



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

**JANUARY 15, 2017**

Christmas has come and gone.....and New Year's too. But 2017 is just beginning and we thank God for a new set of 365 days in which, by his grace, we are blessed to begin again and to forge a life of greater faith, hope, and love.

We do this first of all in our personal lives, asking God for forgiveness for our weakness and sin, but moving forward with joy from the knowledge that God's love for us as his children washes us clean and makes us pleasing in his site.

We also do this as a parish. 2017 will be a historic year of renewal and growth. On September 2nd--less than eight months from now--Cardinal Dolan will celebrate the Eucharist with us to mark the 100th anniversary of the first mass celebrated in our current church edifice. We are using this significant date as a motivation to renew our parish ministry and physical plant.

In February you will see the beginning of what will be significant renovations inside our church. Among other things, we will replace the entire floor underneath the pews, update the confessionals, improve the lighting, repair the statues and Stations of the Cross, restore the sanctuary and the great painting of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in its apse. Eventually we will also repair our two great organs. We want our church to be in pristine condition to serve our neighborhood residents, as well as the many others who have moved out of the neighborhood but who still consider Mt. Carmel as their spiritual home!

I need your help. We have already raised significant money for this big project, but now it is time for parishioners to step up to the plate.

In the coming weeks we will begin a Capital Campaign. Our goal will be to raise \$500,000 more. We will give back about 25% of this to the Archdiocese for its central services (all parishes will do this during their capital campaigns) and the rest we will dedicate to the church renovation plan.

Because I know you and your generosity, I am confident we can do this. It will require that many of us give a larger gift than ever before. Please talk to God and ask him what you can do for your parish.

More details to come...

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**God Bless,  
Father Jonathan**