



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

**July 15, 2018**

This weekend we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel. Every year on this date we give thanks to God for all the special graces he has given to us since our establishment as a parish, now 112 years ago. The courageous, faith-filled founders of our parish (both the clergy and the laity) looked to Our Lady as their great protectress in difficult times, when most of the parishioners were recent immigrants to this country. Times and circumstances have changed but many of these same challenges still exist for our parishioners. We still need Our Lady's protection and intercession!!

I hope to see all of you at the barbecue at 2:30pm this Sunday in the rectory parking lot and then at the procession at 5:00pm.

Lest we forget, here is a brief history of our patroness and namesake:

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel** is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as patroness of the Carmelite Order. The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th and early to mid-13th century. They built in the midst of their hermitages a chapel which they dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, whom they conceived of in chivalric terms as the "Lady of the place." Our Lady of Mount Carmel was adopted in the 19th century as the patron saint of Chile, in South America.

Since the 15th century, popular devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel has centered on the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular, a sacramental associated with promises of Mary's special aid for the salvation of the devoted wearer. Traditionally, Mary is said to have given the Scapular to an early Carmelite named Saint Simon Stock. The liturgical feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is celebrated on 16 July.

*God bless, Fr. Jonathan*