

# 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](mailto:stcolumba@charter.net)

Pastor's email: [dcotter01@gmail.com](mailto: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 SCHEDULE**SATURDAY- DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

8:00a.m.-Mass Christmas  
 10:00a.m.-Mass The Nativity of the Lord  
 4:00p.m. -NO MASS

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

8:00a.m. -Mass  
 10:00a.m.-Mass

MONDAY - DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

8:00a.m.-Mass

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>

8:00a.m.-Mass

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

8:00a.m.-Mass

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

8:00a.m.-Mass

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

NO MORNING MASS

SATURDAY - JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

10:00a.m.  
 4:00p.m.-Mass In Memory of  
 Ernest Frappier  
 16th Anniversary  
 Requested by Virginia & Jim Frappier

SUNDAY - JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>

8:00a.m. -Mass  
 10:00a.m. -Mass

**First Reading**

“I prayed for this child, and the LORD  
 granted my request,  
 Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD;  
 as long as he lives, he shall be  
 dedicated to the LORD.”  
 (1 Sm 1:27-28)

**Psalm**

Blessed are they who dwell in your  
 house, O Lord. (PS 84)

**Second Reading**

See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
 that we may be call the children of God.  
 Ans so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998,  
 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm  
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Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:45-47

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

**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](mailto: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.

**Weekly Offertory Collection**

The Weekly Collection amount for December 13th through December 19th will be reported in next week's bulletin due to the early transmission of the bulletin because of Christmas.

**Delay or School Cancellation**

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

*THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH*

**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.*

**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 4, 11, 18: Tuesday Gr. 5 & 6: 3:00p.m.-4:15p.m.

**Hope for Housing Food Card Sale**

The sale of food cards to benefit the Hope for Housing Program sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition To Prevent Family Homelessness will remain the first and third weekend of each month. This coming month, food/gift cards will be available on the weekends of January 1st and 2nd and January 15th and 16th. Thank you to all who volunteer and support this project.

**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

***The Mass can be watched on Paxton Cable  
Channel 192 on Sunday and Monday at  
4p.m., 6p.m. and 8p.m.***

**A Letter from Bishop McManus on the  
Catholic University of America Collection 2022**

December 23, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, the parishes in our diocese will participate in the national collection for **The Catholic University of America** in Washington D.C. Established in 1887, the university is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in canon law, philosophy and theology.

Catholic University is helping to renew and strengthen the Church. The university has always been the research institution where the Church comes to think. For example, by creating an Institute for Diocesan Excellence in Administration (IDEA), where lay scholars and professionals can support clergy by providing expertise and accountability in the areas of education, finance, canon law and culture, Catholic University serves as a springboard in renewing and strengthening Catholicism in our country.

Catholic University is committed to excellence in teaching and research. With its 12 schools and 23 research centers, the university provides an exceptional Catholic education to almost 7,000 students annually. The university prepares students to respond to the many issues facing the Church and society today by way of its many programs, such as those in ethical business practices; classical architecture; intelligence studies; neuroscience; nursing; Hispanic ministry; social service; and Catholic bioethics.

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for The Catholic University of America to be taken up on the weekend of January 2, 2022.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed New Year, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

12/26/2021

Gospel Meditation

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi

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

12/26/2021

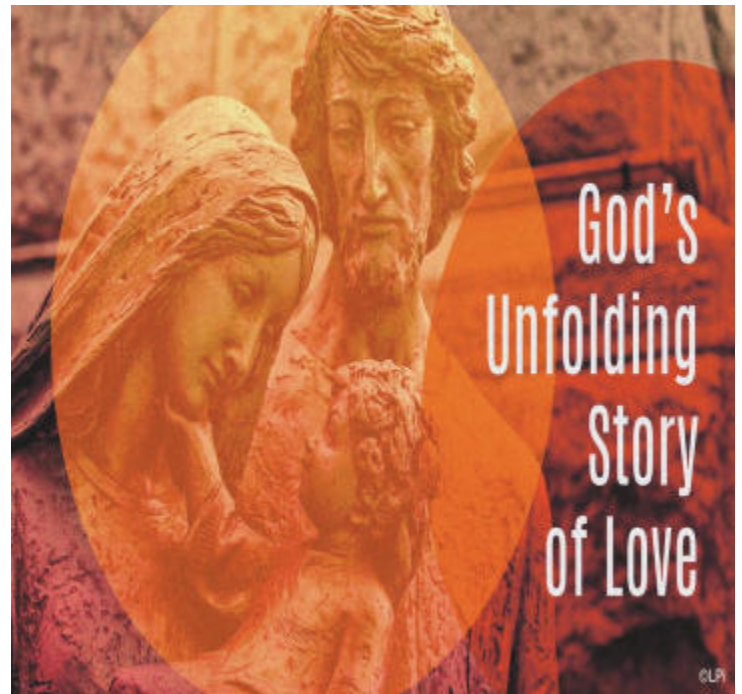
St. Stephen, Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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