



October 15-16, 2022 – 29th 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

Facebook Spirit of the Mountain Cluster

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

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

Readings for this Week (October 16-22, 2022)

16 OCT SUN: Exodus 17:8-13; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Luke 18:1-8

17 OCT MON: Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 100; Luke 12:13-21

18 OCT TUE: 2 Timothy 4:10-17; Psalm 145; Luke 10:1-9

19 OCT WED: Ephesians 3:2-12; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 12:39-48

20 OCT THU: Ephesians 3:14-21; Psalm 33; Luke 12:49-53

21 OCT FRI: Ephesians 4:1-6; Psalm 24; Luke 12:54-59

22 OCT SAT: Ephesians 4:7-16; Psalm 122; Luke 13:1-9

Scripture for next Sunday, October 23, 2022 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; Psalm 34; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Rosary. The rosary will be recited 30 minutes before each weekend Mass in the Cluster during the month of October. All are encouraged to join in this devotion. Thank you to all who have participated in reciting the rosary thus far.

October 22-23 Weekend Second Diocesan World Mission Collection: Next weekend's collection is shared equally among **World Mission, Black & Indian Missions and Catholic Home Missions**. Special envelopes will be available for the collection. Pope Francis calls us all to support the work of his missions around the world. You can extend a message of hope to so many in great need. In Hosanna in northern Ethiopia, food insecurity is a longtime obstacle. Drought and violent ethnic conflicts, along with natural disasters and now exposure to the coronavirus, have made starvation a real threat. But there is hope. Local priests and Sisters are responding through food programs and with pastoral care. Through their efforts, they bring the comforting presence of the Lord, Who also knew suffering, and the reminder that no one who suffers is ever abandoned by God. It is a message that all of us, in our own struggles, need to hear. Our support of the National Black and Indian Mission collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to

coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you.

REMINDER. 40 Days for Life Bristol. 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 www.40daysforlife.com/bristol. You are invited to an interdenominational **prayer gathering to end of abortion** at St. Anne Catholic Church 9316 Euclid Avenue, Bristol, VA 24201, **Tuesday, October 18, at 6:30 PM.**

Respect Life Month is Opportunity for Catholics to Join in “Radical Solidarity” with Pregnant Mothers: The Catholic Church in the United States observes October as “Respect Life Month.” This year, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities invites Catholics to “practice radical solidarity and unconditional love” for pregnant and parenting mothers.

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* this past June returned the responsibility of limiting abortion from the judiciary to the legislature. For those of us who have prayed for this moment to arrive, says Archbishop Lori, “it is the time for a renewal and rededication of our efforts to build a culture of life and civilization of love.” He explains that “justice requires that the basic protections of the law against violence be extended to the preborn child” while explaining that building “a world in which all are welcome requires not only justice, but compassion, healing, and above all, unconditional love.”

Moving from law to culture, Archbishop Lori asks Catholics to “shift the paradigm to what Saint Pope John Paul II described as ‘radical solidarity,’ making the good of others our own good, including especially mothers, babies (born and unborn), and families throughout the entire human lifespan.” He reminds the faithful that “Our Church understands that parents, children, and families need help not just during pregnancy, but throughout the whole of life’s journey because millions of Catholics already accompany their neighbors in such circumstances.”

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “Beloved: Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed.” Are you being called to teach the word of God 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.

Make a Difference This Advent Through Your IRA: As we approach the Advent season, we hope you will consider making a charitable donation from your IRA to benefit our parish. If you are 72 or older, you can make your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA straight to our parish. And there may be a benefit to you: it could be excluded from your adjusted gross income (AGI).

Giving through your IRA is EASY! To learn how you can make an impact through your IRA right now, contact your financial advisor or Maggie Keenan at the Catholic Community Foundation - 804-622-5221 or mkeen@richmonddiocese.org.

New Year’s Retreat: Rebuilding Your Temple. Begin the New Year with an answer to the question: What does it really mean to be a temple of the Holy Spirit? Let Franciscan Friar, Fr. Peter Tremblay, lead you on a journey of discovery, beginning with God’s original temple plan in creation to the true temple food in the Eucharist. In addition to powerful preaching, there’ll be Mass, confession, Matins, Vespers, and Adoration. Plus time to simply reflect upon the New Year, enjoy the gas logs in our lounge, or explore the beautiful grounds of the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. Two nights, December 30-January 1. As a special treat, the

retreat includes a New Year's Eve banquet and traditional festivities. Last year's sold out, so register now at www.catholicconference.org/new-years. For more information email info@catholicconference.org or call 828.327.7441.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 8 Offertory \$ 580.00 **Attendance 18**
Gen Hunsaker Kelly (In Memoriam) \$ 50.00

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)

After the Saturday Vigil **October 29** Mass the **Finance Council** will have their **quarterly meeting**.

ST. TERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 9 Offertory \$ 218.00 **Attendance 10**
Donation \$ 500.00

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 St. Therese **Finance Council** will have their quarterly meeting **after Mass** on Sunday, **November 6, 2022**.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 9 Offertory \$ 657.00 **Attendance 19**
Votive Candles Offering \$ 5.00
Donation (in memory of Betty Childress) \$ 891.94

MASS INTENTION: For the repose of the soul of + **Sister Mary Louise E. Gallagher +**

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).

- Saturday, October 22, 2022, we will have a yard sale at the church. If you have any items for the yard sale, please bring them by the church before October 22. If you cannot bring your items Sunday or Wednesday when the church is opened, please call the office 276-889-1690 and leave a message.
- 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. Thank you to all who serve in these positions.
- **Sign-up** sheet for October 23 monthly **parish meal** at the back of the church.

Take My Hand, O Blessed Mother

Take my hand, O Blessed Mother. Hold me firmly lest I fall. If I'm nervous while I'm walking, quickly heed my humble call. Guide me over every crossing. Watch me when I'm on the stairs. Let me know that you're beside me, listen to my fervent prayers. Bring me to my destination. Keep me safe along the way. Bless my every undertaking, and my duties for the day. When the evening draws upon me, I do not fear to be alone. Once again, O Blessed Mother, take my hand and lead me home.

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/>

JOURNEY PRAYER

Melanie B. Coddington

Psalm 121 makes its one and only appearance in the Sunday Lectionary today, the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C. Its brevity allows use of the entire text, another rarity among responsorial psalms in the Lectionary. Scholars call it a psalm of confidence. Like the most familiar psalm of that genre, Psalm 23, it affirms the reliability of the Lord God as guardian and guide.

The section of the Psalter from which it comes (Ps 120-134) forms a collection of “songs of ascent.” Each psalm in the collection bears this designation above the opening line of poetic prayer. Superscripts such as these were most likely added by the priest-scribes who put the Book of Psalms into final shape, as the official hymnal for the newly erected temple, following Israel’s return from Babylonian exile. Scholars suggest that such psalms accompanied pilgrimage, especially to and from the temple in Jerusalem.

Psalm 121 begins with an anxious question. Looking toward mountains to be crossed over on the journey, the psalmist asks, “From where will my help come?” This implies real concern over the concrete dangers that beset travelers in the mountains—robbers, wild beasts, rugged terrain. Attack or injury in such isolated places can mean slow death, should timely aid fail to arrive.

In the next verse, the psalmist makes the ultimate statement of confidence, “My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.” This reference to God as creator assumes that the same ONE who creates also sustains and renews creation. From his throne in heaven (for Israel, not too distant, in the dome of the sky), the Lord Almighty sees and hears what transpires on the earth. Based on the long-standing relationship of covenant, Israel counts on the Lord God for guidance and protection.

The rest of Psalm 121 takes the form of a blessing, possibly pronounced by a priest over pilgrims journeying home from a visit to the temple. It portrays the Lord God as the ultimate guardian—awake and watchful. This ONE can be trusted to protect the travelers from injury (“God will not allow your foot to slip”), sunstroke (“By day the sun cannot harm you”), moon madness (“...nor the moon by night”), and “all evil,” as perpetrated by wild beasts and enemies.

In today’s reading from second Timothy, St. Paul looks back on a life’s journey nearly completed, recognizing the steadfast presence and protection of the Lord that has sustained him through all the difficulties and dangers along the way. Like Israel in the psalms, he expresses confidence in the Lord’s care going forward, based on his experience of it in the past. He knows death lies ahead, death for the sake of his mission to proclaim Christ to the Gentiles. In an echo of Psalm 121, he assures Timothy: “The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.”

This Sunday’s Gospel gives us a clue on how to maintain our trust in God’s love and protection. We read, “Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity to pray always without becoming weary.” (The story of the persistent widow follows.)

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, St. Paul presents the same idea with, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” Passages such as these certainly point to a discipline of prayer, both personal and communal, but do not stop there. Colossians 3:12-17 speaks to relational attitudes (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience) and actions (bearing, forgiving, loving, thanking, teaching, admonishing, and singing). Clearly, prayer flows outward from our designated prayer times. Colossians 3:17 sums up this comprehensive approach: “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Do we dare offer every moment of our journey, every word and action of our lives, as prayer?