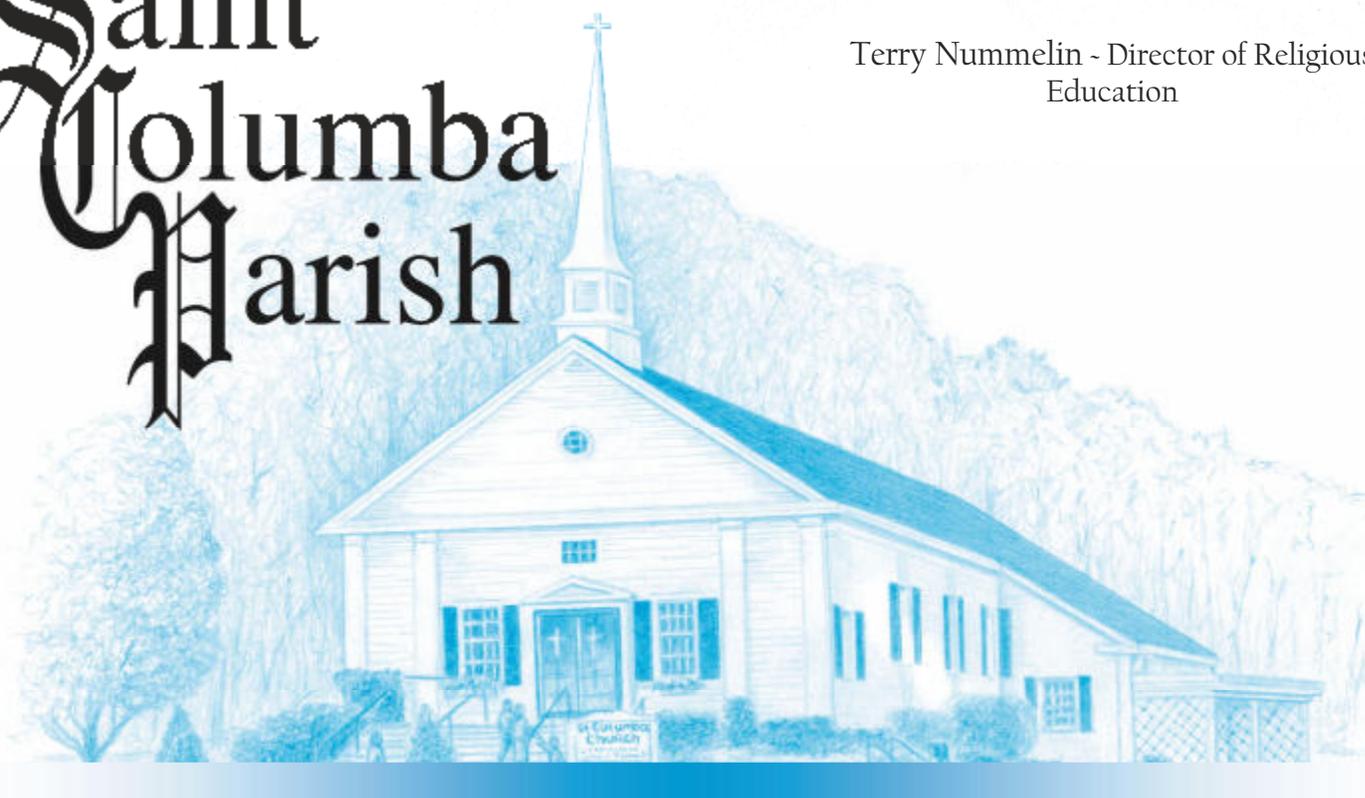


Saint Columba Parish

Fr. David Cotter- Administrator

Terry Nummelin - Director of Religious
Education



Rectory: 10 Richards Avenue Paxton, MA 01612
Telephone: 508-755-0408 ● Fax: 508-767-0759

Rectory Office Hours: Monday 9a.m. -11a.m., Tuesday and Friday 9a.m.-12p.m.,
Thursday 9a.m.-2p.m.

Religious Education Office: 508-755-0601

<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 call or visit the rectory to register.

We hope you become an active part of our Parish Community.

WORSHIP SCHEDULESATURDAY- DECEMBER 18TH

9:00a.m.-Rosary

4:00p.m. -Mass In Memory of Rita Mertig
Requested by the FamilySUNDAY - DECEMBER 19TH8:00a.m. -Mass In Memory of
Kathy Bedard
Requested by the Bedard and Ryan Families10:00a.m.-Mass In Memory of
Thomas J. O'Connor jr.
Requested by the ParishMONDAY - DECEMBER 20TH

8:00a.m.-Mass

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 21ST

8:00a.m.-Mass

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 22ND

8:00a.m.-Mass

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 23RD

8:00a.m.-Mass

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 24TH

4:00p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

6:00p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 25TH

8:00a.m. -Mass Christmas

10:00a.m.-Mass The Nativity of the Lord

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 26TH

8:00a.m. -Mass

10:00a.m. -Mass



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Lk 1:41-42

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

A Christmas Message from Father David

Worry has, for many of us, been our constant companion over the last couple of years. What will the future bring? How will this all turn out? On and on. At Christmastime we should think especially of these words of Simone Weil (1909-1943), the French philosopher and mystic:

Why should I worry?

It's not my business to think of myself,

My business is to think of God,

It's His business to think of me.

We fear that we are alone in a cold and meaningless universe. The Incarnation puts the lie to that. Love is the ultimate reality, love made flesh in this tiny defenceless child. He loved us so much, wanted to share our lives so much, that, for a time and in a way beyond our understanding, he left off being God, to show us what love means. It means that we give all for the sake of those we love, just as He did, whose birth we recall today.

Delay or School Cancellation

When there is delay or no school in the Wachusett District, there will be no morning mass.

Weekly Offertory Collection

Our parish budget requires \$4,000 weekly to meet our expenses. For the week of December 6th through December 12th received \$3303 through the Church Collection plus \$566 through Online Giving for a total of \$3869. Thank you for your continued and generous support of our parish.

Online Giving -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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Masses



Friday, December 24th, Christmas Vigil
4p.m. and 6p.m.

Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Day
8a.m. and 10a.m.

There is no 4p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 25th.

Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 26th
8a.m. and 10a.m.

Baptism, Marriage, Pastoral Care of the Sick -
Please call Father Cotter at the rectory or email him at
dcotter01@gmail.com.

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

Muriel Walsh, Dan Daignault, Eric Henault,
Mellissa Angiolillo, Gayla & Roger Bergman,
Garry Power, Doris Metilly, Michelle Reidy
Blake George Murawski, Barbara Englander,
Patrick Remington, Jackie Cook, Jacob Rivera
Robert Mertig, Patricia Jones, Elena & Paul Coffey,
David Johnson, Theresa Mars, Emily Ellen Calamari,
Doris Urbanovitch, Ginny Bean, Aline Riedle,
Charles Daigneault, Ramona Brodeur, Pauline Miller,
Roland Card, Zoey Murray, John Laverdi
To add or remove a name, please call or email the rectory.

Hope for Housing Food Card Sale

Food cards to benefit the Hope for Housing Program
sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition To Prevent
Family Homelessness will be available this weekend,
December 18th and 19th. Your continued support of
this project is appreciated. Sales will remain the first
and third weekend of each month. We hope you
consider this charity for your Holiday shopping and
gift giving. Thanks to all who volunteer and support
this project.

Religious Education January Schedule

January 9, 23, 30: Sunday Gr. 1 & 2:
8:50a.m.-9:50a.m. followed by Mass at 10:00a.m.

January 9, 23, 30: Sunday Gr. 9 & 10: 10:00a.m. Mass
followed by class at 11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

January 10, 24, 31: Monday Gr. 3 & 4: 3:00-4:15p.m.

January 10, 24, 31: Monday Gr. 7 & 8: 7:00-8:00p.m.

January 1, 8, 15: Tuesday Gr. 5 & 6: 3:00p.m.-4:15p.m.



Journey back in time and join our parish children for
the annual Christmas Pageant being held on Sunday,
December 19th at the 10:00a.m. Mass.

Suggestions for Church Events

The pandemic has taken its toll on everyone! To rise
above and keep our parish vibrant and growing, we
are looking for suggestions as to what kind of events
our parishioners would like to participate in. Maybe
It's a movie night, a book group, or a pizza night
sitting outside by a bonfire? Let us get creative and
work together to strengthen our parish community!
Send your ideas to terrynummelin@gmail.com or text
me at 774-239-0803. You can also place your great
ideas in the suggestion basket at the front entrance of
the church.

The Haitian Sewing Ministry



The last sewing session for this year was Nov. 17. We
resume on January 5, 2022. Thank you to all our
dedicated volunteers who work diligently on behalf of
the Haitian children. Marianne Girouard

12/19/2021

A Christmas Letter from Bishop McManus

Christmas 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each year the celebration of Christmas resounds with the glad tidings of great joy that brought awe, wonder and peace to the shepherds at Bethlehem. Each of us has treasured family traditions that surround and support our celebration of Christ's birth - a family gathering after Mass, delivering dinners, trimming trees, displaying crèches, exchanging gifts or visiting friends.

For many months, COVID precautions have disrupted, curtailed or postponed the traditions and practices of everyday life. We long for a return to normalcy. As we edge closer to normalcy, reports of COVID variants, breakthrough infections and rising hospitalizations can give us the jitters and make us skittish.

But even as we heed prudent precautions, that skittishness and those jitters should not shake us. We should not be shaken because the essence of Christmas, the source of our joy and the cause of our awe, wonder and peace remain the same - God so loved the world that He sent His Son to take on human flesh, to become one of us so that we might become children of God and share forever in His love. Because of that, no virus, no variant, not even death itself will keep the faithful from sharing the joy of God's love both here amidst earth's uncertainties or forever in Heaven where no threat, shadow or separation will vex us.

While the essence of Christmas remains the same, its message never becomes static or grows stale. When our prayer life deepens, our sacramental life is sustained, our holiness grows and we gain an ever more profound awareness of God's closeness to us and His love for us. That realization is grace, God Himself with us, Emmanuel dwelling in our souls. That grace frees us from fear, allows us to

Continued

12/19/2021

persevere with prudence and fills us with confidence and peace to face and overcome every challenge.

In the new year may our weekly communal worship at Mass continue to inspire us with the Word of God and nourish us in the Eucharist that we may grow ever more confident in our conviction and joy that the Savior born to us at Bethlehem remains with us now and forever.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



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