



Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
627 East 187th Street
Bronx, New York 10458
718.295.3770

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From the Desk of Father Jonathan

One of my most vivid and positive spiritual memories growing up in a large family was the Great Silence we observed on Good Friday afternoon. From noon until 3:00pm there was no talking allowed in our home. No television. No games. Only silence and prayer. I can't say that, as a child, I did a lot of praying during those hours, but the silence and sobriety in the home allowed me to experience very profoundly what the Church was commemorating....the passion and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are beginning the fifth week of Lent. It's high time to step up our interior preparation for Holy Week and Easter! Today you will see in this bulletin our Holy Week Schedule. May I encourage you to consider what you and your family will do differently this year to make Holy Week a meaningful time of spirituality and conversion? I assure you that if you take advantage of the special liturgies and other spiritual devotions on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, and Easter Sunday morning mass, you will see how God's grace will transform you and give you true peace.

The only change we have made in the liturgy schedule is the time of the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday evening will be at 5:30pm instead of 6:30pm. As we did last year, we will have the live stations of the cross in the streets of our neighborhood beginning at 3:00pm. We will then move directly into the Liturgy. Last year there was an hour between the Stations and the Liturgy and many people didn't go home and did not come back for the Liturgy. You will now be able to walk the Stations and then attend the Liturgy immediately following.

Let's pray for each other this week as members of the same parish family. We pray that we will all respond to the graces God has in store for us during Holy Week 2018!

God bless,
Fr. Jonathan