



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER
AUGUST 24 & 25, 2024
21st 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
Tuesday Mass @ 5PM

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
Wednesday Mass @ 6 PM

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 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (August 24, 25, 2024)
Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Psalm 34; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69

Readings for 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2024)
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; Psalm 15:2-5; James 1:17-18, 21b-22,27; Mark 7 :1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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.

40 Days for Life. From Sept 25th-Nov. 3rd, area Christians from various denominations are participating in the international 40 Days for Life vigil to end abortion. For 40 days, we will pray, fast, and have a peaceful daily prayer vigil near the Bristol Women’s Health abortion business located at 2603 Osborne St, Bristol, VA. To join this ministry, contact Angie Bush at 40daysbristoltn@gmail.com or (423) 482-2123. You can also learn more at www.40daysforlife.com or by coming to our kick-off prayer gathering on Sept. 17th.

40 Days for Life Kick-off & Prayer Gathering
Tuesday, Sept. 17th
5:30 pm pizza
6:00 Praise, Prayer & strategizing
Location: St. Anne Catholic Church
(316 Euclid Avenue, Bristol, VA)
RSVP Angie at 423-482-2123 by Sept. 13th

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.

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

August 17 Offertory \$530.00 **Attendance: 15**
Donations \$405.00

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.

August Birthdays: Carol Perry (5)

*** Ladies, we still need a minimum of 3 more ladies to volunteer to pray one day a week, 1 hour a day before the Blessed Sacrament for Father Emmanuel as part of the Seven Sisters Apostolate. Please contact Donna Bates at 276-337-8279 if you would be able to join us. Please prayerfully consider joining us. You can pray anywhere where the Blessed Sacrament is available. Thanks!

****St. Mary will not have a Saturday, October 19 Mass so that parishioners may attend the SWVA 50th Anniversary Celebration in Bristol at St. Anne's Catholic Church.**

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 18 Offertory \$190.00 **Attendance: 9**
Donations \$405.00

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.

August Birthdays: Eusebio Cardenas (15)

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 18 Offertory \$267.00 **Attendance: 20**

Votive Offerings \$ 6.00

Donations \$655.00

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.

August Birthdays: Sandy Altenbach/Ruby Hernandez (1), Seth Dorton/Dawn Figueiras (2), Franciso Hernandez (Senior) (18), Alexa Mendoza (28), Dave Britten/Robert Dorton (31)

**September 29 we will have our quarterly parish potluck meal. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

“Thank You” cards are at the back of the church, for YOU to sign. Last week each of our Cluster churches received a \$405 from a couple at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Chesapeake, VA. Our 2024 Annual Appeal goal has been met thanks to two Diocesan employees who pledged their donations to Good Shepherd. We are blessed to have so many generous donors outside our parish. Please sign the thank you cards. We are also grateful for our parishioners who give to the offertory.

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:

September 01/08– Dave Britten

September 15/22 – Janice Halsey

September 29/October 06 – Frank Taylor

October 13/20 – Bill French

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Theme: Lord to whom shall we go?

In our Gospel for today, we are confronted with a moment of decision, a turning point for the disciples and, indeed, for each of us as believers. Jesus has just shared profound and difficult teachings about the Eucharist, describing Himself as the “bread of life.” His words were not easy to accept, and many of His followers grumbled, finding the teaching too hard. This passage forces us to confront a fundamental question: What do we do when the teachings of Christ challenge us?

The disciples’ reaction is a mirror for our own lives. Like them, we may sometimes find Jesus’ words difficult to understand or accept. We might be tempted to walk away, to follow a path that seems easier, less demanding. However, Peter’s response provides us with a model of faith: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Peter’s answer is a profound expression of trust and commitment, even when the road ahead is unclear or challenging.

This Gospel challenges us to reflect on our own commitment to Christ. When we encounter difficult teachings or situations that test our faith, will we choose to stay or walk away? Faith isn’t about understanding everything perfectly; it’s about trusting in Jesus, even when we don’t fully understand. It’s about recognizing that Jesus alone has the words of eternal life and that remaining with Him, despite the challenges, is the only path to true fulfillment and peace.

As we reflect on this Gospel, let us ask for the grace to remain steadfast in our faith, especially when it is tested. May we, like Peter, declare with conviction that there is no one else to whom we can turn, for only Jesus offers us the fullness of life and truth.

Peace and Joy!!

Fr. Emmanuel