



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

**JANUARY 8, 2017**

Recently I celebrated mass for a wonderful family that was marking the anniversary of the death of a loved one. The children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren were present. You could see how much love they all had for their deceased relative. The very fact that they were offering this mass means that they had been taught the faith by this wonderful person who was now deceased. They knew the importance and power of the sacrifice of the mass.

But....none of the younger people knew the responses at the mass. After the mass I reminded them that if they don't begin to attend mass regularly with their families, their children will not be having masses said for them when they die. More importantly, if they don't live the faith in practice, the chain of faith will be broken. They agreed. It's easy for us to take for granted the great faith tradition we come from.

So what do we do? Parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith. Nobody can take their place. But as a parish, we need to prioritize helping parents pass on the faith. I'm so proud of the work Sr. Edna does with our Religious Education Program. I'm so proud of the growing group of altar servers. And the high school youth group is very inspiring. In fact, it is growing to such a degree that we have hired another part-time youth worker, Sofia Fernandez, who will be assisting our Director of Youth Ministry, Jesus Vargas.

Let's pray for our youth. Let's pray for our families. Let's pass on the faith we have received from our parents and grandparents.

God bless,  
*Father Jonathan*

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Father Jonathan**