



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER
AUG. 31 & SEPT. 1, 2024
22nd 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 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

Readings for 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sept. 7, 8, 2024)

Isaiah 35 :4-7, Psalm 146 : 6-7, 8-9, 9-10; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “Keep the commandments of the Lord.” Seek a life deeply aligned with His divine will and purpose. If you feel He is calling you to become a priest or religious brother or sister, talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

BELATED HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO FATHER EMMANUEL! Father Emmanuel was ordained to the Catholic archdiocese of Accra in Ghana on August 26, 2017. We are blessed to have him as administrator of our parishes.

Seven Sisters Apostolate. Thanks to the Ladies who have stepped up to join in the Seven Sisters Prayer Apostolate! We have one lady for each day of the week. BUT we could always use extra help in case someone would not be able to fulfill their prayerful obligation for a specific day. If you would like to submit your name for an "extra" please text Donna at 276-337-8279 or Cathy Stiltner email office@spiritofthemountain.org
Thanks so much. God bless you all and let the praying for Father Emmanuel begin!!!

Food Donations are being collected by Good Shepherd for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. If any Cluster parishioners wish to donate to the pantry (items most needed canned fruit, vegetables, soup, and meat) bring the items to your mass and place them in bags at the back of the church. Father Emmanuel will transport them to Lebanon and place in the basket to be taken to the Pantry. Items in glass jars and with expired dates are not accepted.

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, there will be prayer, fasting, and 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

Word Among Us booklets for September are at the back of the church. Spanish versions are also available.

MARK THE DATE: SWVA 50th Anniversary Celebration--St. Anne Catholic Church (350 Euclid Avenue, Bristol, VA) beginning at 11:30 AM followed by lunch (food trucks available). There will be a history of each church in Southwest Virginia. You will be able to participate in a service project, pray the rosary, and attend a Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 PM. One of the highlights will be joining with an getting to know many other Catholics throughout the Southwest Virginia area. We pray our cluster will be well represented.

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 24 Offertory **\$408.00** **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.
September Birthdays: Jordan Collins (16), Chris Lawson (27)

****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 25 Offertory **\$196.00** **Attendance: 13**
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: Frank Molinary (10), Cas Renkiewicz (21), Jackie White (30)

**** There will be a Memorial Anniversary Mass Saturday, September 7, at 2 PM in St. Therese Catholic church for Jose and Lupita's son, Jonathan. All are welcome to attend. This is not a Vigil Mass; therefore, the obligation to keep holy the Sabbath day is not fulfilled.**

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 25 Offertory **\$369.00** **Attendance: 26**
Votive Offerings **\$ 3.00**
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.
September Birthdays: Jose Jr. Mendoza (father) (8), Fr. Zaverio Banasula (10); Patti Silvers (29)

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

****Please keep parishioner Alex Zachwieja's wife Gwen's family in your prayers. Her mother, Helen Clair Fuller Kiser, passed away August 16. May the perpetual light shine upon Ms. Kiser and may her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.**

LECTORS: Plan to come early to church on those days that you are scheduled to read so you 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 – Cathy Stiltner

A special thanks to the four ladies who signed up from our church for the Seven Sisters Apostolate group praying for Father Emmanuel and his intentions. It is a big commitment, so it is appreciated by those wishing to begin this prayer process in our cluster. Also thank you for a possible substitute. Please contact Donna Bate (276-337-8279) or Cathy Stiltner (276-971-5915) if you would be willing to be on call of possibly being available if one of the original seven for some reason is not able to fulfill her prayerful obligation on a specific day.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Theme: “What Truly Makes Us Clean” by Fr. Emmanuel

In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus teaches that it is not the external things like unwashed hands that defile a person, but the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The heart is the seat of our intentions, and it is from the heart that our actions and behaviors flow. The reading calls us to look inward, to examine the motivations and desires that drive our actions.

Jesus’ words invite us to a deeper understanding of what it means to live a life of faith. It is not enough to follow religious practices superficially; we are called to cultivate a sincere and genuine relationship with God. Our actions should be reflections of a heart that is aligned with God's love and justice.

In a world where external appearances often take precedence, this teaching reminds us of the importance of authenticity. Are we focusing too much on outward displays of piety while neglecting the inner transformation that God wants? True holiness is not about checking off religious duties but about allowing God's grace to purify and renew us from the inside out.

Let this week be an opportunity to ask ourselves where our hearts stand. Are we harboring bitterness, anger, or deceit? Are we letting these negative traits dictate our actions? Jesus offers us a chance to clean the inside of the cup, to align our hearts with His love, and to live out our faith with genuine integrity.

May we be inspired to seek a purity that comes from a heart transformed by God’s grace. As we strive to live out our faith authentically, let us remember that our relationship with God is not about mere rituals but about a heart that seeks Him above all else.

Peace and Joy!!