



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

July 9-10, 2022 – 15th 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 4 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

Cluster Contact Information

Telephone Office: 276-889-1690

EMERGENCY Need of Priest: 276-254-0176

e-mail: office@spiritofthemountain.org

Website: www.spiritofthemountain.org

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

Readings for this Week (July 10-16, 2022)

10 JULY SUN: Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Psalm 69; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

11 JULY MON: Isaiah 1:10-17; Psalm 50; Matthew 10:34-11:1

12 JULY TUE: Isaiah 7:1-9; Psalm 48; Matthew 11:20-24

13 JULY WED: Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16; Psalm 94; Matthew 11:25-27

14 JULY THU: Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Psalm 102; Matthew 11:28-30

15 JULY FRI: Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Isaiah 38:10-12, 16; Matthew 12:1-8

16 JULY SAT: Micah 2:1-5; Psalm 10; Matthew 12:14-21

Scripture for next Sunday, July 17, 2022 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:1-10; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42

SAVE THE DATE: July 31 (SUNDAY) NOON has been set as the day for our cluster picnic. This year, 2022, the cluster picnic will be at the Lebanon Community Center Park (behind the First Bank & Trust Company, 359 West Main Street). There will be bingo, corn hold, splash pad, volleyball, and maybe softball and of course we hope plenty of food. Our picnic committee is excited—for food details see Ruby Dorton at Good Shepherd, Betty Meade at St. Therese, and Donna Bates at St. Mary.

WORD AMONG US: The Word Among Us booklets for July/August are at the back of the church, free for the taking—both English and Spanish versions are available.

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

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Faithfulness to one’s vocation is essential to holiness. Is yours to be a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Parish Safety Webinar. Recently the Diocese presented a webinar to assist in general preparedness and to provide additional information regarding available resources in light of the abortion-related Supreme Court decision and the recent, tragic, shootings in the U.S. This webinar was planned in collaboration with the Virginia Fusion Center, a partnership between the Virginia State Police and Virginia’s Department of Emergency Management. It tells how to recognize suspicious behavior and what to do about it. Also offered is information on additional resources and a discussion of the work of the Virginia Fusion Center. If you wish to view the webinar please go to <https://extranet.richmonddiocese.org/risk-management/>. If you have questions and/or problems viewing the webinar, please contact the church office.

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ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 2 Offertory **\$ 675.00** **Attendance 45**

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

July Birthdays: Rachael Bates (6), Alton Lawson, Jr. (22), Gregory Perry (24), and Patty Nauss (27).

- **Thank you** to all who came out to join in the 50th wedding anniversary of Terry and Donna Bates.
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ST. TERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 3 Offering **\$ 385.00** **Attendance 11**

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

July Birthdays: Angel Cardenas (14), Bill White (20), Bj Molinary (28), and Marty Huber (31).

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 3 Offering	\$ 980.00	Attendance 12
Votive Candle Donations	\$ 8.10	
Living Our Mission Parish Share Check	\$ 16.67 *	

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

July Birthdays: Kelly Gilmer (2), Francisco Hernandez (12), Ruby Dorton/Maggie Lindvall (14), Ximena Onate (18), Taylor Settle (24), Ronnie Gilmer (27), and Shyann Hubbard (30).

- The **Good Shepherd parish pastoral council** has lost several members over the past several years. Parishioners are called to prayerfully consider **sharing** their **time** and talent by stepping up to **serve on your church council**. The parish pastoral council sets goals and objectives of the parish as determined by the pastor and should include the needs of the parishioners in the areas of liturgy, religious education, community concerns and family life, etc.

- *The Living Our Mission (LOM) Campaign was conducted by the Cluster in 2015. Good Shepherd received pledges and cash contributions totaling \$28,400 from a total of 12 parishioners and one visitor (the goal was \$29,000). One parishioner died, others moved out of the parish without fulfilling their pledge. To date, the parish has received back \$12,322.12 of the \$18,483.18 received by the Diocese. These funds have assisted the church in maintaining our buildings.

- The **basket** for your **offertory donation** as usual is at the back of the church.

PARABLE: YARN WITH A TWIST

Melanie B. Coddington

Jesus spoke in parables that drew in his listeners with believable characters and recognizable situations. He used the mundane and familiar to set up his audience for surprises. Our own familiarity with these stories has rendered them far too benign. It takes some work to listen anew and recognize their shock value.

In the tale of the traveler attacked by robbers (Lk 10:25-37), a priest and Levite (purified and ready for worship) passed by the wounded man on the other side. First century Jewish listeners would have understood their choosing the safe course, what with pressing temple

PARABLE: YARN WITH A TWIST
Melanie B. Coddington (continued)

responsibilities and the real possibility of a trap (involving this supposedly wounded man and two or three accomplices waiting in ambush). The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was, after all, notorious for peril and foul play.

While Jesus cast religious leaders as apathetic passers-by, he cast the lowest scoundrel, a Samaritan, as the hero. Our typical descriptor, the Good Samaritan, would have sounded in first century Jewish ears as an oxymoron—a contradiction in terms. Yet in this yarn-with-a-twist, only this despicable outcast dared to take a closer look, and moved with pity, helped the wounded man.

This surprise ending scandalized everyone who heard it. A good many probably turned away in defensive anger, unable to face the last-shall-be-first consequences of Jesus' vision of the kingdom. Others understood the social ramifications and felt the threat to their own power. They stepped back only to gossip and scheme against him. A few surely stood there, shaken and confused, but so taken with this Jesus and so struck by his words that they could summon no power to escape. These stood completely vulnerable to this man and his message.

Jesus' vision of the reign of God, proclaimed in his words and actions, threatened to upend the social order: "For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last" (Lk 13:30). This potential reversal-of-fortunes appealed most to those who had nothing to lose. The first disciples, for example, had little stake in religious institutions and power structures. They lived their lives on the fringe or even outside the protection of the establishment. Jesus proclaimed a reign of God that included them, even honored them over more influential and important people: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours...But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation" (Lk 6:20, 24). Shocking!

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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/>