



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



MAY 22, 2016

As you have seen, the scaffolding that covered our church for nine months has been removed. How happy I was to see the full beauty of our church again!

Every brick of our church has now been "repointed", meaning the old cement that held them in place was removed and new cement is in place. The color of the cement is a tone of "salmon" corresponding to the original, or at least oldest, color we discovered by drilling deep into the façade of the church. All of the window frames on all sides of the church have been scraped and refurbished. The towers on top of the church have been rebuilt and brand new windows installed. All of this work was necessary because water was penetrating the church from every angle. The church is now sealed and safe from the elements.

Since the scaffolding was already up, we decided to embark on another major project: the illumination of the church exterior with "LED" architectural lighting. This will beautify our neighborhood and make it safer at night.

On Wednesday, June 8th, the first night of our St. Anthony Feast (running from June 8th - 12th), we will have a ceremony at 8:30pm to light up the church for the first time. I hope you are all there!

We are also working to refurbish our church bells and chimes. This required re-wiring the electrical components, installing new motors, and refurbishing the chime mechanisms. I hope that these bells will also be finished by June 8th so we can ring them at the same moment (8:30pm on June 8th) as we illuminate the exterior of the church.

Finally, we are installing new hardware on our flagpoles on the façade of the church so we can publicly honor the United States of America, the Holy See, and our Italian heritage.

We are so grateful to the hundreds of benefactors from near and far who have made all of this possible. Let's not forget.... none of this matters unless we are giving first priority to taking care of PEOPLE. All for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls.

God Bless, **Father Jonathan**

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