

Iconography Sites

Some of the most popular types of sites for Orthodox Christians are those featuring Orthodox icons and artwork. The first type of these sites is the non-commercial, museum-type sites. One such site is the Treasures of Mount Athos

[<http://www.culture.gr/2/21/218/e21800.html>], sponsored by the Hellenic Cultural Ministry of Greece. It is attractive, well-organized and informative. There are icon frescoes, portable icons, liturgical items, historical documents, manuscripts and more. **Screen 2** shows an 11th century hand-written transcription of a commentary of St. John Chrysostom on the Gospel of St. Matthew, along with a historical description of the document.



Screen 2

Also very popular are the many sites of professional iconographers from around the world, as well as suppliers of mounted icons and prints. One of the most comprehensive on-line listings is that of St. Isaac of Syria Skete's Orthodox Byzantine Icons site [www.skete.com], shown here in **Screen 3**. It is only one of a number of iconography sites that also offers on-line ordering.



Screen 3

Churches on the 'Net

Churches are among the institutions that need to have their information most readily available but have the least amount of money to publicize. The Internet has, therefore, been a boon to churches, since it allows worldwide publication of their locations, ministries and resources at a relatively low cost. Orthodox WorldLinks lists hundreds of official Orthodox Church web sites, categorized by type.

Among the Archdiocese listings for the Church in America, the three most comprehensive sites are those of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese [www.antiochian.org], the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese [www.goarch.org] and the Orthodox Church in America [www.oca.org]. All three sites offer relevant history, directories of hierarchy and clergy, departmental and ministry information and various publications. **Screen 4** shows a view of what kind of information the one can find on the Antiochian Archdiocesan site. Of particular use to all Orthodox Christians or those interested in the Faith are the explanations of Orthodox Christianity available on all three sites mentioned here, as well as at the various parish sites throughout the country.



Screen 4

Personal Pages

The ease of Internet publishing has also opened the door to many individuals wishing to post personal sites, and there are quite a few of interest to Orthodox Christians. Be forewarned, however, that the information on these pages is not officially endorsed by any Orthodox Church body and as such should be used with discernment.

Among the personal sites are some quite notable and reputable personalities, such as Frederica Matthews-Greene, who hosts Khouria's Corner. The site, pictured in **Screen 5**, features her insights on her journey to Orthodoxy and her life in the Orthodox Church. This is the most popular of the over 50 personal sites found on Orthodox WorldLinks.



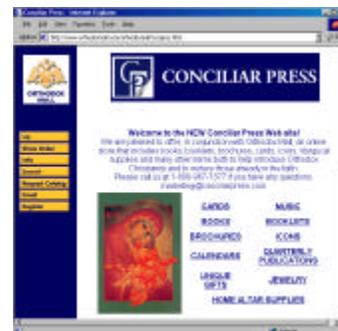
Screen 5

Publications, Bookstores and More

Whether you are looking for on-line reading or need to purchase Orthodox books, there are lots of options on the Web. Orthodox Family Life [www.theologic.com/oflweb] is a quarterly newsletter for Orthodox families which is mailed out in published form by many churches, but it is also available on-line. With many fine articles by various contributors, this publication has grown over the past few years into a valuable family resource. Also of tremendous value is the Dynamis, a regular on-line and e-mail publication of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral in Wichita, Kansas. Visitors to the site can sign up for daily e-mails with the Orthodox readings of the day. Several other sites even go beyond readings to include daily hymns and lives of the saints. St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Ontario [<http://www.interlog.com/~abouna>] has even placed an entire collection of liturgical books on-line.

Many of the Orthodox bookstores and publishers have also set up shop on-line, including, among others, Light and Life Publishing [www.light-n-life.com], Dormition Skete [<http://www.orthodoxbooksanditems.com>] and Conciliar Press [<http://www.orthodoxmall.com/orthodoxmall/conpres.html>], pictured in **Screen 6**. Most full-

featured sites include on-line ordering via credit cards. There is also an abundance of often-visited church supplies vendors: vestments, candles, liturgical vessels, Crosses and almost anything else one could imagine.



Screen 6

Safe Surfing

The above list only hints at the wealth of information jewels to be found when mining the Orthodox Internet. It is not meant to be an endorsement of certain sites to the exclusion of others, but merely a sampling of various types of places to visit, and the list is constantly growing.

Whatever your level of interest or skill, a central resource like Orthodox WorldLinks makes the daunting task of find the pearls among the 300 million sites easy. And from many of those sites, more links can be found. But, as always, when using these resources for preparing lessons, papers, sermons or even personal faith-building, don't take everything at face value: be sure to check your references and, when in doubt, consult a clergyman.

Finally, to keep surfing safe for the entire family, be sure to install filtering software on your system to block access to unwanted and inappropriate sites. For more information on filtering software recommendations, visit Filtering Facts at [<http://www.filteringfacts.org/filters.htm>].

Taken from THE WORD magazine, May 2000, pp. 22-23. Reprinted with permission of the author.