



*Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel*  
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**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN**

**May 20, 2018**

This coming Monday, May 21st, we will celebrate a new Marian Feast, titled, "Mary, Mother of the Church", or in Latin "Maria, Mater Ecclesiae". This new celebration will be celebrated throughout the world every year on the Monday after Pentecost. I encourage you to read Cardinal Dolan's article in the most recent issue of Catholic New York (available in the back of the church) about why Pope Francis has added this feast day to the Church's universal calendar. Of course, Our Lady has always been the mother of the Church, but now we will officially honor her under this title. I encourage you to begin to refer to Our Lady by this title in your daily prayers as a way to unite yourself to our Holy Father's leadership. Personally, I am going to end my daily rosary with this petition, "Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for me and for all of your children. Amen".

Changing topics, this weekend you will see outside the church a board with all of the names of people who have agreed to pray and keep vigil in our parish. Remember that the goal is to have one or more parishioners in the church praying at all times from 7:30am - 6:30pm to pray for our parish and neighborhood and to keep watch over the security of the church. We will try this for one month, beginning on Monday, June 4th. At the end of the month, we will decide whether to make this a permanent ministry. Please stop by the board and fill-in open slots. Ideally, we will have at least two people in the church praying at all times. I know it is not easy to commit to a particular time each week, but this is the only way we can assure this type of vigilance we need. I can assure you that this simple commitment will be a major blessing in your life and for your families.

Finally, allow me to welcome back to our parish, Fr. Francesco Citarda, S.J., who will be staying at our rectory until the middle of July. He will be doing academic research in these weeks, but will also help us with the Italian mass on weekends and some English masses during the week. Please introduce yourselves to him when you see him! He is a wonderful priest, a wonderful man.

*God bless, Fr. Jonathan*