



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

December 9, 2018

This Sunday December 16th at 5:00pm we will have our Advent / Christmas concert, this year called "Lessons and Carols". This format will be more about meditation than entertainment. Sacred music, led by our various parish choirs, will be paired with Scripture readings that will seek to prepare us for Christmas.

I want to thank Dr Stephen Rapp, our Director of Music, for taking on this new initiative. "Lessons and Carols" is used throughout the world as Advent liturgical worship and contemplation. I am very proud of all the choirs for their hard work in preparation for this event. The collaboration between young and older choir members, and between various language groups, is reflective of the unity that the Child Jesus wants to bring his Church on Christmas Day!

Please consider bringing family and friends, especially people who do not regularly attend our parish. There is no cost for admission and the whole program will be less than an hour in length.

This weekend you will have noticed that we are missing many of our statues and the corpus and crucifix in the church.

Do not be afraid!

Based on feedback from many of you, we decided to send the statues to a restoration art studio, the same company that restored the grand mural of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel above the sanctuary. The goal of this restoration is to do some touch-up primarily on the faces of the statues to make them less pale and more life-like. The restored statues will be returned to their place, God-willing, on December 21st, just in time for Christmas.

Finally, a special congratulations to all of us who are celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe this week. Today (Sunday) I will be running with the nearly 200 parishioners signed up to carry the "Antorcha Guadalupana" from lower Manhattan to our parish. Pray for my knees!! All are welcome to greet the runners at the front of our church at 1:15pm, just before the special Mass at 1:30pm. The calendar and schedule of the other celebrations this week for Our Lady of Guadalupe can be found in the flyer in the back of the church.

God bless, Father Jonathan