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**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN**

**June 17, 2018**

*Before the feast began earlier this week I was walking the streets reviewing the booths and rides. I saw a young family who had just moved into the neighborhood and had begun to attend our parish. The little girl ran up to me with excitement in her eyes, "Father, she said, I can't believe we have big rides in the street!". Until that moment, I was focused mostly on the logistical issues and problems that always occur. When I saw how happy she was, it all seemed worth the effort. Just as many of our long-time parishioners have wonderful memories of what the feast used to be like when they were kids, these young children are making fond memories of their own. It is a joy to keep the tradition going!*

*Of course, more important than the rides is the celebration of the saint. During my seminary years, I used to read a book every day about the lives of the saints. It was a daily reminder that we are all called to be saints, no matter what our vocation is, where we are from, or what our life responsibilities are. Maybe I should start that practice again. In fact, I would encourage all of you to find a good book on the lives of the saints and read them on your own or as a family. The one I used was called "Butler's Lives of the Saints", but there are many good ones out there.*

**St. Anthony of Padua, pray for us!**

*God bless, Fr. Jonathan*