

**PASTOR'S COLUMN**  
**SS MEDFORD**  
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**



Dear Friends,

These times can be difficult. That is a severe understatement. However, we must remain steadfast in prayer as disciples of Christ and go to the Cross.

Lent is meant to be a time of self emptying. A time when we strip ourselves bare and allow ourselves to be filled with the grace of our faith: peace, love and brotherhood.

Whether we have been able to achieve this disposition to this point of Lent or not, we have been thrown into a unique place of suffering nonetheless. The outbreak of COVID-19 has forced us to examine what is most important in our lives, with most other things stripped away.

It is a time to turn to God, recognize His immense suffering on the Cross and be joined to Him. Let us continue to pray for one another, our families and all who need our help. Let us pray for first responders, health care workers, scientists and all people of good will who seek to eradicate this disease. Let us pray that this plague will end soon and that when we emerge, we will continue to have God at the center of our lives.

PLEASE KNOW THAT WE ARE HERE FOR YOU DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES, BUT **NOT "IN PERSON"** AS WE ARE COMPLYING WITH GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER. The Parish Center is open for deliveries and pick ups. You can reach us by phone or email and we will be checking messages frequently. We promise to get back to you hastily.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dennis A. Suglia

Pastor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis A. Suglia". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the printed name and title.