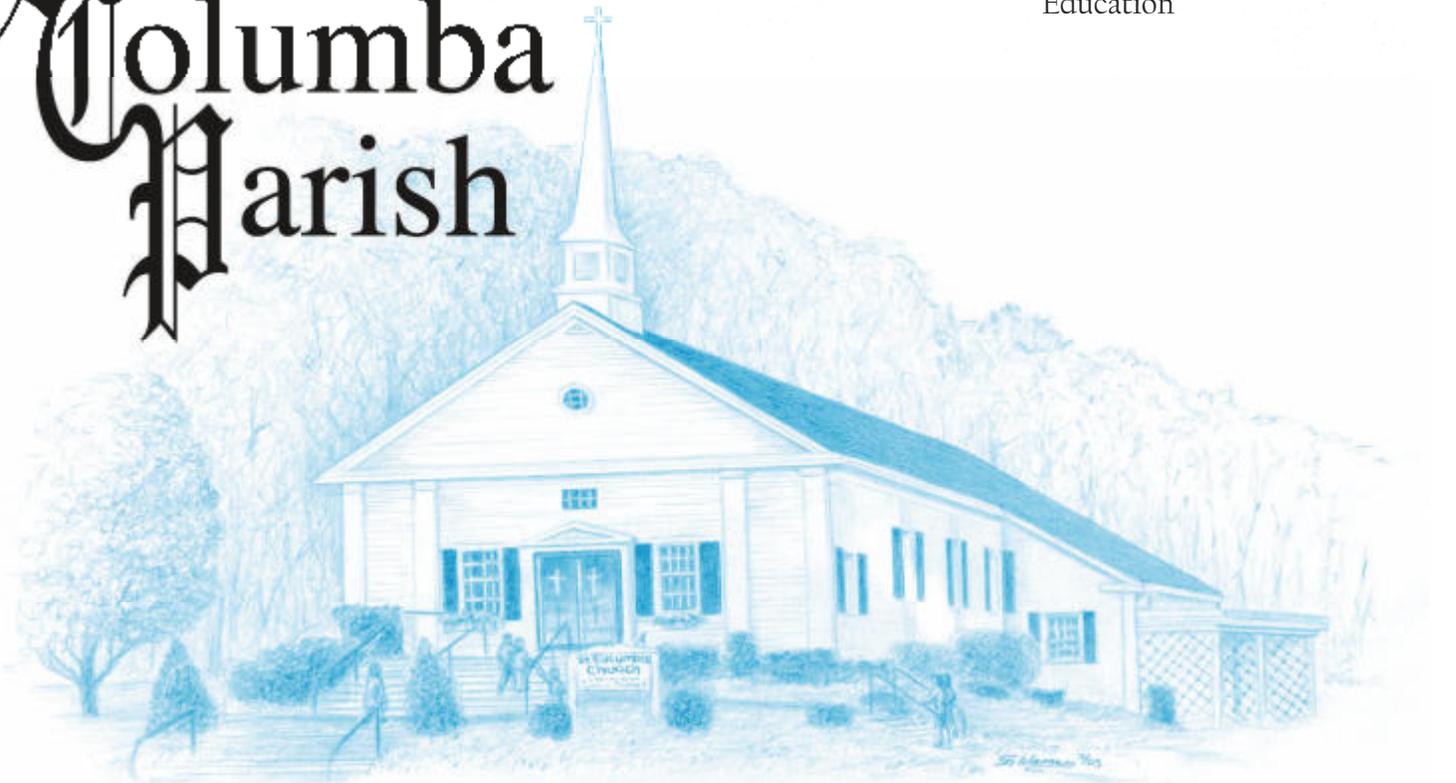


Saint Columba Parish

Fr. David Cotter- Administrator

Terry Nummelin - Director of Religious
Education



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

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<http://www.stcolumbapax.org> ● email: stcolumba@charter.net

Pastor's email: dcotter01@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/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 MATRIMONY

Please call the office when you become engaged.

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.

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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY- MARCH 6TH

9:00a.m. -Rosary

4:00p.m. -Mass For John David Carroll Jr.
Requested by His Sister Paula Kiley

SUNDAY - MARCH 7TH

8:00a.m. -Mass For Lawrence Tomasino
Requested by the Family

10:00a.m. -Mass

MONDAY - MARCH 8TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

TUESDAY - MARCH 9TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 10TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

THURSDAY - MARCH 11TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

FRIDAY - MARCH 12TH

NO MORNING MASS

SATURDAY - MARCH 13TH

9:00a.m. -Rosary

4:00p.m. -Mass For Shawn Contois
Requested by the Family

SUNDAY - MARCH 14TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

10:00a.m. -Mass



And to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. - Jn 2:16-17

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, Doris Metilly, Mellissa Angiolillo, Kay Johnson, Garry Power, Jackie Cook, Ben St. George, Blake George Murawski, Barbara Englander, Cathy Mattison, Patrick Remington,, Robert Mertig, Fr. Xavier Connolly, Patricia Jones, Elena & Paul Coffey, David Johnson, Theresa Mars, Doris Urbanovitch, Ginny Bean, Aline Riedle, Charles Daigneault, Ramona Brodeur, Gail Hicks, for all those sick with the coronavirus

Mass Online and TV

The 10a.m. Mass is being live-streamed every Sunday on St. Columba's website at:

<https://stcolumbapax.org/livestream> and on the

St. Columba Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintColumbaParish/>.

The Mass can also be watched on Paxton Cable Channel 192 on Sunday and Monday at 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.

No Morning Mass

When the Wachusett schools and offices are in remote status due to snow there will be no morning Mass.

Baptism, Marriage, Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please call Father Cotter or email him at dcotter01@gmail.com.

Weekly Offertory Collection

Our parish budget requires \$4,000 weekly to meet our expenses. On February 13 to February 20, 2021 we received through the Church Collection \$4940 plus \$264 through Online Giving for a total of \$5204. Thank you for your continued and generous support of our parish.

If you wish to make a weekly direct deposit to the parish, please refer to the instructions on the parish website listed under the "DONATE" tab at www.stcolumbapax.org.

The Fifth and Sixth Scriptural Stations of the Cross

The Fifth Station: Jesus is judged by Pontius Pilate—Mark 15:1-5, 15

Aside from the times he's mentioned in the New Testament there is very little record of Pontius Pilate's existence, or his career. Having said that, though, he's better attested than most ancient people because he presided over the trial of Jesus and condemned him to death by crucifixion after being scourged. But what little record there is indicates that he was not at all shy about putting down any hint of Jewish insurrection with such ferocity that he was reported for it to the emperor of Rome himself. It's hard to get a read on him, though. On the one hand, he was brutal in his dealings with the local Jewish population. On the other hand, he was in office for ten years so must have been reasonably competent. But there were lots of prefects of lots of Roman provinces and we neither know nor care much about any of them except for Pontius Pilate. Indeed, Christians recite his name every weekend as they recite the Nicene Creed at Mass, so he's achieved a certain fame, or notoriety, which few could dream of.

The Roman Province of Judaea was complicated. There was a mixed population of Jews and non-Jews. The jurisdiction of the various political powers was unclear. This is evident in Jesus' trial as the Sanhedrin passes him off to Pilate, who passes him off to Herod who passes him back to Pilate. It wasn't clear to any of them who had proper jurisdiction, but it was eminently clear to all of them that this was a case for which they wanted political cover. The powder keg which was 1st century AD Judaea could blow up in any of their faces, so they wanted to pass this responsibility off as quickly as possible. Finally, Pilate, in one of history's great "They made me do it" moves, gets what was in all likelihood a sort of 1st century rent-a-crowd to give him the answer he was looking for, so he could very publicly wash his hands of the whole mess and go take a nap. He'd heard the last of Jesus, he doubtless thought.

There's no hint that Pilate was moved by a desire to discover what the right course of action might be and to pursue that. No hint that he wanted to find out whether Jesus was in fact an insurrectionist, trying to overthrow Roman authority, or just an inconvenience to some powerful locals on whose good side Pilate would have very much wanted to stay and who could make his life miserable if he didn't do what they wanted. They wanted Jesus gone, for reasons that to Pilate would have seemed fanciful at best. Pilate wanted him gone, and had the power to make him disappear, for practical reasons. Romans wanted peace and quiet. These Jewish people seemed determined to give him anything but, no matter how violently and how often he tried to put them down. Jesus was just one more Jewish gnat to be crushed. Get rid of Jesus, he must have thought, and he'd finally have the peace and quiet he so craved. It didn't work out quite the way Pilate expected it to.

The Sixth Station: Jesus is scourged at the pillar and crowned with thorns—John 19:1-3

In our modern western tradition, the punishments meted out to criminals are intended, in addition to imposing some unpleasant consequence of their misdeed on the wrongdoer, to allow some sort of repayment for the misdeed, to remove dangerous individuals from the larger community, and even to allow some possibility for rehabilitation. Roman punishments were almost entirely different, aside from the imposition of an unpleasant consequence. They were intended to demonstrate to any onlooker that the person being punished was a nothing, below contempt, not worthy of the sort of treatment accorded to a fellow human being. Thus, the person being punished was stripped of their humanity in his or her own eyes and in the eyes of onlookers. To show that, in relation to those in authority, they were powerless. In addition, punishments were extreme so as to terrify everyone involved, the criminal—should he or she actually survive, any onlookers and even the ones meting out the punishment so that they would curb whatever inclination they might have had to do wrong themselves. Punishment as crowd control, we might say. All of this in the context of monarchical authority regarded both by the monarch and their subjects as divine in origin and so infallible. The individual counted for nothing and the divine monarch was all in all. And these punishments were commonplace and well-known to all.

Continued

3/07/2021

So, when we come to the scourging of Jesus and his crowning with thorns, we get no description because none was needed. Every member of the early audiences of the Gospel knew what was meant and could visualize the lead weighted whips, with bits of metal tied to the ends for added effect. They understood as well the significance of the painful crown, a mockery of Jesus' supposed claim to the throne of Israel and the threat that would have posed to Roman authority.

If we can't quite believe that one human being would do such things to another human being, we need only watch the evening news, for such things are indeed still done in our day and age and for the exact same reasons the Romans did them so long ago. Or you might turn to the traditions of sacred art and see them there, albeit oftentimes somewhat sanitized. We don't like to admit to ourselves what we human beings are capable of in our relations with each other and how eager we can be to deny each other's humanity and to instill terror. "Do what I want you to do or the sufferer might be you."

If nothing else, the scourging and crowning of Jesus must further convince us to strive to create a world in which such barbarity has no place.

Partners In Charity, 2021

As in previous years, our Partners in Charity annual campaign begins during Lent. Many of you will have received a letter from the diocese earlier this week announcing the campaign kickoff and requesting your assistance. Unlike previous years there will be no "in pew" weekend due to COVID-19 concerns. Our parish goal remains at \$39,900. We encourage your prayerful consideration of a one time gift and/or a monthly pledge to help us reach our 2021 Partners in Charity goal. Thank you.

The Haitian Sewing Ministry

The Haitian Sewing Ministry has been discontinued until further notice. If anyone needs a kit to sew at home, please contact Marianne Girouard by email at mcgirouard@hotmail.com or at (508) 798-8330.

The Virtual Men's Diocesan Conference will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021. For information call 508-929-4345 or email at firstmensconf.org.

3/07/2021

Religious Education March Schedule

All classes will be held via Zoom & home-study for the winter session. Zoom Invitations will be sent through Flocknotes, on the Friday before the scheduled Zoom Class. If you do not receive the Zoom invitation please call Mrs. Nummelin: 774-239-0803 (cell) 508-755-0601 (office)

Grades 1& 2	March 3/7, 3/21
Grades 3 & 4	March 3/8, 3/22
Grade 5 & 6	March 3/9, 3/23
Grades 7 & 8	March 3/8, 3/22
Grades 9 & 10	March 3/7, 3/21

Our friends at the Mustard Seed Catholic Worker are in need of the following items for the community that they serve:

1. Small to medium size blankets. A size that is portable enough for folks to carry around with them all day.
2. Clean, gently used shoes and boots for MEN. The guests have worn through foot-wear from walking around all winter in the puddles and snow.

The CCD students thank you very much for any help you can provide. Items will be collected the weekend of March 13 & 14. Containers will be located at the parking lot entrance of the church.

A Young Adult Bible Study - All young adults are invited to join the Lent Bible Study which began on Tuesday, February 23rd and continues ever Tuesday during Lent at 8pm. Each session takes place virtually on Zoom and will involve lectio divina along with a discussion. Each session will be unique to that Sunday's gospel reading so individuals are welcome to attend all gatherings, some, or even just one. To sign up and receive the Zoom information go to newworchester.org/lent-lectio-divina.

What is Lectio Divina? Lectio Divina is a simple yet powerful and deep way to pray with Sacred Scripture.

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