



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

August 27-28, 2022 – 22st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Reverend Zaverio Banasula, Pastor

St. Mary Catholic Church

109 Beech Ave., PO Box 1724
Coeburn VA 24230

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM

Weekday Mass Tuesday Mass 5 PM

Adoration – After Tuesday August 30 Mass

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

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

Sunday Mass 11 AM

Weekday Mass Wednesday Mass 6 PM

St. Therese Catholic Church

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

Sunday Mass 8:30 AM

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 28-September 3, 2022)

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

29 AUG MON: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Psalm 119; Mark 6:17-29

30 AUG TUE: 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Psalm 145; Luke 4:31-37

31 AUG WED: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Psalm 33; Luke 4:38-44

01 SEPT THU: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Psalm 24; Luke 5:1-11

02 SEPT FRI: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Psalm 37; Luke 5:33-39

03 SEPT SAT: 1 Corinthians 4:6-15; Psalm 145; Luke 6:1-5

Scripture for next Sunday, September 4, 2022 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 9:13-18; Psalm 90; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33

40 Days for Life: Septemper 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

During the 40 Days for Life (September 28-November 6) a **St. Anne parishioner will be leading the Rosary every Friday at 12:00 PM.** Please join. If you cannot come at Noon, please come at any time Friday or any other day of the week. Please sign up for your prayer time at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/bristol>.

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

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.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord." Are you willing to accept the yoke of the Lord through a vocation as a as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 20 Offertory \$ 506 **Attendance 13**

Gen Hunsaker Kelly Memorial \$ 50

September 3 MASS INTENTION: Please pray for the repose of the soul of + Barbara Ann Saboites +

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

September Birthdays: Barbara Kate Sanders (8), Father Xavier (10), Jordan Collins (16), and Chris Lawson (27)

ST. TERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 20 Offering \$ 195 **Attendance 8**

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

September Birthdays: Father Xavier and Frank Molinary (10), Cas Renkiewicz (21), Jackie White (30)

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GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 20 Offering	\$ 323	Attendance 28
Votive Candles	\$ 8	

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

August Birthdays: Mathew Dillon (27), Alexa Castro (28), and Dave Britten/Bob Dorton (31).

September Birthdays: Jose Mendoza, Sr. (8); Ralph Griffith (9), Father Xavier (10), Katie Gilmer (15); Patti Silvers (29).

- 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.
- September 25 is the date for the next parish meal. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. Thank you.

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There will be no bulletin next weekend (September 5/6); therefore, the following Readings for the Week are shown below.

Readings for this Week (September 4-10, 2022)

04 SEPT SUN: Wisdom 9:13-18; Psalm 90; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33

05 SEPT MON: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Psalm 5; Mark 6:6-11

06 SEPT TUE: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Psalm 149; Luke 6:12-19

07 SEPT WED: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Psalm 45; Luke 6:20-26

08 SEPT THU: Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 12; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

09 SEPT FRI: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27; Psalm 84; Luke 6:39-42

10 SEPT SAT: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Psalm 116; Luke 6:43-49

Scripture for the next Sunday, September 11, 2022 – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14; Psalm 51; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” Are you being called to discipleship as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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/>

PRACTICAL HUMILITY

Melanie B. Coddington

This Sunday's 1st reading from the Book of Sirach struck me as an odd collection of snippets, until I opened the Bible and read between the lines. Verse 17 begins our reading and introduces the theme: "My child, conduct your affairs with humility; and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." Gift-giving places an obligation on the receiver to reciprocate, whereas humble behavior on the part of an honorable person bestows esteem on others as a free gift.

Verse 18 builds on this idea: "Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God." This puts the divine stamp of approval on humble behavior toward others. Verse 19 (missing from our reading) expands on the previous verse: "For great is the power of God; by the humble he is glorified." This last verse links humility before others to humility before God. People of faith generally agree on the latter (humility before God) as a basic spiritual value. The former (humility before others) presents more of a challenge.

Starting with verse 20, the message shifts: "What is too sublime for you, seek not, into things beyond your strength, search not. What is committed to you, attend to; for what is hidden is not your concern. With what is too much for you meddle not, when shown things beyond human understanding."

At first glance, these verses seem to warn against venturing into the unknown (or expanding the boundaries of human knowledge into matters best left to God). And yet, the verses that follow put this warning in perspective: "Their own opinion has misled many, and false reasoning unbalanced their judgment. Where the pupil of the eye is missing, there is no light, and where there is no knowledge, there is no wisdom." These two verses speak to the necessity of broad knowledge and sound reasoning in the search for wisdom. Personal opinions invariably reflect the biases and assumptions, as well as the knowledge or ignorance of the persons who hold them. To progress from opinion to wisdom requires work.

In today's Gospel, Jesus puts humility in a social context. Speaking to the table guests with a parable, he warns of the danger of placing oneself above others. Taking the highest place at the table, one runs the risk of being sent unceremoniously to the lowest. Taking the lowest in the first place, one may be asked to move up higher. To sum up: Exercising humility, one gains honor in community. His final point circles back to the "giver of gifts" in the 1st reading. He advises his listeners to offer hospitality to those who cannot reciprocate. This generous act, like humble behavior, bestows esteem on others as a free gift.

Jesus himself has laid out the humble path of compassion and self-sacrifice that leads to inclusion in "the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven," spoken of in our second reading from the letter to the Hebrews. Following in his footsteps, by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, we need not fear to approach the living God, the judge of all. Today's Gospel verse (Mt 11:29ab) reminds us, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." Reading on, we hear Jesus' words of reassurance: "...and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light."