

Tree of Righteousness: By Scott Hahn

In the cryptic message of the prophet Ezekiel, long centuries before the Lord's coming, God gave His people reason to hope. Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the people of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as He solemnly promises.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams. And so we express our gratitude in the Psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good, and better still to give thanks with praise. The Psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the Cross as the measure of righteousness.

The Cross is a sign of contradiction to those who would rather "flourish" in worldly terms. As St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians, we need courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. He reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifests itself in works: "so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

God Himself will empower the works He expects from us, though we freely choose to correspond to His grace. In the prophetic oracles, He scattered the seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had seen. He gave this doctrine to His disciples in terms they were able to understand, and He provided a full explanation. In the sacraments He provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as children of God.



Blessed are you Lord, God of love, who has given us all the gift of a Father. Today we honor all fathers and praise you for showing them how to love. Reveal your purpose and plan for their lives. Bless them and protect them. Deepen their love and trust in you. We ask your blessings for them all. Father, help us to remember, it is your commandment that we should honor our father. Help us to tell them how much we love them. In the name of your Son, our model of what it means to honor our fathers. Amen.

SAINT JOSEPH, BRIMFIELD - SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD



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11th Sunday of Ordinary Time June 16th, 2024

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."
- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10*

We are all accountable for all of the gifts God has given us – our time, our talent and our treasure; everything we have and everything we are. Each of us is accountable not only for our own life but for the lives of others as well. One day God will ask each of us what did we do with the gifts we were given. How will you respond?

St. Joseph

Sat. June 15th 3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions
5:00 pm Mark Perkins+
10:00am Judy Maher+
Sun. June 16th 8:00 am Special Intentions
Mon. June 17th 8:00 am Brent Cluskey+
Tues. June 18th 8:00 am Walker Family
Wed. June 19th 8:00 am Walker Family
5:00—6:45pm Adoration & Confession
Thurs June 20th 8:00 am Paul Gilles+
Fri. June 21st 8:00 am People of the Parish
Sat. June 22nd 3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions
5:00 pm Peg Powers+
Sun. June 23rd 10:00am Paul Gilles+

When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." - St. Teresa of Calcutta

**St. James
Sunday Confessions
8:00 — 8:25 am**

**Sun. June 16th
8:30am**
People of the Parish

**Sun. June 23rd
8:30am**
Joanne Little
Offered by
Bonnie Strom

**Special Holy
Hour
As we celebrate this
years'**



**Eucharistic Revival,
St. James will be
hosting the
Diocesan Traveling
Monstrance on
Monday June 17th
Holy Hour
6:30pm-8:00pm**

St Joseph

Lector

Sat. June 15th Seaborn
Sun. June 16th Mattern

Sat. June 22nd Burns
Sun. June 23rd Wilbur

**Please consider Volunteering to Lector
For more info ask Father Verrier**

Beginning, July 1st, Fr Deogratias Mpewo (Father Deo) will begin his appointment as administrator of St James over the next 36 months and administrator of St Joseph as well. Mass schedules will continue as normal.

Explanation of Terminology

Parochial Vicar: A priest assigned to assist the pastor, under his vision and authority.

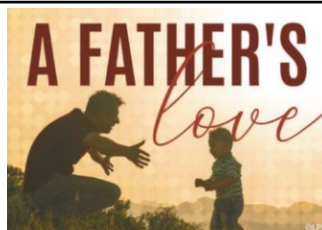
Pastor: A priest stably entrusted with the pastoral care of a parish under the authority of the diocesan bishop in whose ministry of Christ he has been called to share.

Parochial Administrator: A priest who is entrusted with the pastoral care of a parish on a temporary or provisional basis.

If you have questions about the Growing Disciples go to <https://growingdisciplescdop.org>
There are **no** changes in the Mass schedule.
The letters from the Bishop are in the back of the church and on the parish websites.

Happy Fathers Day

A father is a man who loves without cost to his children and tries to raise them to be fully human creatures with the abilities to make a difference in our world. Some fathers are successful, some are not. However, almost all try their best.



This Father's Day, let your dad know that you appreciate all his efforts.

Strength - Your strength in helping me to tell right from wrong was a great gift.

Honor - You taught me that to honor myself was a way to honor the God who made me.

Faith - Thanks Dad for having faith in me, when I was not sure I had faith in myself.

Love - You loved me even when I did not love myself. For that I am grateful.

Financial Stewardship

Like the sower in today's Gospel, I scatter as seed my gifts of time, talent, and resources; and I trust that, by God's grace and in God's time, these small gifts of myself may grow and flourish and help to bring about the Kingdom of God.

Sunday Totals: June 9th
St Joseph \$1316.00

**St James Total not available at
time of printing**

Mission of the Month of June
Women's Care Center



Father John Verrier Farewell

Father Verrier will be leaving for his next assignment as the Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor) of St. Malachy, Rantoul; St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Thomasboro, St. Lawrence, Penfield; and St. Charles Borromeo, Homer.

Please stop in at Harrison Hall on **SUNDAY JUNE 23rd (AMENDED)** from 1-3pm for cake and ice cream and to say goodbye.

No gifts please.

Your presence is all the present he wants.

Walk By Faith

"LORD, it is good to give thanks to you." We hear these words in today's responsorial psalm. Indeed, it is good to give thanks. Throughout the readings today we hear the faith being compared to the growth of nature, I particularly want to focus on the Gospel. We hear in today's reading from the book of Mark that the kingdom of God is "as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow.." This line demonstrates the generosity of God's love. We share in its beauty; however, it is God who does the work. The Gospel goes on to say "... he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit..." So is it with the kingdom of God. We must take action and prepare ourselves to enter into His Heavenly kingdom, yes, but it is ultimately a complete gift from God that we are able to receive. This is faith, to trust in God even though we don't fully understand the complete mystery of God's actions. It is easy to think that as we prepare for Heaven, we are working to earn it, however that is not the case. We cannot merit God's love. We cannot do anything to make Him love us any more or any less, His love is a free gift.

I am struck by a line in today's gospel, "he knows not how..." I want to highlight that, yes, the Kingdom of God is a mystery, but it is also quite simple. We will not fully understand this mystery until we arrive in Heaven, so let us not stress about the why and how of this mystery. Let us focus on the simplicity of it, all you need to do is receive. To trust when we cannot see, to follow Him when you don't know where He will lead. In God's infinite goodness, He lavishes His love upon us and allows us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Brothers and Sisters, this is GOOD NEWS. We have a God who loves us and the more we receive His love and remain close to Him, the better we prepare ourselves to receive the gift of Heaven. We remain close to Him and receive His love by keeping His commandments, by developing a prayer life, attending mass, loving our neighbor, and choosing to surrender our lives to Him. Because of faith, it is good to give thanks to God. So, continue to draw near to Him, continue to walk in faith by simply receiving from God.