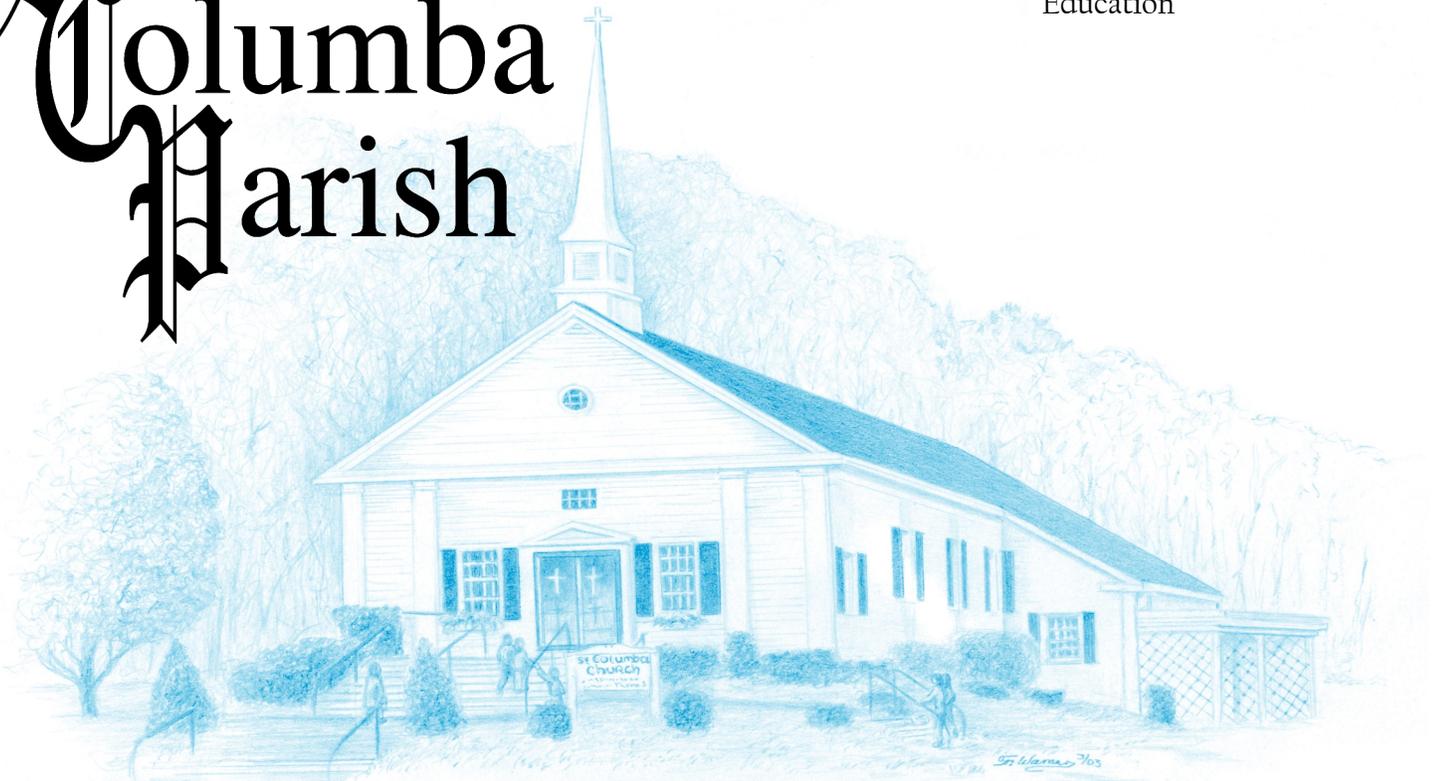


Saint Columba Parish

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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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 20TH

9:00a.m. -Rosary

4:00p.m. -Mass For Edward McTigue Jr
First Anniversary
Requested by the Family

SUNDAY - MARCH 21ST

8:00a.m. -Mass

10:00a.m. -Mass For Rita Mertig
Requested by the Family

MONDAY - MARCH 22ND

8:00a.m. -Mass

TUESDAY - MARCH 23RD

8:00a.m. -Mass

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 24TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

THURSDAY - MARCH 25TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

FRIDAY - MARCH 26TH

NO MORNING MASS

SATURDAY - MARCH 27TH Palm Sunday

9:00a.m. -Rosary

4:00p.m. -Mass

SUNDAY - MARCH 28TH Palm Sunday

8:00a.m. -Mass

10:00a.m. -Mass For Rita Mertig
Birthday
Requested by the Family

First Reading

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. (jer 31:34)

Psalm

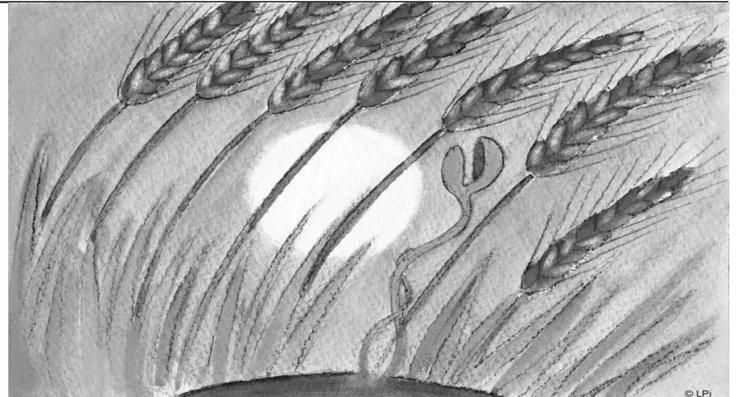
Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Ps 51)

Second Reading

Son, though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; (Heb 5:8)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

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



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24
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



We commend to your prayers Malcolm Cole and Marguerite Hughes. May the Angels lead them into Paradise. We also extend our condolences to the members of their families. We pray that God will give them strength and comfort during their time of loss.

Weekly Offertory Collection

Our parish budget requires \$4,000 weekly to meet our expenses. On March 6 to March 12 we received through the Church Collection \$4156 plus \$314 through Online Giving for a total of \$4470. Thank you for your continued and generous support of our parish.

The Scriptural Stations of the Cross

The Ninth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem—Luke 23:27-31

It's hard to tell how well-known Jesus was in his own day. It's hard even to tell how long the so-called Public Ministry—that latter period of his life, which began after he left Nazareth, moved to Capernaum, chose his disciples, and moved around Galilee teaching and healing, and culminated in his Passion, Death and Resurrection—lasted. Maybe as little as six months, some say, although most estimate that it lasted about three years. It was not a time when people travelled much or when communication was at all easy, so it's hard to say how many people would even have been aware of him. These women were aware of him and, unlike most of the men who followed him, they were not embarrassed to be known as his followers nor did they abandon him in his last moments of great need. Not that they could do much. In those days, much as in our own, women did not ordinarily wield the same sort of power as men. But if they lacked the power to free the man they so evidently loved, no one was going to prevent them from being by his side.

And in that little has changed. Who stands up for him today, reading his words to those gathered to hear them? Who puts their name on a list to bring his Body and Blood to feed those who hunger for it? Who teaches children how to say his name and pray to him for all those in need? Who signs up for committees, sets up chairs and takes them down again, bakes cookies and makes coffee, cleans and rearranges the church after Mass, plays music to raise our minds and hearts? Of course, there are men who do so, who serve him as selflessly as anyone could possibly expect, and for them and their commitment and energy we're profoundly grateful but, if we're being honest, they're far outnumbered by women.

It is to them that we, the Church, owe a debt of gratitude as old as the Gospels themselves. From his own Mother who bore him, to Peter's mother-in-law who served him as soon as she was able, to Martha who hurried to make him his favorite food and drink, to her sister Mary who wanted nothing more than to sit with him and listen to him talk, to the women who stood by his Cross so that he wouldn't die alone, to Mary Magdalene who was the first to hear of his Resurrection, and on and on. The women of Jerusalem to whom Jesus spoke that day were only the first in this innumerable throng of those who want nothing more than to be at his side, to listen to him, to comfort him and to welcome him into their hearts and homes

The Tenth Station: Jesus in Crucified—Luke 23:33-34

As we have already seen, no one needed a lengthy description of what this entailed. In the version cited here Luke simply says "they crucified him..." Those early readers and hearers of the Gospel were all too familiar with what those words meant. They would have seen men hoisted up high, struggling to breathe as the weight of their bodies made it increasingly difficult, they would have seen birds of prey attack them, and passers-by pelt them with rubbish. They would have seen the distraught families standing by, caught up in a horror that we, thank God, can only barely imagine although it continues in our own day. This was not the serene falling asleep which many of our crucifixes show us, but we couldn't stand a constant reminder of the historical reality, so we lessen its horror.

It is our Christian faith that the Creator of all, the Ruler of all things, the One who causes all things to come into being and who sustains it all, who lives in infinite Light and who knows only infinite Joy gave all of that up. God the Son, the Word spoken before all time, who knows all, loves all, understands all, emptied himself of all of divinity so that he could share our lives. And he did it for love. Let's put it in simpler, plainer words. He emptied himself because he likes us. He wanted to be with us in a way that could only be accomplished if he became one of us. He wanted to walk like we walk. He wanted to talk like we talk. He wanted to have friends. He wanted to get up in the morning and go to work. He wanted to enjoy sunsets. He wanted to have a family, to know what it is to have a mother.

Continued

3/21/2021

And so he did. God the Son came to be among us as a human being exactly like us. And how did we respond? When we human beings came face to face with Love made flesh, all we could think to do was kill him, to get rid of him, to make him go away. Not all, to be sure, but enough to make it happen because he was inconvenient and impractical and might have upset the otherwise comfortable status quo.

Why is it that we human beings are so resistant to love? This is surely as great a mystery as any other yet, while we've made progress in understanding so many things about the world in which we find ourselves, this conundrum—our resistance to love—remains as obdurate as ever. As soon as Adam and Eve saw each other in all their naked humanity their first action was to cover up and hide from each other. We do the same, don't we? Rather than open ourselves to the possibility of being known and loved by another person, to say nothing of the God who created us and who is Infinite Love, we close ourselves up. Love offered is too often rejected, whether the one offering is the person with whom we might share our life or the God who created our life. "Leave me alone" we say. The challenge of loving as we are loved is too much, because we fear that ultimately, we aren't even very likeable much less loveable. Love came to walk among us because, however fancily we might put it, he liked us and wanted to love with us and we said, "No. Leave us alone. Just leave us." But even then, he wouldn't leave. Rejected by us, crucified by us, he came to live not only with us but in us. If only we'd realize that.

Thank You

You might remember that before the pandemic two generous parishioners funded two new keyboards for our organ. They have finally been installed. The easy Installation, where the old keyboards were just slipped out and the new ones were easily inserted, didn't quite work out. Rather each key from the new keyboards had to be manually inserted into the old keyboards. This took a great deal of work and skill on the part of the organ builder. However the result is wonderful. The old glue-y action is no more and the sound reflects the fluency of the new action. Thanks to Betty Zglobicki and Myron Kokocinski for their support! A sign will be placed on the organ in remembrance of their generosity.

3/21/2021

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

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 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.

Hope for Housing

Thanks to all who support the Hope for Homeless food card program. Our sale of cards will continue this weekend (3/20 and 3/21) at all Masses. Going forward they will be sold on the 1st and 3rd weekend of each month. We remind you that gift cards are available for Big Y, CVS, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Hannaford, Panera and Dunkin Donuts.

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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS
ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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