



# St. James Knights of Columbus

24 Trees – 34 Volunteers – 83 Hours Volunteered

## Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at St. James Catholic Church

This was the third CommuniTree planting that the St. James Knights of Columbus have hosted at St. James Catholic Church outside of Charles Town.

These 24 trees, in addition to the 100 tree planted in [spring 2013](#) and 12 trees in [fall 2013](#), brings the total number of CommuniTrees planted at their church to 136.

A landscape architect who is a member of the church helped design the layout for the trees. The design features raised mulch beds, which were created by hauling in roughly 12 loads over dirt over the course of several days.

Once the six raised beds were created, another volunteer augured the holes using a Bob Cat.

The Project Leader, Michael

Azar, and several of his children picked up the trees from Inwood using the church's box truck.

On planting day, the volunteers had Mass at 7:00am and then began planting at around 9:00am.

Approximately 30 volunteers participated on planting day, including members of the Knights of Columbus, Trail Life, and American Heritage Girls.

Planting day coincided with St. James' first *Laudato Si'* Day. Named after the second encyclical of Pope Francis, this day calls on members of the Catholic faith to protect the environment. Deacon Dave, in St. James [newsletter](#) from May 2017 on Page 3, says "The Catholic Church calls us to be good stewards of God's creation



which begins with respect for all life. Our volunteers had a great time together as they attended morning Mass, planted 26 trees, trimmed weeds, laid mulch in the playground...", as well as cleaning in and around the church.

These trees will serve as a reminder for their congregation to protect the environment, and we applaud them for that message!

### A word from the Project Leader, Michael Azar:

*"Many remember doing our first planting a few years prior and love to watch the trees grow. The educational aspect is key to the event so the volunteers get an appreciation for the need "to grow trees not just plant them."*



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at [ctree@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:ctree@cacaponinstitute.org) or by calling 540-335-0687.