



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”



DECEMBER 6, 2015

The signs, smells, and sounds of Christmas are now all around us. On Wednesday you may have seen the Christmas tree lighting in Rockefeller Center. On Thursday you may have heard the Christmas carols and tree lighting and blessing in our own Italian Market. This Sunday evening (today!) at 5:00pm we hope you attend our concert here in the Church. And then, on Saturday the 12th, our local Belmont Business Improvement District will sponsor festivities in Ciccarone Park, including the lighting of a beautiful tree. These will be wonderful moments for our neighborhood and parish. Yes, it would seem.....that Christmas has arrived! But....let's not forget.... it hasn't! Not yet! We are in the liturgical season of Advent. This is the time the Church invites us to prayerfully prepare our hearts for the coming (Adventus in Latin) of our Savior on Christmas Day. I plan to enjoy the pre-Christmas celebrations as much as anyone, but I am also going to try to increase my prayer time and make a few sacrifices during the week to make sure I don't forget that while the world is celebrating all around us, as Catholics we are still in a time of serious preparation of our souls to welcome Baby Jesus. Maybe the best way to prepare our souls for Christmas is by going to confession. Besides our regular, weekly times for confession, on Monday, Dec. 14th we will have priests hearing confessions from 4:00pm - 9:00pm. Many other parishes in the Archdiocese will do the same on that day. May the signs, smells, and sounds of Christmas remind us to get our hearts ready!

Father Jonathan

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