



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”

AUGUST 14, 2016

Every day and night that I see the renovated exterior of our church, I thank God for the gift of this beautiful edifice. Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, and of others outside our community who love our parish, we have halted the deterioration of our building and beautified it.

This week we have begun the study of needed interior renovation of the church. You will notice that the floor underneath the pews is beginning to fall apart. Some of the pews themselves need repair. The painting on our dome above the sanctuary is peeling badly due to water damage. Many of our other paintings are discolored. Both of our organs are in very bad condition and need rebuilding.

We have invited one of the great liturgical designers in the country to spend this week with us to study the current conditions of the church interior and to review our historical archives to understand what the church has looked like throughout our 100-year history.

The goal of these renovations is NOT be to significantly change the look of the church. We will respect the original design while enhancing it with the new technology and resources available today.

For example, in the 1970's, the altar was removed from its original position in the sanctuary and placed on the platform where it currently resides. I have asked the designer to consider removing the platform and restoring and improving upon the original sanctuary.

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In the coming weeks the Parish Council will review the initial proposals and then we will pass them along to the entire parish for comments and suggestions.

All of this work is in preparation for September, 2017, when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first mass celebrated in the main church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the Bronx!

God Bless,
Father Jonathan