



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

September 24-25, 2022 – 26th 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

September 27—Adoration after 5 PM 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

Lebanon Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 9 AM to Noon

EMERGENCY Need of Priest: 276-254-0176

E-mail: office@spiritofthemountain.org

Facebook Spirit of the Mountain Cluster

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

Readings for this Week (September 25-October 1, 2022)

25 SEPT SUN: Amos 6:1, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31

26 SEPT MON: Job 1:6-22; Psalm 17; Luke 9:46-50

27 SEPT TUE: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Psalm 88; Luke 9:51-56

28 SEPT WED: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Psalm 88; Luke 9:57-62

29 SEPT THU: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 138; John 1:47-51

30 SEPT FRI: Job 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Psalm 139; Luke 10:13-16

01 OCT SAT: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Psalm 119; Luke 10:17-24

Scripture for next Sunday, October 2, 2022 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Psalm 95; 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10

SECOND COLLECTION – Retired Religious – This Weekend Collection: Help aging religious. Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously. Envelopes will be available at the back of the church—please be sure to include your name on the envelope.

Rosary. Beginning **next weekend, October 1-2**, the **rosary will be recited 30 minutes before each weekend Mass** in the Cluster. October is the month of the rosary. The liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.” Is your faith in Christ leading you to grow in holiness as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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.

The **October Word Among Us** booklet is available at the back of the church—Spanish version is available at St. Therese and Good Shepherd. Please help yourself.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 17 Offertory \$ 611 **Attendance 13**

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

September Birthdays: Chris Lawson (27)

October Birthdays: Lillie Peters (12), Debbie Goodman (25), and Robert Hatch (31)

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ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 18 Offertory \$ 165 **Attendance 13**

September 11 Donations \$ 550

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

September Birthdays: Jackie White (30)

October Birthdays: Danny Laney (10), Lucia Cardenas (26)

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GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 18 Offertory \$ 531 **Attendance 20**

Votive Candles Offering \$ 10

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

September Birthdays: Patti Silvers (29).

October Birthdays: Sharon Martin (9), Cheryl Spoharski (16), Colt and Amber Christian (17), Jose Mendoza/Jessica McCoy/Sara Griffith (27), Valerie Christian (28), Joyce Sapp (31).

- **Monthly parish meal** downstairs in the church building will be held after Mass this Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Thank you to those who prepared and brought food.
- This Sunday we bid **farewell** to **Bill and Clara French** as they head back south to Florida. We wish and pray for them to have a fun filled warm weather time and their safe return to us in the spring.
- 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.

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Diocesan Synod Synthesis Report. The ad-hoc Evangelization Commission has notified the office this report is complete and available on the Diocesan website at <https://richmonddiocese.org/diocesan-synodal-synthesis-report/>. The translation of the report is also posted in Spanish. Thank you for all who participated in the Synod process earlier this year. If you are unable to view the report and wish to have a copy, please contact the office. Note *The Catholic Virginian* September 5, 2022, issue's article on the synodal process. If you are not receiving *The Catholic Virginian* please send an e-mail to the church office.

40 Days for Life Bristol. The Bristol Women's Health (abortion clinic) in Bristol, VA is open and taking patients. **What can you do? Sign up now to pray** during the fall 40 Days for Life Vigil Sept. 28-Nov. 6th. Here is the site to sign up for hours--
<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/Bristol>.

Former Planned Parenthood manager Ramona Trevino, the director of outreach of the peaceful, prayerful, effective 40 Days for Life project, will tell the story of this groundbreaking effort in Bristol, VA on **Monday, October 3**. Trevino will be speaking at **St. Anne Catholic Church (316 Euclid Ave. Bristol, VA 24201)**, at **6:30 PM**. **Pizza will be served at 6:00** prior to Trevino's presentation. **RSVP** at 40daysbristoltn@gmail.com or call 1-276-644-0340 for additional information on this event at St. Anne Catholic Church Monday, October 3 at 6:30 PM.

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Act of Love

O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

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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/>

CLOSING THE GAP by Melanie B. Coddington

In this Sunday's Gospel, we see one pair of Luke's Beatitudes played out in story form. The two lines—"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God" (Lk 6:20), and "Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation" (Lk 6:24)—take on flesh in the parable of the unnamed rich man and the poor man, Lazarus. So too, our ears ring with an echo of Mary's Magnificat: "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty" (Lk 1:52-53).

Today's text dramatizes the contrast between the daily life of the rich man and that of Lazarus. "Purple garments and fine linen" clothe the former, while sores cover the latter; the one dines sumptuously, while the other longs for scraps but goes hungry.

Lazarus lies at the rich man's door. Disabled in some way, he cannot even beg for what he needs. Licked by stray dogs, but ignored by the rich man, Lazarus dies.

Yet the story does not end there. In death, Lazarus is lifted up and the rich man cast down. The drama continues in a desperate dialogue between the "netherworld" and the "bosom of Abraham."

Ancient Mediterranean culture understood wealth to be limited in quantity and already distributed. It viewed anyone who acquired more with suspicion; people assumed surplus wealth to be ill-gotten. To counter this suspicion and maintain honor in society, a wealthy person was expected to give alms, to act as a patron to needy clients. Financial windfall quickly distributed posed no threat to honor. Greedy behavior diminished it.

This ancient cultural arrangement might strike us as unrealistic—for we live and move in a profit-driven system. Like fish in water, we might easily swim along with little awareness of our economic environment, its effect on us, or our power to affect it. Though we may grumble at obvious greed we observe in the world, we resist knowing too much about the consequences of our own decisions and actions.

Today's reading from Amos calls affluent persons with this see-no-evil attitude complacent and prophesies an end to their "wanton revelry." Most of us can hardly be considered wanton in our relationship to wealth. We manage as best we can in difficult times and share as we are able. Yet these readings challenge us to open our eyes ever wider, to recognize the human dignity of the poor ones at our door and cross the threshold of our security in response to their need.

In Psalm 146, the Lord God sets the example for those who would claim the relationship of covenant. This One keeps faith, secures justice, gives food, liberates captives, protects strangers, and sustains the most vulnerable. In his life and ministry, Jesus embodies this generous mercy modeled by the Father.

St. Paul's letter to Timothy exhorts the young "man of God" to pursue virtues made manifest in just action toward others. The "commandment" he must keep, implied rather than spelled out here, might reasonably be, "You shall love the Lord, your God...and your neighbor as yourself" (Lk 10:27), or "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36).

All of this brings to my mind the parable of the last judgment (Matt 25:31-46), wherein Jesus places sheep on his right and goats on his left and explains the consequences of our actions or inactions. He challenges us to respond to persons in need with an investment of presence and compassion: to give food and drink, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. This challenge comes with a promise: When we get close enough to touch, we will encounter Christ in these sisters and brothers, and they will meet him in us.