



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

August 6-7, 2022 – 19th 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

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

Cluster Contact Information

Telephone Office: 276-889-1690

EMERGENCY Need of Priest: 276-254-0176

e-mail: office@spiritofthemountain.org

Website: www.spiritofthemountain.org

Readings for this Week (August 6-7, 2022)

07 AUG SUN: Wisdom 18:6-9; Psalm 33; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

08 AUG MON: Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28; Psalm 148; Matthew 17:22-27

09 AUG TUE: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Psalm 119; Matthew 15:1-5, 10-14

10 AUG WED: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Psalm 112; John 12:24-28

11 AUG THU: Ezekiel 12:1-12; Psalm 78; Matthew 18:21-19-1

12 AUG FRI: Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63; Isaiah 12:2-6; Matthew 19:3-12

13 AUG SAT: Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13, 30-32; Psalm 51; Matthew 19:13:15

Scripture for next Sunday, August 14, 2022 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

CLUSTER PICNIC: Thanks to all for coming out to the picnic last Sunday. We were blessed to not have rain during the time we were at the park. Appreciation is given to all who prepared food and helped with the set up and clean up. A special thanks to the official picnic committee Betty Meade from St. Therese, Donna Bates from St. Mary, and Ruby Dorton from Good Shepherd.

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.

COVID-19 News. As of July 28, 2022, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website reports **Russell County** and **Wise County** with a community level of HIGH 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 high, it is recommended: Wear a mask indoors in public, stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, get tested if you have symptoms. Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness. Here is a link to the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Virginia is an abortion state! The abortionist in Bristol, TN is moving to Bristol, VA. As Catholic Christians we are called to stand up for life. From September 28-November 6, we need parishioners from Spirit of the Mountain cluster to publicly pray for the end of abortion by getting involved with 40 Days for Life. Contact Angie Bush or Jackie Early via email 40daysbristoltn@gmail.com or inquire through Eileen Panasewicz at St. Anne's 1-276-669-8200 extension 32. A letter has been sent to the Russell County Board of Supervisors requesting Russell County be made an Abortion Free County.

Not sure if we have any former RCHS students, but the school asked us to post this announcement. Attention RCHS (**Roanoke Catholic High School**) Classes of 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1979! RCHS **Reunion Weekend on Friday, August 26 through Sunday, August 28** hosted by the class of 1977. A fun weekend is planned; Football Game, School Tour, Reunion Celebration, Mass and Outdoor Adventure. Please visit following link to view schedule: <https://www.roanokecatholic.com/resources/alumni/>. Sign up SOON on Eventbrite under the TICKET section to purchase tickets for the Saturday Celebration. Contact Lilli Kelly Winstead lilwins@gmail.com for more information. To sign up for all other free events--<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rchs-class-of-1977-invites-classes-of-1974-1979-to-a-reunion-celebration-tickets-303119026167>.

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>.

- Next Sunday, August 14, the **Good Shepherd parish pastoral council** will be meeting **after Mass**. 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. If you would like to sit in at the council meeting as a visitor you are most welcome.
- The **basket** for your **offertory donation** will begin to be passed this Sunday. We will also have the offertory procession. You will not there is a small bowl of holy water on the baptismal font.
- **REMINDER: There will now be a weekday Wednesday evening weekly celebrated at 6 PM.**

FAITHFUL WAITING by Melanie B. Coddington

This Sunday's Lectionary selections could easily fit the 1st Sunday of Advent, when phrases like, "Be watchful!" and "Stay alert!" reference the Parousia or Second Coming of Christ. Some form of the word "wait" occurs in today's 1st reading, in the Psalm, and in the Gospel. Even the 2nd reading from Hebrews continues the waiting theme, though without use of the word.

A relatively brief reading from Wisdom begins our lesson on waiting with a review of the first Passover. The Hebrews, having been warned of the coming of the final plague in advance and instructed to sacrifice a lamb and mark their doorposts and lintels with its blood, must wait through the night, with loins girt, feet sandaled, and staffs in hand, i.e., ready to go. Admittedly, they have each other for company, and the lamb's roasted flesh to eat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, but this is no cheery farewell feast. They carry out the commandment of the Lord, but one can easily imagine their fear, as they partake of the sacred meal at the very edge of destruction.

Psalm 33 comments directly on this scenario: "See, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him...to deliver them from death...." The final line, "May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have put our hope in you," forms a bridge to the 2nd reading, in which we hear of Abraham and Sarah, who trust in God's promise and wait a lifetime for its fulfillment.

The Alleluia verse comes right out of the Gospel for the 1st Sunday of Advent, cycle A: "Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day the Son of Man will come." It launches us headlong into a parable on the vigilance and responsibility proper to a faithful servant of the kingdom of God. The brand of waiting described here implies activity, not passivity, a personal investment in the mission of Jesus Christ handed on to all disciples.

Though it comes to our ears outside of the season of Advent, this wakeup call compels our whole-hearted response. It calls us to trust in God, to hope in God's promise, to live in communion with Christ, and to serve the reign of God by the power of the Spirit. Like our ancestors, we wait in community, with God's Word to guide us and the sacred feast to sustain us on the journey.

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/>