challenges and now widowed  
Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer  
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues  
child George—young son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell  
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer  
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues  
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues  
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer  
Wayne—Donna O.'s father  
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering some health problems  
Thomas—fighting cancer; father of a friend of the Parish (S.H.)  
Yvonne K.—a person we have been asked to pray for; multiple myeloma  
Mark—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); critically ill  
Domenic—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness  
Louis—friend of a parishioner (F.G.); facing serious illness  
Brittney—facing possibly severe health issues; at the request of Kathy M.  
Kathy S.—Waterbury parishioner; facing health challenges

Earlene L.—Mike and Jim L.'s mother; health issues  
Natonya L.—Mike and Jim L.'s family member; heart surgery  
Bach-Loan—a neighbor of Jeanne M.'s; serious health challenges  
Rick—Deacon Paul and Patty's nephew; Rick is unwell and in need of prayers  
Peter—Deacon Paul and Patty's acquaintance; battling leukemia  
Marisa—a young girl, acquaintance of the Nimcheks, who is quite unwell  
Stephen—facing health challenges; at request of Marilou P.  
Emily—acquaintance of the Nimcheks; a person facing serious illness, courageously  
Michael "Mike" A.—battling health challenges  
Robert J.—dealing with some health issues  
Geraldine—acquaintance of Helena G.; battling lung cancer  
Forrest H.—husband of Elaine H.; ongoing health challenges  
John B.—acquaintance of Jeanne M.; facing health challenges  
Elizabeth—suffered acute and chronic health issues; friend of Helena G.  
Rosemary—dedicated member in the New Britain Parish; health challenges  
Olga—John K.'s sister-in-law; unwell and in need of our prayers  
Kirk—nephew of Joan M. and Jeanne M., recovering from cardiac surgery  
Paul S.—upcoming medical procedure  
Mary—relative of David C.; recently unwell  
Cameron—relative of David C.; in need of prayerful support  
Richard—acquaintance of David C.; very unwell  
Delores—relative of David C.; in need of prayerful support  
Andrea—mourning loss of loved one; req. of Helena G.  
Jon—friend of Forrest and Elaine H., recovering from brain surgery  
Jeffrey G.—John G.'s father; recovering from surgery  
Mark—a man suffering with cancer; friend of Elaine and Forrest H.  
John—the late Emery W.'s brother; suffering in illness  
Edith—Patty N.'s aunt, injured in a car accident  
Anita—Patty N.'s cousin, injured in a car accident  
Bettye—acquaintance of the Hopkos, very unwell  
Sonya K.—former W'bury parishioner, recovering from surgery  
Beverly—important person in Lewis H.'s life; in need of prayers  
Harry—at request of Joan M.; joint replacement surgery

### *Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities*

Alex—John D.'s brother; suffering permanent effects of stroke  
Dolores M.—Bob M.'s mother; resident in long-term eldercare  
Vera M.—now at Anthology in Farmington  
Roberta K.—a Waterbury parishioner living in long-term care  
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner  
George Kla.—our 97-year-old fellow parishioner; battling health issues  
Matushka Ann S.—our fellow parishioner; chronic health challenges

### *Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them*

Katrina and the child to be born of her  
Rose and the child to be born of her  
Emma and the child to be born of her  
Juliana and the child to be born of her—Fr. John K.'s daughter and her child  
And all the expectant mothers and their children

### *Travelers, Those Soon to be Traveling, and Those Apart from Us*

John (Jack) K.  
Richard and Laura K.  
Peter H.

### *Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces*

Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")  
Joseph B.—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps  
Joshua P.—husband of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army officer  
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division U.S. Army soldier  
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; U.S. Army soldier  
Ruben—acquaintance of the Hopkos, U.S. Marines Corps pilot

### *Birthdays*

Joel O.—Mark and Karry O.'s son 4/3

**Prayers Requested:** Maryna B., friend of our Terryville Parish, and a native of Kharkiv, Ukraine, asks prayers for the health and salvation of her family and friends in Ukraine, including, specifically, her grandmother **Larissa**. Larissa, and others dear and known to Maryna, are still in Kharkiv, a city whose people have been suffering greatly, due to attacks by the military of the country of Russia. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

**Prayers requested:** For Maryna B.'s brother **Dmytro**, sister-in-law **Yuliia**, and their child **Milana** (born May 6, 2022). (Lord, Jesus Christ, King of Peace, hear our prayers! Lord, have mercy.)

**Prayers Requested:** Lenna M., our fellow parishioner, also asks prayers for the health and salvation of family members in and from Ukraine, including, specifically, her second cousin **Ludmilla**, Ludmilla's daughter **Nadia**, Nadia's husband **Alexei**, and their children **Sofia** and **Anna**. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

**Prayers Requested, related to the troubles created by the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine:** Elena Watras asks prayers for her Goddaughter **Vera** and her family members **Pavel**, **Timothy**, **Nina**, **Anyia**, **Mitya**, **Petya**, and all their extended family. (Lord, hear us and have mercy!)

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## Saint Mary of Egypt

Our venerable mother Mary of Egypt was a desert ascetic who repented of a life of prostitution. She lived during the sixth century, and reposed in a remarkable manner in 522. The Church celebrates her feast day on the day of her repose, April 1. Also, she is commemorated on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, the fifth Sunday in Great Lent.

Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve to the city of Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, though she often refused money from the men she had relations with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled, for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church's portico, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos, the Mother of God. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, Mary fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these

years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan. Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery, and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later.

When, a year later, Zosima returned, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature.

Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

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## Scripture Readings, etc.

It has been our custom in the past to share Scripture Readings the Parish Bulletin. However, it seems better now to provide links to the Daily Scripture Readings and other resources located on the official website of the Orthodox Church in America, [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org):

Follow this link, to be taken to a section of the official Orthodox Church in America website at which you can access the Daily Scripture Readings, the Lives of the Saints arranged day-to-day throughout the year, catechetical (instructional) material about the Orthodox Faith, and section featuring Questions and Answers about the Orthodox Faith:

<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy>

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*The End! Glory be to God!*