



# SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

**October 1-2, 2022 – 27th 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**

**October 25—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](mailto:office@spiritofthemountain.org)

Facebook Spirit of the Mountain Cluster

**NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON**

**Readings for this Week (October 2-8, 2022)**

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

**03 OCT MON:** Galatians 1:6-12; Psalm 111; Luke 10:25-37

**04 OCT TUE:** Galatians 1:13-24; Psalm 139; Luke 10:38-42

**05 OCT WED:** Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Psalm 117; Luke 11:1-4

**06 OCT THU:** Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 1:69-75; Luke 11:5-13

**07 OCT FRI:** Galatians 3:7-14; Psalm 111; Luke 11:15-26

**08 OCT SAT:** Galatians 3:22-29; Psalm 105; Luke 11:27-28

**Scripture for next Sunday, October 9, 2022 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Kings 5:14-17; Psalm 98; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19

**Father will be out of town next weekend (October 8-9)** on a mission appeal trip at St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, VA. We are blessed to have a priest from St. Bede at our churches that weekend to celebrate our regular weekend Masses.

**Religious give thanks.** A sister writes, “We remember the many people who believe in the Retirement Fund for Religious, thanking them in prayer for their great generosity and compassion.” God bless you for donating to last week’s second collection.

**Rosary.** The **rosary will be recited 30 minutes before each weekend Mass** in the Cluster during the month of October **beginning this weekend, October 1 and 2.** All are encouraged to join in this devotion.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” Will you let the Holy Spirit guide you beyond your hesitation and follow Christ 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.

**September monthly financial reports** have been sent to parishioners by e-mail. If you have not received a copy, please contact the church office.

There are five new men beginning formation for the priesthood this fall semester, bringing us to **twenty-seven seminarians studying for our diocese.** At the back of the church there is posted a roster of our diocesan seminarians along with their addresses and birthdays. You are welcome to send birthday greetings and/or words of encouragement to them. Also you are asked to pray for the positive discernment throughout the year of the men who are in the application process for the fall of 2023.

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**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>September 24 Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 560</b>	<b>Attendance 20</b>
<b>Retired Religious Collection</b>	<b>\$ 106</b>	

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

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

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**ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>September 25 Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 150</b>	<b>Attendance 9</b>
<b>Retired Religious Collection</b>	<b>\$ 59</b>	

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

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

The **first of the month parish meal** will be held **next Sunday (October 9) after Mass** when the priest from St. Bede will be at St. Therese celebrating the Mass.

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**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

<b>September 25 Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 560</b>	<b>Attendance 20</b>
<b>Votive Candles Offering</b>	<b>\$ 3</b>	
<b>Retired Religious Collection</b>	<b>\$ 285</b>	

**MASS INTENTION:** For the repose of the soul of + Stephen Roman + as requested by Cathy Stiltner

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

**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).

- **Thank you** to all who brought food for our parish meal 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.
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**MEMORARE**

**Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come; before you I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.**

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**FANNING THE FLAME**

**Melanie B. Coddington**

Every now and then, the Lectionary readings seem to sound forth across the gulf of time and space and speak directly to our age and our situation. Listen to a line from today's reading from the Book of the Prophet Habakkuk: "Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and clamorous discord." This is a rough time in our world, in our nation, and in our church, with plenty of strife and clamor. The Lord's answer to Habakkuk seeks to calm the prophet and us along with him: "...the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment; and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late." In the final line of today's reading, we hear the key word: "...the just one, because of his faith, shall live." Times like this call for a renewal of faith. Otherwise, we cannot help but loose heart in the din of doom.

St. Paul says, "...stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-

control.” (The last word circles back to Habakkuk, where we hear about “the rash one.”) It seems that fear and recklessness have troubled our people through the generations, and St. Paul’s antidote—living faith in Christ—still applies.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus responds to the apostles’ demand, “Increase our faith,” with a reference to the mustard seed. According to Jesus, just a small kernel of real faith can do great things. What is it about the tiny seed that points to faith? It does nothing on its own, but relies entirely on earth, sun and rain, gifts of the Creator, for its growth and flourishing. Likewise, real faith trusts, relying entirely on God and not on our own efforts.

In his very first encyclical letter, *Lumen Fidei*, *The Light of Faith*, Pope Francis weighed in on the subject. He spoke not of beliefs, tenets, or codes, but of relationship, saying, “Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment, and that a vision of the future opens before us.” We hear in the Pope’s words an echo of the Lord’s reassurance to Habakkuk: “...the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment; and will not disappoint.”

The Holy Father built on this theme of faith rooted in relationship in *Evangelii Gaudium*, *The Joy of the Gospel*, saying, “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day....The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.”

Some of us Catholics may still feel a bit skittish about this language of personal relationship with Jesus. Certainly, we believe in God as a Trinity of persons; so perhaps we can talk about faith as relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. This relational faith rightly seeks the grace of the sacraments, the guidance of scripture and tradition, and the support of community to fulfill the mission handed on by Jesus: to proclaim the Good News of God’s love and mercy to all the world.

How do we fan the flames of faith? We don’t; the Holy Spirit does. We need only open the door and let the divine draft “stir into flame” the gift already given.

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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/>**