



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

August 13-14, 2022 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Reverend Zaverio Banasula, Administrator

St. Mary Catholic Church

109 Beech Ave., PO Box 1724
Coeburn VA 24230

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM

Tuesday Mass 5 PM

St. Therese Catholic Church

16661 Wise St., PO Box 56
St. Paul VA 24283

Sunday Mass 8:30 AM

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

890 W Main St., PO Box 730
Lebanon VA 24266-0730

Sunday Mass 11 AM

Wednesday Mass 6 PM

Cluster Contact Information

Telephone Office: 276-889-1690

EMERGENCY Need of Priest: 276-254-0176

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Website: www.spiritofthemountain.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Spirit-of-the-Mountain-Cluster-107130504274408>

Readings for this Week (August 14-20, 2022)

14 AUG SUN: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Psalm 40; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

15 AUG MON: Revelation 11:19; 12:1, 6, 10; Psalm 45; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56

16 AUG TUE: Ezekiel 28:1-10; Deuteronomy 32:26-28, 30, 35, 36; Luke 19:23-30

17 AUG WED: Ezekiel 34:1-11; Psalm 23; Matthew 20:1-16

18 AUG THU: Ezekiel 36:23-28; Psalm 51; Matthew 22:1-14

19 AUG FRI: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 107; Matthew 22:34-40

20 AUG SAT: Ezekiel 43:1-7; Psalm 85; Matthew 23:1-12

Scripture for next Sunday, August 21, 2022 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalm 117; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30

The Spirit of the Mountain Cluster and our Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064 and reach out to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-877-887-9603, or visit the Safe Environment page at <https://richmonddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children/>

40 Days for Life: September 28-November 6: Legal abortion is ending in Tennessee but Virginia is an abortion state! Sign up at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/bristol> for 40 Days for Life peaceful prayer vigil hours. The Vigil site has moved to the public areas around the new VA abortion clinic on 2603 Osborne St. Bristol, VA. Join us for these **40 Days for Life** interdenominational **prayer gatherings**:

Tuesday, Sept. 20th at 6:00 PM at the Bridge Church
(50 24th St, Bristol, TN 37620) Pizza will be served.

Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 6:30 at St. Anne Catholic Church (316 Euclid Ave. Bristol, VA 24201).

Sunday, Nov. 6th at 4:00 at the vigil site (2603 Osborne Street, Bristol, VA).

For more information, email 40daysbristoltn@gmail.com

August is National Make-a-Will Month! As Catholics, we are called to plan ahead and share the blessings of our lives with our loved ones and future generations. To help you be a steward of everything God has entrusted to your care, the Catholic Community Foundation has shared with our Spirit of the Mountain Cluster a free, online Will-writing tool. It is cost-free, legal, and takes 20 minutes or less to protect your family and your assets, and create a legacy gift to pass the Catholic faith onto future generations at our parish. For more information contact the church office or go to <https://www.freewill.com/RichmondCatholicFoundation>.

Single and Catholic? September 16th-18th, 2022 - join hundreds of single Catholics coming from all parts of the US (and beyond!) at the 21st National Conference for Single Catholics at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly, VA. The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, Mass, adoration, opportunities for confession, fellowship, food and more. Register with this promo code (PARISH22) to get \$50 off! Discount for the first 50 sign ups nationwide to use this code. Visit NationalCatholicSingles.com for more information and to register. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)

SACRAMENTS: Please contact the church office or priest to make arrangements for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick or Holy Matrimony as well as funerals.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "I have come to set the earth on fire," Do you want to carry the fire of the Lord to his people as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org

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Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – August 15, 2022. On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which the Church celebrates every year on August 15. Simply put, the dogma of the Assumption states that at the end of her life, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken, body and soul, into Heaven. Because this holy day falls on

a Monday, by decision of the United States Conference of Bishops and confirmation by the Holy See, whenever the Solemnities of Mary, Mother of God (January 1), the Assumption of the Blessed Virginia Mary (August 15), or All Saints (November 1) fall on a Saturday or a Monday, **the obligation to attend Mass is lifted.**

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 6 Offertory \$ 475 **Attendance 17**

Gen Hunsaker Kelly Memorial \$ 200

MASS INTENTION: Terry and Donna Bates pray for the repose of the soul of Genevieve Hunsaker

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Alton Lawson, Jr., Sister Stacey Hanrahan, Lillie Peters, Billy Hunsaker, Charles Bennett, Jim Hatch, and Bobby Kyle.

August Birthdays: Carol Perry (5)

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ST. TERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 7 Offering \$ 220 **Attendance 7**

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Margaret Meade, Jackie and Scotty White, Helen Moretz, Danny Laney, Tom Lusk, and Marty Jessee

August Birthdays: Eusebio Cardenas (15), Angel Sproles (29)

- Thank you to all who stayed after Mass last Sunday for the finance council meeting.
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GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 7 Offering \$ 947 **Attendance 20**

Votive Candle Donations \$ 5

PRAYERS REQUESTED: James White, Bob Dorton, Danny Laney, and Jackie & Scotty White

August Birthdays: Sandy Altenbach/Ruby Hernandez (1), Seth Dorton/Dawn Figueiras (2), Francisco Hernandez Rodriguez (Senior) (18), Mathew Dillon (27), Alexa Castro (28), Dave Britten/Bob Dorton (31)

- After Mass today, August 14, the **Good Shepherd parish pastoral council** will be meeting in the living room next to the church. The council is not fully staffed. If anyone wishes to share their time and talent and serve on the council, please contact Father Xavier. If you would like to sit in at the council meeting as a visitor you are most welcome.
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RISKY DEVOTION

Melanie B. Coddington

This Sunday's readings give us a glimpse (or two or three) of the risks involved in radical obedience to God's call. Prophetic types, who like Jeremiah and Jesus speak the hard truth, especially to power, inevitably meet resistance and frequently rejection, even from family and community.

In today's first reading, we meet the prophet Jeremiah at a desperate moment. Out of favor with the dueling powers-that-be (due to his dire warnings of destruction) Jeremiah has one last chance to change his tune. Instead, he delivers a decidedly unpatriotic message: "Thus says the Lord: He who remains in the city shall die by sword, or famine, or pestilence; but he who goes out to the Chaldeans shall live; his life shall be spared as booty, and he shall live. ...This city shall certainly be handed over to the army of the King of Babylon; he shall capture it." In a nutshell: Surrender or die. Let go of power or watch Jerusalem burn to the ground. This sets the stage for the part of the story we hear at Mass.

The princes, whose collective power rivals that of King Zedekiah, reject Jeremiah's doomsday declaration. Threatened by his truth, they demand his death. Hapless Zedekiah gives in to their wishes, and the princes throw Jeremiah into a courtyard cistern, where he sinks down in the mud. We can imagine his desperate prayers from the bottom of the pit.

It seems that Jeremiah has one last friend in high places. A court official, Ebed-Melech the Cushite (i.e., the Ethiopian), intervenes and persuades the king to draw Jeremiah up from the pit, delivering him from certain death.

The dramatic rescue portrayed in verses one and two of today's selection from Psalm 40 fits hand-in-glove with Jeremiah's tale. In the current Lectionary translation (RNAB), the repetition "waited, waited" implies the urgency and immediacy of the verb in the original Hebrew, echoing the desperation of the prophet in the pit.

Verse three mentions a "new song," signaling a real-life transformation apparent to others: "And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and trust in the Lord." This suffering one, now delivered, has become a living sign.

For most of us, most of the time, change happens, but soon enough life settles back into some version of the status quo. The "new song" of Psalm 40 indicates a more radical shift—to a whole new place, or a new plain of existence, as might occur in the wake of a death or a birth. The revered scripture scholar, Walter Brueggemann, calls this place New Orientation and explains that getting there requires a break with old ideas and ways of doing things, a letting go of the past.

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees what lies ahead—the "baptism" of his passion and death. His great anguish comes through as he warns his disciples of the cost of following him: Once reliable bonds of blood or kinship by marriage will break down, as the message of the gospel hits home. Once stable communities will fracture as the truth meets rejection.

The letter to the Hebrews offers some solace. In taking the risk of discipleship, putting all that we are in the hands of God and at the service of God's reign in our world, we are not alone, but "surrounded by...a cloud of witnesses." And more importantly, Jesus has gone before us, through the worst that the world can dish out; through rejection, betrayal, suffering and death; and has come to a new and glorious place at the right hand of God. With our eyes on him, and his Spirit flowing through us, we too can face the perils of the journey, bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel in our words and actions, and accepting the consequences as our share in the sufferings of Christ.