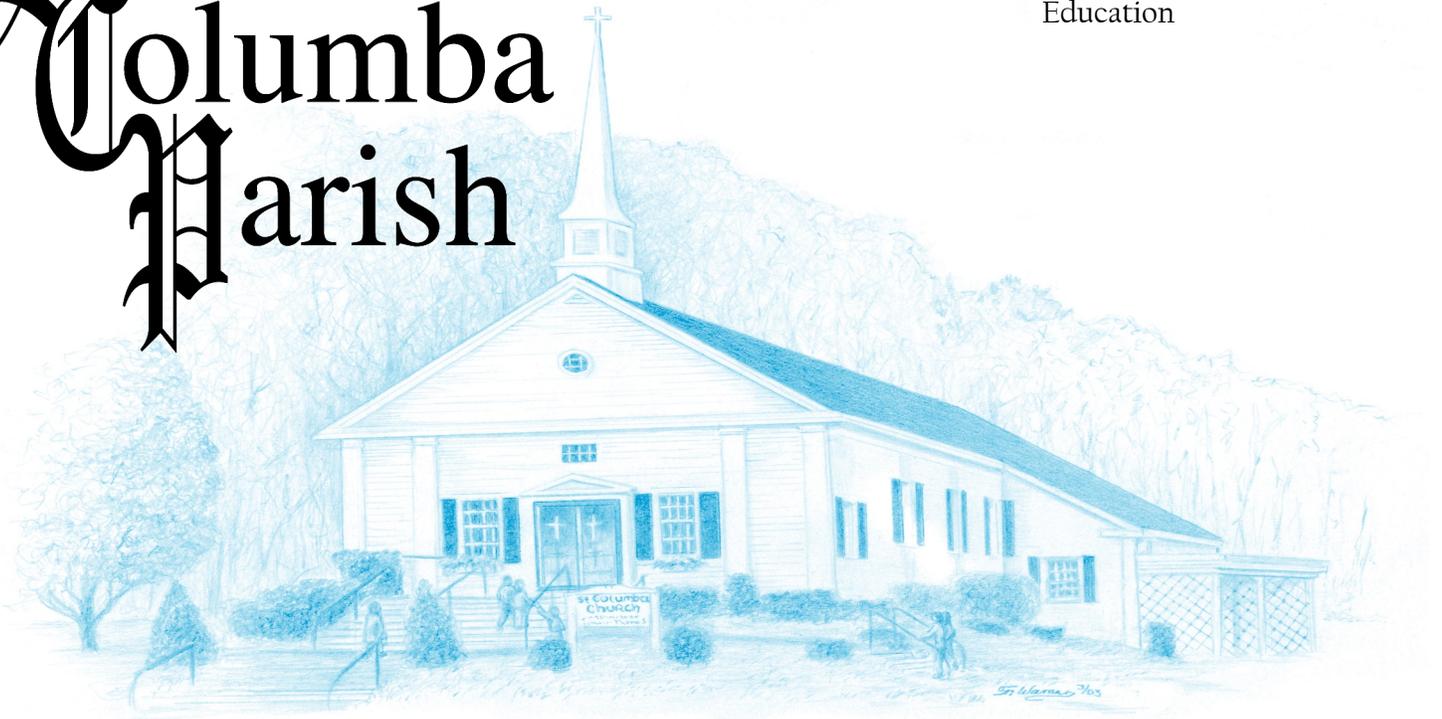


# Saint Columba Parish

Fr. David Cotter- Administrator

Terry Nummelin - Director of Religious  
Education



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Telephone: 508-755-0408 ● Fax: 508-767-0759

Religious Education Office: 508-755-0601

<http://www.stcolumbapax.org> ● email: [stcolumba@charter.net](mailto:stcolumba@charter.net)

Pastor's email: [dcotter01@gmail.com](mailto:dcotter01@gmail.com)

Facebook: @SaintColumbaParish

Instagram: @St\_Columba\_Parish

## SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Evening 4:00PM, Sunday Morning 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

## WEEKDAY MASSES

8:00AM (Monday—Thursday)

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard on Saturday at 3:15PM

Any other time is by appointment.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the office for instructions and a Baptismal date.

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please call the office when you become engaged

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Friday 12:00 PM

## WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS

Please introduce yourselves. We want to know and serve you.  
We hope you become an active part of our Parish Community.

## The Fourth Sunday of Lent



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. - Jn 9:35-38  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK  
AND IN A SPECIAL WAY FOR**

Muriel Walsh, Dan Daignault, Eric Henault  
Ursula Shea, Doris Metilly, Connie Bernier  
Mellissa Angiolillo, Julie Dix, Garry Power,  
Jackie Cook, Blake George Murawski  
Barbara Englander, Ginny Bean, Patrick Remington  
Aline Riedle, Robert Mertig, Christina Marden  
Patricia Jones, Elena & Paul Coffey

**Catholic Relief Services  
Fourth Week of Lent  
Meet Maria Ana**

Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school, so that they can focus on achieving their dreams. How was education important for your future? How can you, we ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

Gospel Meditation4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?" Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man "sees" as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God's kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God's children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

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TV Mass

Sunday Mass can be seen on Spectrum TV at 10a.m. on channel 193. Daily Mass may be seen Monday through Friday at 9a.m. on the same channel or you may access daily mass through the St. Columba website ([stcolumbapax.org](http://stcolumbapax.org)).

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY**

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2020 *Partners in Charity Appeal*. To date our Parish has responded with approximately \$19,260 toward our goal of \$39,900. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment pledge envelope located in the pew. Or visit [www.partners-charity.net](http://www.partners-charity.net) to do it online. Partners in Charity, *formerly known as the Bishop's Fund*, is the Annual Appeal for the Diocese of Worcester, serving 25 charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries. Through your generous support we are able to serve thousands of families and individuals in Worcester County through outreach, formation, evangelization, and worship. Thank you!

**Oscar Romero**

March 24 Already considered a saint by the people of El Salvador and elsewhere, Oscar Romero was recognized as a martyr for the faith in 2015. The time when he was Archbishop of San Salvador was a period of civil unrest and great government-sponsored violence. The voice of the Gospel, St. Oscar Romero spoke out for justice. LPI

He is also the Patron for our Partners in Charity Appeal this year.

**Weekly Offertory Collection**

Our parish budget requires \$4,000 weekly to meet our expenses. On the weekend of March 14-15-we received \$2580. Thank you for your continued and generous support of our parish.

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET ST. COLUMBA**

Please do not forget about your St. Columba family during this difficult time.

The expenses at St. Columba, like that of your family, continue. Please mail or make-up your weekly donation during this time if you can.

**Hope for Housing**

The Hope for Housing Program will be suspended until further notice.

**Religious Education**

Religious Education has been cancelled until further notice.

**The Haitian Sewing Ministry will no longer meet** on Wednesday morning in the church hall. You may pick up a kit to sew at home. Please contact Marianne Girouard at 508-798-8330 or at [mcgirouard@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgirouard@hotmail.com) to arrange a time.

**A Letter from Bishop McManus**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This edition of ORANTES, the liturgy newsletter of the Office for Divine Worship is dedicated to our pastoral and liturgical response to the spread of the Corona virus pandemic.

After carefully considering the best advice of medical and governmental authorities, I have decided to suspend the celebration of all public celebrations of the the Sacred Liturgy until further notice in the hope of slowing and, God willing, halting the spread of this disease. The obligation to take part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy days of obligation is thereby lifted.

I wish to emphasize how important it is that we not panic, but simply accept the present challenges as an opportunity to do God's will in confronting the Corona virus pandemic. These challenges, like sickness itself, are an opportunity to love as Christ has taught us from the wood of the Cross. This particular Lent will be for all of us a time to reflect on his Blessed Passion and how joining our sufferings to his gives meaning and strengthens us with his grace.

Finally, the Office for Divine Worship has prepared Holy Cards which I would encourage you to distribute to your parishioners so that we might be one in prayer this Lent. Let us pray that those who are sick or fearful may be consoled by God's infinite love and care for us.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

3/22/2020

### Updates

- Confession has been suspended until further notice.
- The Church will remain open for Private Prayer as long as the number of persons at anytime does not exceed 25.
- Baptism, Wedding or Funeral, contact Fr. Cotter to make arrangements for the celebration of these sacraments. Cell: 1-508-7686-0394  
Rectory Office: 508-755-0408.  
Email: dcotter01@gmail.com,  
stcolumba@charter.net
- Mass Intentions: Private masses will be offered for these intentions or you may request that the Mass Intention be rescheduled. We will begin rescheduling Mass Intentions after we are allowed to begin public Masses again..
- Contact Fr. Cotter through email or telephone if you have a question or need some form of service. New information will be sent through flock notes and posted on St. Columba's website.

### *A Prayer in Time of Pandemic*

O God,  
whose Only Begotten Son  
bore the weight of human suffering  
for our salvation,  
hear the prayers of your Church  
for our sick brothers and sisters  
and deliver us from this time of trial.

Open our ears and our hearts  
to the voice of your Son:  
*Be not afraid, for I am with you always.*

Bless all doctors and nurses,  
researchers and public servants;  
give us the wisdom to do what is right  
and the faith to endure this hour,  
that we might gather once again  
to praise your name in the heart of your Church,  
delivered from all distress  
and confident in your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3/22/2020

A Message from Pope Francis

“Let us continue to pray for the sick. I think of the families under lockdown. Children who can't go to school, perhaps parents who can't leave the house, some who are in quarantine. May the Lord help families to discover new ways, new expressions of love, of living together in this new situation. It's a beautiful opportunity to rediscover affection, with creativity, in the family. Let us pray for families, so that the relationships within the family at this moment might flourish always for the good. United to Christ we are never alone, but we form one body and he is the head. It is a union that grows with prayer and spiritual Communion, a practice strongly encouraged when it is not possible to receive the sacrament. Our God lets us understand that he always operated in simplicity, in the simplicity of the house of Nazareth, in the simplicity of everyday work, in the simplicity of prayer.”

Word of Life Quote

“There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life...Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves'...We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life” (The Gospel of Life 86).

Online Banking

For anyone who prefers the convenience of using on line banking, you can arrange with your bank to have your weekly contribution sent to:  
St. Columba Church, 10 Richards Ave.,  
Paxton, MA. 01612. All such payments are promptly deposited and recorded in the church records.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS  
ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

P.J. LOMBARDO