



### Father Dennis away

Father Dennis will be away Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, visiting family.

In his absence, daily services will not be held.

If there is an emergency while he is away, contact Fr. George Coca at 203-895-5464, or an Orthodox priest near you.

### Albanian Missionaries to speak

This Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Deacon Stephanos and Diakonissa Alexandria Ritsi** will speak at Christ the Savior Church in Southbury about their missionary work in *Albania*.

Vespers will be celebrated in the Church at 7:00 p.m., followed by their presentation.

If anyone is interested in attending, speak to Father Dennis.

### General Parish Meeting scheduled

Next Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a **General Meeting** of our parish membership in the Church Hall following the Divine Liturgy.

Please plan to attend and participate!

### Parish Finances

Be sure to take a look at the sign at the Candle Desk which shows last month's income and expenses.

### Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet

The new **Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet** for 2017/2018 is now posted on the wall in the Church Hall.

Take a look today and sign up to host a Coffee Hour in honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one.

### Notification of illness

When you or someone you know is sick or in the hospital, please be sure to let Father Dennis know so he can visit. He can be reached at 203-598-4678.

### Charity Collection

This month, our Charity Collection will help support the **Spooner House**.

Please be generous!

### A note from Chris Buzi and the Buzi Family

*The Buzi Family has asked us to share this note from Christopher regarding his brother Gregory:*

"I feel the need to share and I am choked up as I write this. The message is important.

"Today my brother made a huge sacrifice. He departed on his monastic journey for the next 3 years. He will sacrifice his family, friends, his comforts of modern life, his business, his house and all material possessions. Through his faith, it is my understanding that he hopes his sacrifices will create a greater good for all of us. That means his family, friends, community and the world at large. Since humanity's earliest realization of sacrifice being essential towards a greater future, there has been no greater truth realized by man. For this, I am beyond grateful and humbled by my brother's actions. I hope for him the best. Beyond that, if you have met Greg, or if you haven't, don't let his sacrifices go in vain. Recognize the gravity of your actions and how they affect the world. Live a life of value. Sacrifice mediocrity in the present for a greater value in the future and make the world a better place. In this era of divisiveness and hate that we are living through, we need more examples like my brother who are willing to be light houses for the innumerable amount of ships that are about to crash towards to the rocks. Spread love. Live selflessly. Be gracious and think of others before yourself."



**1 Corinthians 9:2-12**

Brethren, you are the seal set upon my Apostleship in the LORD. My defense against those who question me is this: have we not a right to eat and to drink? Have we not a right to take around with us a sister woman, as do the other Apostles, and the brethren of the LORD, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have not the right of exemption from manual labor? What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Who tends the flock and does not drink of the flock's milk? Do I speak these things on human authority? Or does not the Law also say these things? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treads out the grain." Is God concerned about the oxen, or does He say this simply for our sakes? These things were written for us. For he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes, in the expectation of partaking of the fruit. If we have sown for you spiritual things, is it such an affair if we reap from you material things? If others share in this right over you, why should it not rather go to us? Yet, we have not used this right, but we bear all our expenses, lest we be a hindrance to Christ's Good News.

**Matthew 18:23-35**

The LORD told this parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who desired

to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun the settlement, one was brought to him who owed him millions. And as he had no means of paying, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all he had, and payment to be made. But the servant fell down and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you all.' And moved with compassion, the master of that servant released him, and forgave him the debt. But as that servant went out, he met one of his fellow-servants who owed him a small amount, and he laid hold of him and throttled him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' His fellow-servant therefore fell down and began to entreat him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you all.' But he would not; but went away and threw him into prison until he would pay what was due. His fellow-servants therefore, seeing what had happened, were very much saddened, and they went and informed their master of what had taken place. Then his master called him, and said to him, 'Wicked servant, I forgave you all the debt, because you begged me. Should not you also have had pity on your fellow-servant, even as I had pity on you?' And his master, being angry, handed him over to the torturers until he would pay all that was due to him. So also my heavenly Father will do to you, if you do not each forgive your brothers from your hearts."

**1 Korinthianëve 9:2-12**

Vëllezër, në mos jam apostull mbi të tjerë, po së paku mbi ju jam; sepse në ZOTIN vula e apostolisë sime jeni ju. Përgjigja ime për ata që më gjykojnë, kjo është. Mos nuk kemi edhe ne pushtet të hamë e të pimë? Mos nuk kemi edhe ne pushtet të marrim me vete një grua nga motrat, si dhe apostujt e tjerë, dhe vëllezërit e ZOTIT, dhe Qefai? Apo vetëm unë dhe Varnava nuk kemi pushtet të mos punojmë? Cili shkon ndonjëherë në luftë me shpenzimet e veta? Cili mbjell vresht, dhe nuk ha nga fruti i tij? Ose cili kullot grigjë, dhe nuk ha nga qumështi i grigjës? Mos i flas unë këto vetëm si njeri? Apo nuk thotë këto edhe ligji? Sepse në ligjin e Moisiut është shkruar: “Nuk do t’i lidhësh gojën kaut që shin.” Mos për qetë ka kujdes Perëndia? Apo për ne në të vërtetë e thotë këtë? Sepse për ne u shkrua, se ai që lëron, me shpresë duhet të lërojë; dhe ai që shin, shin me shpresë se do të ketë pjesë në shpresën e tij. Ne, nëse mbollëm tek ju gjërat shpirtërore, punë e madhe është po të korrim gjërat tuaja të mishta? Në qoftë se të tjerë marrin pjesë të këtij pushteti mbi ju, a nuk duhet më tepër ne? Po ne nuk e përdorëm këtë pushtet, por i durojmë të gjitha, që të mos sjellim ndonjë pengesë në ungjillin e Krishtit.

**Matheu 18:23-35**

ZOTI tha këtë paravola: “Mbretëria e qiejve ngjan me një njeri mbret, që deshi të lajë llogaritë me

shërbëtorët e tij. Edhe kur zuri të lajë llogaritë, i prunë një huamarrës që i detyrohej dhjetë mijë talanta. Edhe pasi ai nuk kishte t’i lante, i zoti urdhëroi të shitet ai dhe gruaja e tij dhe të bijtë e gjithë ç’kishte, dhe të lahej detyrimi. Po shërbëtori i ra ndër këmbë, e i lutej, duke thënë: ‘Zot, bëhu zemërgjerë me mua, dhe do të t’i laj të gjitha.’ Edhe të zotit, si iu dhimbs për atë shërbëtor, e lëshoi, dhe ia la detyrimin. Po ai shërbëtor, si doli, gjeti një nga shokët e tij shërbëtorë që i detyrohej atij njëqind dinarë; dhe si e zuri, po e mbyste, duke thënë: ‘Më laj ç’detyrim më ke.’ Atëherë pra shoku i tij shërbëtor i ra ndër këmbë, e i lutej, duke thënë: ‘Bëhu zemërgjerë me mua, dhe do të t’i laj të gjitha.’ Edhe ai nuk donte, po shkoi dhe e vuri në burg, deri sa t’i lante detyrimin. Edhe shokët e tij shërbëtorë, kur panë se ç’u bë, u helmuan fort; dhe erdhën e i rrëfyan të zotit gjithë sa u bënë. Atëherë i zoti e thirri pranë e i tha: ‘Shërbëtor i lig, gjithë atë detyrim ta lashë ty, sepse m’u lute. A nuk duhej edhe ti ta përdëlleje shokun tënd shërbëtor, siç të përdëlleva edhe unë ty?’ Edhe i zoti u zemërua, edhe e dha në duart e atyre që mendojnë, deri sa të lante gjithë detyrimin që i kishte atij. Kështu edhe Ati im qiellori do t’jua bëjë juve, në mos ua falshi prej zemrës suaj gjithësecili të vëllait fajet e veta.”