

Who was Job?

Even if you haven't read the Book of Job yourself, perhaps you remember the story: Job was blessed with wealth and a blessed family. Then there is a scene in Heaven where Satan tells God that Job is pious and good only because he is so blessed; if he had none of these, he would most likely curse God. The wealthy and influential Job is a just man in God's eyes (1:8), but God, at Satan's prompting, allows him to be tested. Job loses all his property, livestock, friends, and except, for his wife, his entire family. He then is afflicted with dreadful sores all over his body and sinks into depression. Three friends come to console him but end up harassing him instead. Job responds to their harangues and to that of a stranger too. After lamenting bitterly, God visits him face to face. Job is silenced, and his wealth and health are eventually restored two-fold. (42:10)

The suffering of Job is legendary. Yet he is able to maintain his faith. When it comes to his own suffering, Job does not fail to praise God, even in his bitterest laments, saying at one point, "Naked I came forth from my mother's womb, and naked shall I go back there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed is the name of the Lord."

Job suffered immensely. In today's reading he declares, "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?" There is a translation of that same phrase that reads, "Is not man's life on earth a battle?" There is no denying that. The point is not how much we suffer; the point is how we respond to that suffering. As Catholics and Christians, we have been given hope in an eternal and suffering-free life through Christ's sacrifice for us.

With Lent only a few days away, this is a good time to be reminded of that. A challenge laid down by the Book of Job, perhaps, is to drop our old conceptions of suffering -- as always and everywhere a punishment -- and concentrate instead on encountering God in it by responding to suffering as a just man would. That is, with courageous mercy when we see the suffering of others, and with trust, praise, and humility when we experience it ourselves.

Saint Christopher Catholic Church

**160 Holt Spur Drive
Jamestown, Tennessee 38556
Reverend Father Michael Sweeney, Pastor**



**February 3, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**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
(February 10, 2018)**

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**Readers:** B. Rindler / R. Germann / M. Criswell  
**Altar Servers:** M. Mahon / S. Mahon  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** D. Hailey / L. Savastano  
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February Sacristan: Wanda Hailey
Hospitality: Linda Savastano
KoC Round Table Coordinator: George Savastano
Mass Intentions: Sarah Mahon
Webmaster: Stormy Allen
Web-Page: www.saintchristopherjamestown.com
..... 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; Mollie Ann Wenzel, daughter of a friend of Allen Bigard; Laverne Marsch; Teddie Stevenson; Leo Duchon; Mike Emmons; 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**

**January 27, 2018**

Parish: \$ 391  
Building Fund: \$ 25  
Church in Latin America: \$ 65.41

Sat. Night Service / Bilingual Service: 51 / 16  
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MASS INTENTIONS

February 3, 2018

For the repose of the soul of **Emily Craven**,
mother of **Denise Romer**;
Requested by **Jim and Denise Romer**.
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Message from Sharon Brayton: The **Mother Teresa Guild** will meet next Sunday, **February 11th** at **2 pm CST** in Saint Christopher Hall. Items of discussion will include Easter celebration, Children's Easter Egg Hunt and fund raising ideas. All ladies of Saint Christopher are invited to attend. We need your support! *"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."* ~Mother Teresa  
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Lent will be here in 11 days. Please be aware that this year Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. One might want to consider combining Mardi Gras and Valentines Day.

Liturgical Ministers for Future Week(s)

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**Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>** **Readers:** W. Allen / P. Dalton / B. Rindler  
**Shrove Tues** **Altar Servers:** J. Brayton / S. Brayton  
(6:00 pm) **Eucharistic Ministers:** D. Hailey / J. Vaughn  
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Feb. 17th **Readers:** M. Criswell / P. Dalton / R. Germann
Altar Servers: W. Allen / D. Briggs
Eucharistic Ministers: L. Savastano / J. Vaughn