



# C SFINȚII IMPARATI CONSTANTIN SI ELENA

BISERICA ORTODOXA ROMANA

664 Dickens Road 30047 ~ Father George Acseste ~ 703 362 2473 ~ [www.scechurch.org](http://www.scechurch.org)

Parish Buletin June 2013

## Letter towards Romanian Orthodox Church Saint Constantine and Helen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*I have been the Parish Priest of Holy Church for four weeks; behold God has given us a great challenge.*

*The data the Parish Council gave me shows that in the four years since the church was saved from bankruptcy by the community, we have not raised the money we need to face the court requirement to pay the current loan, which is \$ 530,000, by November this year.*

*Although the Parish Council has made the necessary arrangements ahead of time to get a refinancing from another institution, 16 of 19 attempts have already been rejected due to the bankruptcy history we have. We have three options that are potentially open and will continue to be explored. Even if any of the options can be negotiated we will have a final added cost of at least 10%. (That figure includes brokers fees of up to \$ 10 000.)*

*It is my duty to bring to you these facts and beseech you to get involved in our financial struggle. In order to proclaim victory in this battle it will require all of us – Not just twenty or thirty.*

*The institution holding the loan at the moment refuses to talk to us. This leads us to believe they have an interest in trying every possible way to obtain the property. At this point our church building and land is worth more than the amount mentioned. The current note holder is aware we have little chance to refinance with someone else. I have no interest in casting dispersions – I can think of no other reason the financial institution will not at least pay us the courtesy of speaking with us.*

*Although this scares us greatly, it gives us a unique opportunity to unite as any family facing a difficult situation and figure out how we can get over this attempt. I do not believe the Lord, having taken us this far, wants us to give up. We know God uses crisis to make us stronger; this is the perfect opportunity for us to show Him we are up to the task.*

*This is a divine invitation for us to show God the love and sacrifice we are able to make for Him. We want to leave this wonderful sanctuary to future generations. We want our children to know this task was not easy. Remember – Our church is not truly ours until we hold the title.*

*Our church is made up of just over two hundred contributors. We are a large family, yet powerful in the Lord. We have been tried by the temptations of Satan in the past. As result, we are a family spiritually strengthened and who have learned many good things from the past mistakes. I also know that we have a lot of love for our God Who never abandons us and is with us ready to direct our steps towards salvation. And as Father Nicolae Steinhardt tells us in his journal of happiness we know that "giving you will get" and that by doing good to our neighbor we do good to ourselves.*

*Please consider this invitation to participate in our efforts to keep the financial institution that owns the loan from coming to us in November and destroying all the good work you and some of our earlier founders have done in the past. The Sava Family, Negrau Family, Mr. Ion Petre and Mrs. Georgeta Chiritoiu set the bases of Romanian Orthodoxy on this land twenty years ago by making great sacrifice and show uncompromised love for God. We must not only respect and show gratitude for those founders but also take responsibility to preserve*

## June Liturgical Schedule

### Saturday 1 June

7 PM - Vesper

### Sunday 2 June - Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy followed by Sunday Luncheon

### Saturday 8 June

7 PM - Vesper

### Sunday 9 June - Sunday of the Blind Man

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy followed by Sunday Luncheon

### Thursday 13 June †) Ascension

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy

### Saturday 15 June

7 PM - Vesper

### Sunday 16 June - Fathers of the 1st Council

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy followed by Sunday Luncheon

### Saturday 22 June

7 PM - Vesper & Panihida

### Sunday 23 June - †) Holy Pentecost

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy followed by Sunday Luncheon

### St Ap. Peter and Paul Fasting ( 25 -28 June )

### Monday 24 June †) Monday of the Holy Spirit

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy

### Saturday 29 June †) Apostles Peter and Paul

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy

7 PM - Vesper

### Sunday 30 June - †) The Sunday of All Saints

9.30 AM - Matins

10 AM - Holy Liturgy followed by Sunday Luncheon



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their gift in front of God. It is in our power to make the 20th year anniversary of the church a historic success that stands as a good example for Christians of future generations.

Our goal is to pay the full debt by August. It is important to get the \$ 500, \$ 1500, \$ 2500, \$ 3000, or \$ 5000 donations – As you are able and as you feel led by God. Even if we had one single large donation that paid the full amount, this debt is an obligation our entire congregation has taken on before the Lord. Please consider that with every amount you can help us pay on this loan decreases the debt. This increases our chances considerably in court, where if necessary, we can show how close we are to paying the entire loan. We have no ability to do any of this without the entire family pulling together to save our investment.

Once you agree to participate in this fundraising campaign we want to assure you that together with the Parish Council we will keep you up to date with weekly amounts collected and announce them in church and on our web site. This effort will be completely public. Our commitment to you is to maintain the transparency that is owed to you in these times. These funds will be protected and placed in a separate account that we have allocated only to pay the loan. Since we opened this account we have accumulated \$ 26,274.

Originally we thought that if the community makes this effort now, it could be harder to cover our day to day operating expenses for the next few months. However, we now know it is possible to cover current operating expenses from upcoming events ( Fall Festival and New Year's Eve ). In addition we are ready to take small steps like the saving of electricity in order to save our property.

All of you know how much God loves His church. How could anyone perceive that all this effort made by our ancestry can crumble overnight? I want you to know that I have served a Romanian community in New York who also experienced this unpleasantness. 20 years ago there were in a similar situation and lacked needed

\$ 200,000. Their building was seized by the bank and sold to the Mormons. The Church consecrated (blessed) by Orthodox reached the hands of other faiths! What happened to the community? People could not understand and operate as Christians. Father got sick struggling with this loss for over 20 years and passed away from a heart attack and the community has never recovered showing even today a great sorrow that my family and I have felt during the year when I was with them.

I know I am new. You do not know me. I will speak from the heart and believe that as God has already established a plan for each and every one of us, I am sent here at this moment to help this community merge into a single and bold plan to serve the Church of Christ together. I'm the one who held a candle in his trembling hand of Father Gheorge Calciu-Dumitreasa on his deathbed, where I received the last advice from the mouth of His Holiness after 12 years of being my mentor. I heard him say to me, "Sacrifice yourself for the Church. "

I will never forget those words. I plan to live up to them. Still – Talk is cheap and I want you to understand my true commitment to you and to this church. These are tough times for my family and me. We are coming to a new church, my wife may have to give up her job in order to support this move, and we are moving to a Church whose future is in doubt. My family and I believe this is God's will. To illustrate to you our deep sincerity we are humbly donating \$ 10,000 to the fund established for the payment of the loan.

I do this in front of you and before God to illustrate to you my sincere belief to overcome Satan's attempt to shut us down. We can concur only through prayer and humility to one another. I know that the ladies of our auxiliary organization will not cease to work with great love for the church and that along with your effort we can cope with such a test.

Dear Romanian Orthodox Christians NOW is the time to think very seriously about the future of our Church. We live in hard times; we have people in our communities who do not have high incomes. What is more important for our souls? We must save the Church from which we maintain access to our values provided by our eternal religion, practiced by our parents and our grandparents and will be practiced by our children. They will have a place to share the joys and sorrows of their Romanian blood in this big family of which we are all part, to maintain the culture and our spirituality, finally preserving our identity.

I leave you to judge for yourself.

As your parish priest, I wanted to present all the facts and to provide my family contribution as much as I can. Please look deep in your soul, talk to your families and let the Good Lord enlighten you in your decision to be part of this effort. Together with the Parish Council we make ourselves available anytime for any questions or proposals. Please do not hesitate to engage us. Please pray for this effort.

So help us God!

Your servant in Christ the Lord,  
Father George Acseste