

The Vine

Today's Gospel comes from the long talk by Jesus at the last supper in John's Gospel. It is appropriate for the Easter season. It sets before us the type of close, ongoing relationship into which the risen Jesus invites his disciples.

The allegory of the vine has a long history. Isaiah [5:1-7] makes it very clear: "For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting." The vine is the Jewish national symbol of the relationship between God and Israel. The pillars of the Jerusalem temple were carved with vines and branches, thus setting the image in stone.

The famous "I am" sayings of John's Gospel always reveal some aspect of Jesus' divine identity. When Jesus says: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower" and "I am the vine; you are the branches," He makes a soul-shattering statement to Jewish ears and to our ears. He reveals the intimate relationship between Himself and the Father and also indicates that He replaces the temple with Himself as the place for worship, for He becomes the very source of life for people who accept Him.

The Jews of Jesus' days were people of the land – practical, simple people. For abstract ideas, like what we call "sanctifying grace," Jesus used common experience nouns, "life" and "light." For abstract verbs like "transcends" or "interconnects", Jesus used the verb "lives in."

If Jesus did anything everyone can agree upon, it is that He gathered a community around Himself. The model of leadership/followership here is not hierarchy, power or authoritativeness; it is community. Concerned togetherness is essential for the very life of his followers. Jesus' consummate gift to us is a sharing in His life.

We are called to share in Jesus' resurrected life and to live that life with enthusiasm. The Holy Spirit, whom we shall celebrate in a few weeks at Pentecost, kindles that enthusiasm in us.

Saint Christopher Catholic Church

160 Holt Spur Drive

Jamestown, Tennessee 38556

Reverend Father Michael Sweeney, Pastor



April 28, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Masses: Saturday Vigil: 6:30 P.M. (CST)

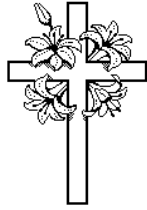
Holy Days (Vigil): 6:00 P.M. (CST)

Confessions: After Mass (1st Saturday of month or as needed)

Spanish Communion Service: Sundays 8:00 A.M.(CST)

Father Michael Sweeney: Rectory 865-882-9838

Emergency: 865-216-6453



**Liturgical Ministers for Next Week
May 5, 2018**

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**Readers:** B. Rindler / R. Germann / M. Criswell  
**Altar Servers:** D. Briggs / W. Allen  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** M. Mahon / S. Mahon  
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**May Sacristan:** ..... L. Jacobs  
**Hospitality:** ..... Linda Savastano  
**KoC Round Table Coordinator:** ..... George Savastano  
**Mass Intentions:** ..... Sarah Mahon  
**Webmaster:** ..... Stormy Allen  
**Web-Page:** ..... [www.saintchristopherjamestown.com](http://www.saintchristopherjamestown.com)  
..... [www.facebook.com/saintchristopherjamestown](http://www.facebook.com/saintchristopherjamestown)  
**Bulletin:** ..... Mary Germann  
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INTENTIONS



Together, let us pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters. Remember the sick, home-bound, caregivers and recovering of our parish and all those on the St. Christopher prayer list (available to view in the narthex) in your daily prayers: Juan Herrera; Zachary Chamness, grandson of George & Linda Savastano; Cissy and Vickie, daughters of Joyce Vaughn; Pete Yahner, brother of Sarah Mahon; Don Briggs; Mary Henise; Joyce Mulligan; Bruce Bigard, brother of Allen Bigard; Teddie Stevenson; Leo Duchon; Mike Emmons; Terry McDonald; Mike Baldalament and for those of us who suffer in silence. Also, pray for our military personnel, especially those serving in harm's way. For these and all other unspoken needs; we pray to the Lord.

ATTENDANCE & DONATIONS

April 21, 2018

Parish: \$ 338.25
Building Fund: \$ 25

Sat. Night Service / Bilingual Service: 49 / 9

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**April 28, 2018**

For the repose of the souls of **Catherine** and **Richard Romer**;  
Requested by their son, **Jim Romer** and daughter-in-law  
**Denise Romer.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget: **next Saturday, May 5th**, is the **Cinco de Mayo fundraising dinner!!!** Tickets can still be purchased from Bernadette Rindler, Sharon Brayton or Stormy Allen.

Ladies, please remember that the Saint Mother Teresa Guild **mini-meeting** will be **Thursday, May 3rd** at 11:00 am. We will be dealing *only* with the Cinco de Mayo dinner.

Please mark your calendar: the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday, May 9th from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm.

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**Liturgical Ministers for Future Week(s)**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** **Readers:** W. Allen / M. Criswell / P. Dalton  
**Altar Servers:** M. Mahon / S. Mahon  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Savastano / J. Vaughn

**St. Christopher Home Campaign**

**Thank you!**

Goal: \$43,830.00  
Total Committed: \$60,345.00  
Payments Collected to Date: \$47,427.49  
Parish Share Received to Date: \$24,106.67