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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

**January 20, 2019**

Last week I was leading morning prayer at our school and I asked the children....from the kindergarten to eighth grade if they could tell me what feast we celebrated the prior Sunday and what feast the Church would celebrate the upcoming Sunday. I started with the eighth graders and they correctly said that last week was the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. But they didn't know the feast for the upcoming Sunday. I went down the line... 7th grade, 6th, 5th.....nobody knew. To keep them guessing, and now confident that nobody would come up with the right answer, I promised a pizza party for whatever class guessed correctly. It was a kindergartener who raised his hand and said, "Fr. Jonathan, next Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.". Wow! His classmates cheered wildly. The eighth graders stood in silent awe.

This kindergartener can teach us a good spiritual lesson: follow the Liturgical calendar. The Church offers us a path of deep spirituality in the Liturgy. For example, we are now in "Ordinary Time". And before you know it, we will be in Lent! Over the next six weeks or so, leading up to Ash Wednesday on March 6th, we focus on the basics of our Christian faith. We deepen our prayer life. We meditate on the public ministry of the Lord. I like to look at this time as a spiritual workout routine to get our souls ready for the great adventure of Lent, Holy Week, and Resurrection!

I can't promise a pizza party for every parishioner who knows the Liturgical calendar as well as our kindergarteners, but I can promise you that if you tune in to where we are in this Liturgical calendar and where we are going, your friendship with God will blossom!

God bless, Father Jonathan

P.S. A special remembrance and prayer for our parishioners from the Dominican Republic as we celebrate their patroness, Our Lady of Altigracia.