



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



DECEMBER 20, 2015

At the end of the homily of the three masses I celebrated last Sunday I brought up the sad situation at another Bronx parish, where there have been accusations against the former pastor for, among other things, misappropriation (stealing) of funds. The Archdiocese and the District Attorney are investigating the accusations. We do not know yet what the truth is. Regardless of the outcome, it is a good moment to share with you the fiscal systems of transparency and prudence we have implemented here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

- All collections are sealed immediately in security bags by our sacristan, with multiple witnesses.
- The security bags are opened on Mondays in the presence of a committee and the donations are counted by multiple parishioners.
- No parish employee (including the pastor) has access to cash that has not been counted and recorded in committee.
- Every bank deposit is logged and recorded digitally with a physical receipt as confirmation.
- Independent accountants, approved by the Archdiocese, balance our books every month.
- No parish employee has a parish credit card
- Annual financial summary reports are given to all parishioners
- Cardinal Dolan, the Vicar General and the CFO of the Archdiocese have approved all of our restoration plans.
- The parish trustees and finance committee members reviews our annual budget and consult on all major financial operations

I hope all of these checks and balances will give you the confidence and peace of heart you deserve.

We are in this together! Thank you! **Father Jonathan**

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