



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

July 16-17, 2022 – 16th 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 17-23, 2022)

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

18 JULY MON: Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Psalm 50; Matthew 12:38-42

19 JULY TUE: Micah 7:14-16, 18-20; Psalm 85; Matthew 12:46-50

20 JULY WED: Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10; Psalm 71; Matthew 13:1-9

21 JULY THU: Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Psalm 36; Matthew 13:10-17

22 JULY FRI: Song of Songs 3:1-4; Psalm 63; John 20:1-2, 11-18

23 JULY SAT: Jeremiah 7:1-11; Psalm 84; Matthew 13:24-30

Scripture for next Sunday, July 24, 2022 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

CLUSTER PICNIC: July 31 (SUNDAY) NOON is the day of our cluster picnic. It is hoped as many parishioners and their family/guests will be able to come to the Lebanon Community Center Park (45 Gibson Street, Lebanon) (behind the First Bank & Trust Company, 359 West Main Street). The church has rented the back larger pavilion down at the end of the parking lot where the splash pad is. There will be bingo (**if anyone has bingo prizes they'd like to donate, please let your committee person know and bring items to church for them**), corn hole, splash pad, volleyball, and maybe softball and of course we hope plenty of food. To plan food we need a count of how many people will be attending. **If you plan to attend the picnic be sure to let your committee person know or sign up by the July 23-24 weekend.** Our picnic committee is excited and has been planning for this event for months. Thanks to Betty Meade at St. Therese, and Donna Bates at St. Mary, and Ruby Dorton at Good Shepherd for working on getting us all together. The pool is open Sunday 1pm-5pm and costs \$3 for ages 12 and under and senior citizens. The cost is \$5 for ages 13 and up. Bring your favorite picnic food—items already accounted for is the meat (hot dogs and hamburgers), buns, fruit, watermelon, plates, etc., condiments, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, baked beans, chips, hot dog chili, lemonade, ice tea (sweet and unsweet). Each parish has volunteered to provide those items and also a cooler of drinks. Other food items are needed—bring your favorite and please let your picnic committee member know the dish you plan to bring.

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

COVID-19 News. As of today, July 8, 2022, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website reports Russell County with a medium COVID-19 transmission rate. Per the (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and our Diocese, with a COVID-19 Community Level designation of medium or low, it is recommended: Masks be worn at the discretion of the individual. Here is a link to the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Fiscal Year 2023 Budgets for our three cluster parishes, St. Mary, St. Therese, and Good Shepherd were prepared, reviewed and accepted by church finance councils and forwarded to the Diocesan Office of Finance. The **Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Reports** are in the process of being prepared and approved by the councils. If any parishioner would like to have a copy of these documents, please contact the church office at 276-889-1690 or e-mail office@spiritofthemountain.com. The June monthly financial reports e-mailed to parishioners this week will reflect yearend figures.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "It is He whom we proclaim." Are you being called to proclaim Christ and the word of God? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Let's Love our Longevity Zoom Session. The Diocese's Office of Christian Formation will have their second session for their Lunch & Learn Series from 12:30-1:30pm via Zoom on these Thursdays coming up: July 21, 2022 and August 11, 2022. Even if you missed the first session, you can still join this Thursday. You will hear E. Ayn Welleford, MSG, PhD, AGHEF, Gerontologist, who believes giving care to an older adult goes both ways. Welleford has 30 years in the field and currently serves as an associate professor and gerontologist for community voice, the Department of Gerontology with Virginia Commonwealth University. Click here to register for all these zoom sessions.

<https://richmonddiocese.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJlof-uqrDkjHdOxX4iuXbNI7tqauAQqa00h>

IRA Bulletin Blurb: Did you know that individuals 72 and older are eligible to make tax-free Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA of up to \$100,000 annually? This type of gift counts toward the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and may not be counted toward his or her adjusted gross income (AGI). A QCD is an easy way to make a tax-free gift to your parish. To learn how you can make an impact through your IRA right now, contact your financial advisor or Maggie Keenan at the Catholic Community Foundation - 804-622-5221 or mkeen@richmonddiocese.org.

World Youth Day 2023. Summer 2023. Lisbon, Portugal. Have you ever wanted to celebrate Mass with the Pope? Interact with young Catholics from around the world? Visit Marian apparition sites in Europe? All young adults ages 18-35 are invited to join our Diocesan World Youth Day 2023 Pilgrimage! For World Youth Day 2023, the Diocese is sponsoring two options: CORE PILGRIMAGE: July 28-August 7, 2023, roughly \$4,000 per person. EXTENDED PILGRIMAGE: July 24-August 7, 2023, roughly \$5,000 per person. Check out our website <https://evangelizerichmond.org/events/world-youth-day-2023/> for more information on how to register today!

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/>

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 9 Offertory **\$ 665** **Attendance 17**
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).

- Tuesday weekday Masses will begin July 19 at 5:00 PM.

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 10 Offering **\$ 106** **Attendance 10**
July 10 Donations **\$ 625**
PRAYERS REQUESTED: Margaret Meade, Jackie and Scotty White, Helen Moretz, Danny Laney, Tom Lusk, and Marty Jessee
July Birthdays: Angel Cardenas (14), Bill White (20), Bj Molinary (28), and Marty Huber (31).

- The Deanery 14 group of priests will be meeting at St. Therese on Wednesday, July 20. Thank you to the parishioners for offering to serve breakfast/lunch.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 10 Offering **\$ 515** **Attendance 14**
Votive Candle Donations **\$ 8**
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).

- **Finance Council** will meet **TODAY** after **Mass July 17** to review the annual report.
- Please **put your name and number of people on the list at the back of the church if you plan to be at the Cluster’s July 31 picnic**. The number of attendees is needed so enough food will be prepared.
- At the back pf the church there is a **July 31 cluster picnic sign-up sheet** for what you plan to bring to the picnic – your favorite picnic side or dessert. It would be good to put your food in a disposable container and also make extra to serve all three cluster church parishioners/guests. Be sure to sign up.
- The **Good Shepherd parish pastoral council** will be meeting after **Mass Sunday, August 14**. We only have three of six members for the council. If anyone wishes to share their time and talent and serve on the council, please contact Father Xavier.
- The **basket** for your **offertory donation** as usual is at the back of the church. If you forget to drop your offering in the basket, it may be mailed to the parish at the address on page 1. We thank all who support their church in whatever way is best for you.

THE BETTER PART
Melanie B. Coddington

When we read scripture, we look back though time into the lives of our ancestors in faith. Yet most of us know little of their culture or worldview. Relying solely on our 21st century American lens, we risk limiting our vision and missing deeper insights hidden in the stories. In truth, the individualistic culture that surrounds us could not be more different from the world of Abraham and Sarah, who feature in today’s first reading.

THE BETTER PART
Melanie B. Coddington (continued)

From biblical scholars specializing in cultural context, I have discovered a few valuable clues. First, our ancestors in faith lived in a profoundly communal culture. The individual had no life or identity outside of the group (family, clan, tribe). Second, the honor (esteem, reputation, public perception) of one’s group had to be preserved at all costs. Third, harsh conditions made life in the desert precarious and travel dangerous. Finally, hospitality to travelers (and most especially, strangers), practiced by all as a cultural imperative, guaranteed safe passage to all when needed.

Today we find Abraham, dozing in the shade, stirred into action by the appearance of strangers. He runs, bows, and humbly offers hospitality—water, shade, and food—for their rest and refreshment. Doing so fulfills cultural expectations and maintains the honor of his clan, showing their prosperity and generosity. (Not doing so would bring shame and diminish honor.) Once the strangers settle in, Abraham dashes about, ordering his wife, Sarah, and one of his servants to prepare the very best bread and meat that his clan has to offer. Finally, he serves the guests himself, offering not only tangible comforts but his undivided attention. In this context, he receives the Lord’s promise.

The brief story recounted in today’s reading from the Gospel according to Luke has been a favorite of mine for years. As a woman in ministry, I can surely relate to both sisters. Like Martha, I can get caught up in frenetic activity, trying to do everything for everyone. Like Mary, I long to take a quiet seat at the feet of Jesus and really hear his word to me. On any given day, I play one sister or the other, and truthfully, Martha more often than Mary.

Like all great stories this one has multiple levels of meaning and fresh messages to offer us each time we encounter it, if we are willing to look beyond our immediate “first blush” interpretation. Just five verses in length, it is nonetheless packed with possibilities.

Luke describes Martha as “burdened with much serving.” This is no intimate dinner party of the two sisters and Jesus. Martha more likely has her hands full and home overflowing with disciples, relatives (certainly Lazarus, her brother), and neighbors dropping in to get a glimpse of Jesus.

Remember, hospitality, in ancient Mediterranean culture, goes beyond virtue or kindness. This cultural obsession maintains the social order. Failure to meet society’s expectations means loss of honor for one’s extended family.

Martha’s dutiful activity places her well within the boundaries of her culture. She does the proper thing. Hence, her irritation with her sister makes perfect sense.

Luke portrays Mary as sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening, casting her in the role of disciple. As a woman, and especially as an unattached one, her proximity to Jesus and his other (presumably male) listeners places her outside of the norms of her society. Her improper behavior warrants correction, if not reprimand.

Challenging the structures and strictures of his culture, Jesus affirms her choice. Here he demonstrates once again the egalitarian nature of the kingdom of God, where the greatest become the least and the lowly are lifted up, where women and men have equal access to the holy. Yet, on a human level, from daring Mary, Jesus receives the better part of hospitality—complete and undivided attention, signified by listening.

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The copyright allows the owner to protect the integrity of the text so that individuals may not introduce changes without permission. Royalty fees earned by licensing the text to companies who publish and sell Bibles help to provide funds for Scripture scholarship and other educational needs.