



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

My hope is that all of you had a refreshing break this week as we thanked God for the many blessings he has given to us as a country.

The hardships that the pilgrims faced as they came to the new world, including hunger, illness and harsh weather is a reminder to us that great goals are usually accompanied by great challenges.

The Italian immigrants of the early 20th century who founded our parish and built our church also faced enormous obstacles as they forged a new life in this country.

The new immigrants to our neighborhood face particular challenges including enormous political tensions about their legal status and future.

As Christians we are called by God to see every person as He sees them. This means looking beyond our own cultural and political filters to see the other person as a son or daughter of God who has the potential to become a saint.

Practically speaking, it also means putting ourselves in the shoes of the person in front of us who is enduring great hardship. What would we do if we were in their situation? How would we like to be treated?

So in this Advent season, we ask ourselves, how can we reach out to the one in pain and suffering, who might look or sound different than us, to alleviate their burden?

As we thank God for so many blessings, we also try to be a blessing to someone else who may need a helping hand.

**God bless,
Father Jonathan**

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