



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

August 20-21, 2022 – 21st 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 21-27, 2022)

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

22 AUG MON: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Psalm 96; Matthew 13:13-22

23 AUG TUE: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17; Psalm 96; Matthew 23:23-26

24 AUG WED: Revelation 21:9-14; Psalm 145; John 1:45-51

25 AUG THU: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Psalm 145; Matthew 24:42-51

26 AUG FRI: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Psalm 33; Matthew 25:1-13

27 AUG SAT: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Psalm 33; Matthew 25:14:30

Scripture for next Sunday, August 28, 2022 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Psalm 68; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

The **September *Word Among Us* booklet** is now available. Spanish versions are also at the back of the church at Good Shepherd.

The **July monthly financial reports** have been forwarded by e-mail to parishioners. If you have not received a copy, please notify the office and provide your e-mail address. If you do not have e-mail, please provide your address.

The Diocese of Richmond remains committed to providing care and support to those who have suffered sexual abuse at the hands of clergy or Church personnel. As part of this outreach, Support Group sessions for survivors and their families are being offered. As a community, we strive to support survivors of child sexual abuse on their journey toward healing and wholeness. For those who have suffered abuse by clergy residing in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, we invite you to join virtually, August 24 at 7 pm. Spouses and affected community members are also welcome. These gatherings, led by an independent facilitator, will offer a safe environment for participants to connect, share experiences, support, and heal. If you would like more information, or the virtual meeting link, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (877)877-9065 or email dana@atreeplanted.org

Holy Moments (A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life) and The Wisdom of the Saints are two books the Cluster recently received from Dynamic Catholic. If you wish to borrow, please contact the church office. The book on the Saints is a daily inspirational reading and speaks of getting to be friends with the saints on a daily basis. The Holy Moments book is a story of revitalizing of shifting one's spiritual decay to spiritual flourishing. At Good Shepherd there is a closet filled with books (we call it the **Cluster Library**). If you are ever by the church and/or would like to pick up some reading materials, please contact the office and we would be happy to open the door so you could browse to your heart's content.

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.

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>.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.” Is God calling you to the priesthood? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 13 Offertory **\$ 475.00** **Attendance 12**

2022 Annual Appeal Parish Share Check \$ 1,077.50

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

August Birthdays: Carol Perry (5)

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 14 Offering **\$ 115** **Attendance 8**

Donation **\$ 500**

2022 Annual Appeal Parish Share Check \$ 137.49

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)

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 14 Offering **\$ 547** **Attendance 22**

Votive Candle Donations **\$ 10**

2022 Annual Appeal Parish Share Check \$ 1,232.50

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 Rodriquez (Senior) (18), Mathew Dillon (27), Alexa Castro (28), Dave Britten/Bob Dorton (31)

- **Thank you to Joyce Sapp** for joining our church’s parish council last Sunday.
- At the back of the church is a **signup sheet** for lectors, psalm readers, setting up the altar before Mass, ushers, collection counters after Mass. Training will be provided, if needed. We hope to begin this process the first Sunday in September on the 4th.
- There will be **no parish meal** on the fourth Sunday, August 28, **this month**. Several parishioners will be out of town. Hopefully, our next meal will be on September 25—there will be a signup sheet placed at the back of the church next month—it is important to place your name on the list so we are sure to have sufficient food.

HOMECOMING

Melanie B. Coddington

This Sunday's first reading contains some of the last words of Isaiah. Starting a few verses ahead of today's passage, we discover that those who defiled the land by the worship of false gods will perish. Then the Lord will call the neighboring nations to see his glory, and from among them will send forth messengers "to the distant coastlands," bearing the word of his mighty deeds. Finally, the remnant of Israel, Jews in exile scattered among all the nations will hear the call home and return to Jerusalem by every possible means of transportation, including horses, chariots, carts, mules, and dromedaries.

To sum up: Insiders will be cast out, outsiders invited in, and the lost welcomed home. This full-scale reversal of fortune links directly to the Gospel reading: "And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Psalm 117 follows the first reading, appearing in its entirety. Just two verses long, it is the briefest of the psalms but among the most inclusive and broad in its scope. Here, the national borders of Israel give way, as Psalm 117 invites all nations to join in the praise of the Lord God.

Though this tiny poem may have once served as the beginning of Psalm 118, or as the conclusion of Psalm 116; at some point it claimed its grand independence. St. Paul quotes it in support of his equally grand mission to the Gentiles in Romans 15:11.

The refrain, taken from Mark 16:15, provides emphatic marching orders, "Go out to all the world and tell the Good News." Verse 1 calls upon all nations to praise and glorify God, while the verse 2 supplies the reason for this universal praise: "For steadfast is his kindness toward us, and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever."

The kindness and enduring fidelity of God, that we experience through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Spirit, make possible our entry "through the narrow gate." Human striving will fail us, but Christ has offered himself as the way, the truth, and the life that leads to the Father. We "strive" (by the Spirit) to remain open to the grace (of the Spirit) that draws us home to God.

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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/>