

Dear Parishioners,

Suffice it to say our new and imposed current way of life is frustrating, worrisome and maybe maddening. We seek hope in our challenges and pray that we can return to the way of life we have been accustomed. No matter what the outcome and the future therein we should all learn that the human person has been gifted by God with **grace** to sustain us and with intelligence and wit for the use of our talents to support one another in any circumstance. God will never abandon us.

The second reading for the 5th Sunday of Easter from the Letter of St. Peter makes a powerful assertion for us to consider during these days, “you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light”. St. Peter is exhorting us, especially today and now, to remember our spiritual calling, that is, through Baptism we have become one in Christ and each day to follow in his footsteps by faithfulness and obedience to the will of God for the benefit of others. Although troubles plague us we must ask ourselves, “how do I continue to be Christ-like every day?” Do I pray fervently and with attention to how God is guiding me? Do I stay in contact with others in gracious and simple ways that are meaningful, thoughtful and charitable? Am I eager to return to Christ, the Church and its sacraments with a renewed heart, mind and life? St. Peter reminds us of the tremendous sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us so that we can be a people of promise and hope. Therefore in Christ's name and in the spirit of his love may these days shape us to become true and faithful disciples. We are accompanied on this new journey. We are blessed by God.

On another note I am happy to inform you that Father Gregory Hoppough, CSS has taken up residence in the parish. After 30 plus years of seminary teaching and priestly formation he chose to “retire” from this work but is eager to bring his gifts and expertise to the service of our parish. Many know Fr. Greg personally from his prior assignments here and from his weekend ministry over these past several years. We welcome Fr. Greg warmly, wish him well in his pastoral work and thank him for his humble and Christ-like presence among us.