



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

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**DECEMBER 10, 2017**

Every once in a while I run into an older man or woman in the neighborhood whom I don't know and have never seen. I try to introduce myself and they almost always tell me they have lived in the area for many years. What surprises me is the number of them who go on to say that they have no relatives in the area, are living alone. When I ask more they admit they have nobody watching out for them.

This Advent Season is a perfect time to try to live outside of ourselves and be present and supportive to those in need. The poor among us are not only those who are homeless or without a job. There are many seniors who need our attention. Maybe some of you know people in your buildings who need our attention. As a parish we have a great responsibility to the elderly. They have given us life, and in many cases, they were once active members of our church. Even if they never were, maybe this is the time they most need the parish. It may also be God's perfect timing for them to come back to the sacraments in preparation for heaven.

Let's all go out of our way to reach out to the elderly in these weeks. Ask them if they would like a visit from one of our priests or sisters. Find out if they need any material assistance. Ask them if they need help getting groceries or getting to the doctor. Then call our parish office and our office staff will help coordinate whatever we can do for them.

God bless, Father Jonathan

P.S. At the three masses I celebrated last Sunday (9:30, 11:00am, and 12:15pm) I asked everyone to weigh in on whether they like the idea of holding the Christmas Vigil mass at 10:00pm or if we should continue celebrating it at midnight. I asked Nicola Trombetta to help me take the poll. There was no consensus to keep it at midnight (it came out about even), so this year we will have it at 10:00pm as announced. We can go back to midnight next year if we see it works better. On Christmas Day, the 12:15pm mass will also include Italian for those Italian speakers who can't come to the Vigil mass. Finally, if anyone would like to come to the Vigil Mass but needs transportation or accompaniment, please call the parish office and we will try to organize that for you.

**God Bless, Father Jonathan**  
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