



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS CLUSTER

October 22-23, 2022 – 30th 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

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Readings for this Week (October 23-29, 2022)

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

24 OCT MON: Ephesians 4:32-5:8; Psalm 1; Luke 13:10-17

25 OCT TUE: Ephesians 5:21-33; Psalm 128; Luke 13:18-21

26 OCT WED: Ephesians 6:1-9; Psalm 145; Luke 13:22-30

27 OCT THU: Ephesians 8:10-20; Psalm 144; Luke 13:31-35

28 OCT FRI: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19; Luke 6:12-16

29 OCT SAT: Philippians 1:18-26; Psalm 42; Luke 14:1, 7-11

Scripture for next Sunday, October 30, 2022 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 11:22-12:2; Psalm 145; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2; Luke 19:1-10
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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.

The Angeles. Beginning this weekend we start reciting **The Angeles** three minutes before the beginning of each Mass. This devotion reminds us of the Angel Gabriel's annunciation to Mary and about Christ's Incarnation. It is repeated as a holy invitation, calling us to prayer and meditation. A copy of The Angeles and other prayers are in the church pews.

This Weekend. Second Diocesan World Mission Collection after regular offertory collection. Today is World Mission Sunday. We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call—to bring the Gospel to all! The collection today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith supports the work and witness of the Mission Church, as it provides for priests, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions. This annual diocesan collection includes World Mission Sunday/Propagation of the Faith; Black & Indian Missions; and U.S. Home Missions. Special envelopes are available at your church. Thank you for your generosity.

WORD AMONG US November booklets are now available. A Spanish issue is also available.

2024 Calendars have arrived (English and Spanish). Please remember to thank Owens Funeral Service (1-276-889-1212; 7 Tate Avenue, Lebanon, VA 24266; www.owensfuneralservice.com) for giving these calendars to our Cluster free of charge.

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

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “All who humble themselves will be exalted.” Is humble service as a priest your path to holiness and eternal glory in Christ? 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.

November 1, 2022. All Saint’s Day. Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day, unless they have an excellent excuse, such as serious illness. All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints --that is those recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. Our Cluster Holy Day **Masses will be celebrated**

November 1 at 9:30 AM at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Lebanon, VA
November 1 at 5:00 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church, Coeburn, VA

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 mkeenan@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.

Namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19).

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/>

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 15 Offertory	\$ 560.00	Attendance 12
Gen Hunsaker Kelly (In Memoriam)	\$ 200.00	
October 15 Votive Candles Offering	\$ 4.00	
Donations	\$ 75.00	

MASS INTENTION: Repose of the soul of + Sister Genevieve Mary Simons IHM +

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

ST. THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 15 Offertory	\$ 190.00	Attendance 9
October 15 Donation	\$ 397.65	

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Anna Sproles, 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 16 Offertory	\$ 300.00	Attendance 17
Votive Candles Offering	\$ 8.15	
October 17 Donation	\$ 250.00	

MASS INTENTION: Repose of the soul of + Maryjane Fuller +

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).

- A BIG THANK YOU to our visiting parishioner, Jerry Childress, for the donation of the new, beautiful candlesticks at our altar. They are in memory of his late wife Betty Childress, who became familiar to us last summer as a frequent lector at Mass.
- 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 volunteer to serve in these positions.
- Today is our monthly parish meal—all are invited after Mass to come downstairs and join in fellowship.
- Please keep Don and Rose Barrett in your prayers. They were greatly affected by the recent hurricane Ian, which flooded their Fort Myers residence in Florida. Our snowbird parishioners, Bill and Clara French, who reside in Sebastian, Florida, reported no major problems as a result of the hurricane.
- Thank you to all parishioners and benefactors who continuously support Good Shepherd.

A MATTER OF ATTITUDE

Melanie B. Coddington

We might find it helpful to refer to the author of the first reading in today's liturgy as Ben Sira, and the name of the book as Sirach (to avoid confusion between its alternate designation, Ecclesiasticus, and the Book of Ecclesiastes, another gem of the wisdom tradition). A sage and scribe, Ben Sira lived in Jerusalem in the latter part of the Old Testament period, writing the text between 200 and 175 B.C.E.

Untouched by electricity or technology, our Hebrew ancestors in faith lived their lives from a different perspective. People who suffered illness or severe loss communicated this by relating the social dimensions. Not knowing of germs, viruses, or replacement hips, they understood misfortune to be caused, not by what, but by whom. An enemy or demon might get the blame, but both the harm and the plea for its healing landed squarely at the feet of the Lord God. Who else could be counted on to hear the cry of the poor?

In biblical parlance, poverty has implications beyond economic lack, pointing to abandonment or breakdown of the human relationships meant to keep the individual anchored in community. Those without family ties—orphans, widows, blind or incapacitated persons, and prisoners are considered truly poor. With no one else to help, they cry to the Lord, and their persistent prayer “pierces the clouds.”

The refrain of Psalm 34 echoes this emphasis on the prayer of the powerless, who sing praise rooted in the experience of utter dependence upon God. Considered as a whole, Psalm 34 is an acrostic: each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Acrostic composition helped our ancestors in faith learn and pray psalms by heart. Though undetectable in our English translation, our awareness of this form relaxes our expectation for a strictly logical progression. That said, Psalm 34 flows rather smoothly from thought to thought, a considerable accomplishment for a psalm composed under the acrostic discipline.

The verses selected for today (2-3, 17-18, 19, 23), begin with an announcement by the psalmist, “I will bless the Lord at all times ... the lowly will hear me and be glad.” Whatever comes after will be good news for the lowly, the humble, the poor ones who seek the Lord in their need. This sets up an important connection with the first reading from Sirach, “The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds,” and today's Gospel, “... whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” In prayer, attitude matters.

Verses 17-18 of Psalm 34 bear this out: “The Lord confronts the evildoers,” erasing even the memory of them. In contrast, “When the just cry out the Lord hears them,” and rescues them from distress. In the first case, the Lord must confront; evildoers seek nothing from him. In the second, the just cry out in their distress, expressing their need for God's help. You see, the materially poor have an easier time recognizing their dependence upon God, thus we hear, “Blessed are you who are poor,” in Luke's version of the Beatitudes, while Matthew's version opens the door for the rest of humanity with, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

In today's Gospel, we eavesdrop on two prayers, neither lacking in material wealth. The Pharisee's prayer “to himself” delivers an account of his exceptional conduct and piety, as if to remind the Lord that he truly deserves his good fortune. The tax collector stands back, beats his breast, and cries out for mercy. His prayer “pierces the clouds” and he is drawn back into right relationship with God. Thus Psalm 34:19 rings true: “The Lord is close to the broken hearted; and those who are crushed in Spirit, he saves.”