



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

JULY 27-28, 2024

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

Reverend Emmanuel Darfour Appah, Administrator

Saint Mary Catholic Church

109 Beech Ave., PO Box 1724
Coeburn, VA 24230

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 PM

Reconciliation Saturday 4:30 PM

***Weekday Mass Tuesday 5 PM Mass**

****There will be no weekday Mass 5PM
Tuesday, July 30***

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

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

Sunday Mass 11:00 AM

Reconciliation Sunday 10:30 AM

***Weekday Mass Wednesday 6 PM Mass**

****There will be no weekday Mass, Wednesday,
6PM, July 31***

Saint Therese Catholic Church

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

Sunday Mass 8:30 AM

Reconciliation Sunday 8:00 AM

CLUSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone Office: 1-276-889-1690

Office e-mail: office@spiritofthemountain.org

Website: <https://spiritofthemountain.org/>

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

**EMERGENCY: NEED A PRIEST? CALL 1-804-631-9027
or eappah@richmonddiocese.org**

Readings for 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (July 20-21, 2024)

II Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

Readings for 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (July 27-28, 2024)

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Psalm 78; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “My grace is sufficient for you.” Consider a calling to the priesthood or consecrated life. God’s grace is all you need. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

The Parish Council has decided to place a basket at the back of the church for parishioners to place donations for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry located on West Main Street. The Pantry appreciates any items donated but listed canned fruit, vegetables, soup, and meat as most needed

items. They also take beauty aids such as shampoo including body wash, toilet paper, etc. They do ask to not give anything in glass jars or with expired dates. The Pantry is operated by local residents Mark and Jennifer Skeen. Thank you to Sharon Martin for offering to deliver to the Pantry our donated items when the basket is filled. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Announcement to all

Thank you to Father Emmanuel for creating beautiful letterhead for the cluster and each of our churches.

The cluster rectory replaced a queen size mattress (it may be dated 2015 but not in bad shape). If anyone has an interest and is able to transport it, please tell Father or contact church office.

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a Safe Environment Specialist to support the Office of Safe Environment. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/3zTQ6e1>. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking an Administrative Assistant to support the Office of Black Catholics and the Office of Social Ministry. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/45YnnAw>. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a Coordinator of Campus Ministry to serve the Catholic Campus Ministry at Roanoke College in Salem, VA. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/3zMgVAK>. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

Attention Ladies of the Spirit of the Mountain Cluster. Our Cluster has been contacted by a parishioner from Father Emmanuel's former parish to let us know of a program that asks for special prayers for our priest. The program is called the **Seven Sisters Apostolate**. The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest. We are asking for our ladies to step up to this call to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour on one day of the week (each lady would choose one day per week to pray or to be a substitute in case someone cannot do their prayers in front of the Blessed Sacrament) for the sole intention of our priest. We need a minimum of 7 ladies to commit so that each day of the week would be covered for one hour. BUT, we also need substitutes who could pray on days when the original lady may not be able to get to the Church. Of course, ladies may pray at any Catholic Church with the Blessed Sacrament there. So, if someone is traveling, the prayers can be offered for the priest at a Catholic Church that one may find on the road. Please pray for guidance as each lady answers the call to prayer for our priest. Remember without a priest, there is NO Eucharist! If you can commit to this prayerful support of our priest, please text Donna Bates at 276-337-8279. Thank you!

Congratulations to Dave and Bev Britten on the birth of their new grandson. Ash Britten Greene born July 23 in Richmond.

Thanks to Dave Britten and Bob Dorton for putting up Father's storm door at the rectory last Sunday

SWVA 50th Anniversary Celebration: Father Emmanuel would like to know how many parishioners will be able to attend the Saturday, October 19 celebration at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Bristol. If you are planning on attending, drop a note for Father in the collection basket. It is hoped as many as possible will be there to represent our Cluster.

CLUSTER BULLETIN: While Cathy is having surgery and recovering, Janice Halsey will be doing the church bulletin. Please use the following email to send information: emmadalane69@outlook.com. Phone number is 276-596-0785 (been having issues with cell), if necessary, you may use direct line at work 276-883-5187.

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 email vac@richmonddiocese.org or visit the Diocese's Child Protection/Safe Environment page at <https://richmonddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children/>

SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 20 Offertory **\$610.00** **Attendance: 13**

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes before weekend masses.

July Birthdays: Rachael Bates (6), Alton Lawson, Jr. (22), Gregory Perry (24), Patty Nauss (27)

****No weekday Mass, Tuesday, July 30, at 5pm.**

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 21 Offertory **\$165.00** **Attendance: 7**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Tim Long, Jackie White, Helen Moretz, James F. White, Brayn Whited, JoAnn Detta, and Rodney Altizer.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes before weekend masses.

July Birthdays: Angel David Cardenas (14), Bill White (20), Marty Huber (31)

****St. Therese parish finance council will meet after 8:30 mass on Sunday, July 28, 2024. ****

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 21 Offertory	\$407.00	Attendance: 24
July 21 Votive Candle Offerings	\$ 8.00	
Donation	\$399.81	

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Valerie Christian, James White, Bob Dorton, JoAnn Detta, Jackie White, Phyllis Dotson, and Sherry Hubbard.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes before weekend masses.

July Birthdays: Francisco Hernandez (12), Feliza Ruby Dorton/Maggie Lindvall (14), Ximena Castro (18), Shyann Hubbard (30)

****No weekday Mass Wednesday, July 31 at 6pm***

*****Cathy Stiltner thanks everyone for the get well wishes and prayers!***

A suggestion was made that the lectors plan to come early to church on those days that they are scheduled to read so that they can open the lectionary to the correct reading for that Mass. The readings can be found in the Word Among Us booklet at the back of the church and/or The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops website <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>.

Good Shepherd Lector Schedule:

July 21/28 – Janice Halsey
August 4/11 – Frank Taylor
August 18/25 – Bill French
September 1/8 – Dave Britten

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Theme: Trusting in God's Abundant Providence

In our Gospel reading for today, we encounter the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. A seemingly inadequate amount becomes more than enough to feed a multitude, highlighting God's abundant providence and generosity. This miracle invites us to reflect on our own lives and the ways in which God provides for us beyond our expectations.

Often, we find ourselves in situations where our resources—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual—seem insufficient to meet the challenges before us. We may feel overwhelmed, anxious, or uncertain about how things will unfold. Yet, the message of the multiplication miracle is clear: when we trust in God and offer what little we have, God can transform it into something extraordinary.

Jesus instructs his disciples to “have the people recline” before he performs the miracle. This gesture of inviting the people to rest and be at ease before the meal symbolizes Jesus' care for their

well-being and his desire to provide not only for their physical hunger but also for their spiritual nourishment. In our own lives, Jesus invites us to rest in his presence, to bring him our concerns and fears, and to trust that he will provide for us in ways that we may not anticipate.

The boy who offers his five barley loaves and two fish exemplifies a spirit of generosity and trust. Despite the apparent insignificance of his offering, he gives it freely, believing that Jesus can do something with it. Jesus takes what is offered with gratitude, blesses it, and distributes it to all who are present, with twelve baskets left over. This abundance speaks to God's overflowing love and care for each of us.

As we reflect on this Gospel passage, we are invited to examine our own lives and consider where we might be called to trust more deeply in God's providence. Are there areas where we are holding back, afraid to offer what little we have? Do we trust that God can transform our limitations into opportunities for grace and abundance?

The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes challenges us to have faith and to recognize that God's ways are not our ways. Even when we cannot see a way forward, God can make a way. Let us pray for the grace to trust in God's abundant love and providence, knowing that with God, all things are possible.

May we, like the disciples and the boy with the loaves and fishes, offer what we have, however small it may seem, and allow God to work wonders in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Peace and Joy!!

Fr. Emmanuel