



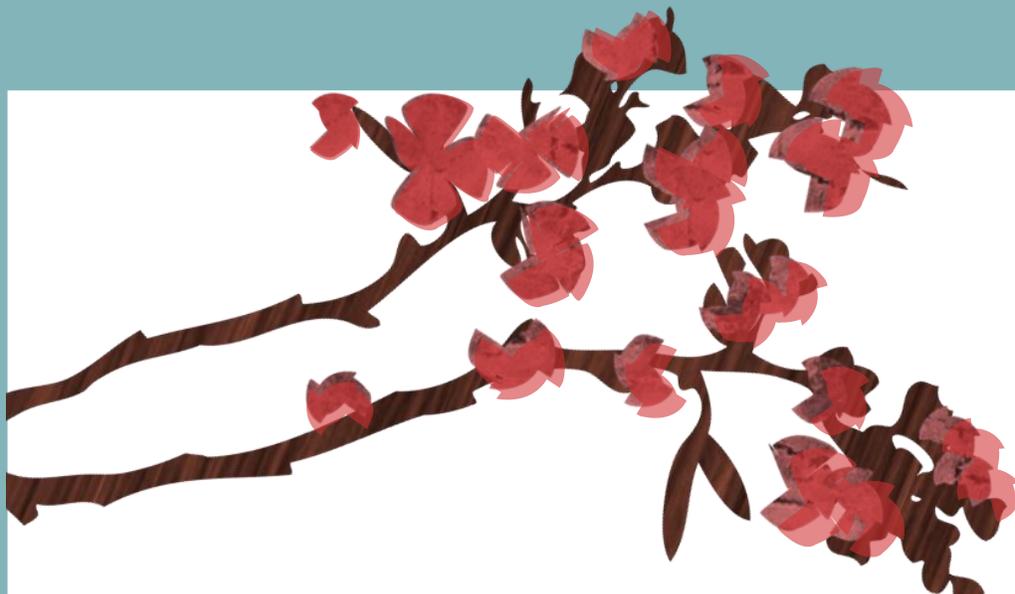
“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



MAY 10, 2015

After having interviewed the more than fifty young people who will receive the sacrament of confirmation on May 31st (15 from the school, and about 35 from our religious education program), I feel even more urgency to start a youth group here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Most of the confirmation candidates are in 7th and 8th grade, and they are moving quickly toward high school, where their faith and morals will be tested by their environments. We can't lose them after confirmation! With this in mind, our May 30th confirmation retreat will serve as a launching pad for the youth group. Many of the guys and girls have expressed interest in being part of it. Any children in 7th or 8th grade who are interested in being a part of the youth group, even if they are not going to be confirmed on May 31st, are welcome to attend the retreat. Please call the parish office and speak with Sr. Edna for more information. These young people are our future! It is worth every investment we can make in them.

FATHER JONATHAN MORRIS – 718-295-3770/ ILOVEOURPARISH@GMAIL.COM



On a more practical note, we have received several bids now for the construction of a wheelchair lift into the church. While I had hoped we could build a simple "chair lift", rather than a "wheelchair lift", in order to keep the expenses down, the consensus is clear that we should invest in something that will last us for a long time. The lowest bid so far is \$28,000. I am going to work with the parish council to lead the charge on this very important cause.

The Holy Spirit has been called the "consoler", the "counselor", the "sweet guest of the soul". It is the presence of God that invites us to collaborate with God who wants to do miracles in our lives! On Pentecost Sunday we will begin several campaigns and ministries at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We will commission lay ministers of the Eucharist who will be able to visit the sick and the homebound. We will have a kickoff of our youth group for junior high and high school students. And we will begin a "Registration and Communications Campaign". There will be more information about all of this in the coming days. We won't do this alone...we will be trusting the Holy Spirit to work alongside us and to do a miracle of grace within our community. So let's say together, "Come Holy Spirit".