

But only God can make a Tree

“I think that I shall never see...A poem lovely as a tree.” That is the opening stanza of a poem by American poet Alfred Joyce Kilmer. We know Kilmer better as a poet, but in his time, he was also considered to be a great Catholic apologist. Clearly Kilmer had a great fondness for trees. The ancient Hebrews understood agriculture. Their lives were dependent on the crops they cultivated and the animals they raised. Yet, they knew that the wonder of growth belonged to the Lord. Paul would allude to this in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7: *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”*

The people who heard Jesus tell the parable of the farmer's life also shared the wonder of the soil. The farmer works hard during the day, but he can't make the seed grow into a plant, and the plant produce fruit. God causes the growth. Jesus' point is that, like the plants, the Kingdom of God is in God's hands. The workers in the Lord's fields must do their best to create the proper environment for growth, but God causes the growth. The parable comforted the people of the early Church in the face of discouragement when their efforts didn't seem to be getting them anywhere.

The Church lives on despite the persecution from the Romans, despite the internal dogmatic fights and debates of the second through fifth centuries. It lives on, despite the Fall of Rome and conquest of the barbarians, despite the corruption from within and outside in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The Church is still with us, despite the Christian fratricide of the Reformation, despite the onslaught of rationalists in the last two centuries, despite the clergy abuse scandals, despite the attacks on Christians by ISIS, and despite two thousand years of martyrdom aimed at destroying the faith. The Church still lives on, and grows. God gives the growth.

The last stanza of Kilmer's famous poem about trees is the most telling. It is, “Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree.” Only God can truly make us what we are to be and what we are called to be.

Saint Christopher Catholic Church

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



June 16, 2018

Eleventh Sunday in 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
June 23, 2018

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**Readers:** M. Criswell / R. Germann / S. Mahon  
**Altar Servers:** W. Allen / B. Rindler  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Savastano / D. Hailey  
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June Sacristan: April Hatfield
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; Teddie Stevenson; Leo Duchon; Mike Emmons; Terry McDonald; Mike & MaryLee Baldalament; Philip Adkins, relative of the Brayton family; 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**

**June 9, 2018**

Parish: \$ 226

Building Fund: \$ 125

Sat. Night Service / Bilingual Service: 45 / 10  
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MASS INTENTIONS

June 16, 2018

For the living and deceased members of the **O'Brien Family**;
Requested by **Bernadette Rindler**.
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**A Father's Day Prayer**

We give thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

***Liturgical Ministers for Future Week(s)***  
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June 30th **Readers:** W. Allen / P. Dalton / M. Criswell
Altar Servers: M. Mahon / S. Mahon
Eucharistic Ministers: L. Savastano / D. Hailey
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**July 7<sup>th</sup>** **Readers:** M. Criswell / W. Allen / S. Mahon  
**Altar Servers:** J. Brayton / S. Brayton  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** L. Savastano / J. Vaughn