



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER
SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2024
23rd 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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sept. 7, 8, 2024)

Isaiah 35:4-7; Psalm 146; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37

Readings for 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sept. 14,15, 2024)

Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 116; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “He makes the deaf hear and the must speak.” If you feel Christ encouraging you to be a transformative instrument as 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.

Grandparents and Elderly: “Do not cast me off in my old age” (cf. Psalm 71:9). Pope Francis grants a plenary indulgence for Catholics across the United States who celebrate the fourth World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on September 8, 2024, under the usual conditions for such indulgences. The Pastoral Kit is available on the website of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life www.laityfamilylife.va .

Food Donations are being collected by Good Shepherd for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. If any Cluster parishioners wish to donation to the pantry (items most needed canned fruit, vegetables, soup, and meat) bring the items to your mass and place 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.

Father Emmanuel will be visiting St. Bridget Catholic Church in Richmond the weekend of September 21-22. This visit is a part of the Diocese's Mission Cooperative Program. St. Bridget's pastor, will be celebrating our weekend Masses. Please keep both priests and parishes in your prayers as this exchange takes place.

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

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 31 Offertory **\$405.00** **Attendance: 11**

August 31 Votive Candles **\$ 6.00**

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.

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

September 1 Offertory **\$294.00** **Attendance: 14**

September 1 Donations **\$ 70.00**

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.

September 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

September 1 Offertory **\$774.00** **Attendance: 26**

September 1 Votive Offerings **\$ 6.00**

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.**

Who is planning on going to the **October 19, Saturday, event at St. Anne's in Bristol?** Father Emmanuel is still waiting to hear if you will be there. Please let him know.

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: The healing and transformative power of prayer

In today's Gospel reading from Mark 7:31-37, we see a powerful and intimate encounter between Jesus and a man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. Jesus, moved by compassion, heals him with a simple but profound act. This healing is not just physical; it is deeply symbolic, representing the transformative power of faith and the coming of God's Kingdom.

Jesus' actions in this passage reveal several important truths about our spiritual lives:

1. **Compassion and Presence:** Jesus meets the man where he is, showing a profound sense of compassion and presence. In our own lives, we are often called to be present to others in their struggles and to offer support with empathy and understanding. Jesus' example invites us to reflect on how we can be more present and compassionate in our relationships.

2. **Faith and Healing:** The man's healing is a testament to the transformative power of faith. It is not just the physical healing that is significant, but the way Jesus opens the man's ears and loosens his tongue, allowing him to communicate and connect with others. Faith has the power to heal not only physical ailments but also emotional and spiritual wounds. We are encouraged to examine how our own faith can lead to healing and growth in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

3. **Inclusivity and Openness:** Jesus' healing is a sign of the inclusivity of God's love. In a society where those with disabilities were often marginalized, Jesus' actions prove that everyone is worthy of love and healing. This invites us to reflect on how we can be more inclusive and open-hearted, challenging any biases or barriers that may exist in our communities.

4. **The Call to Action:** After the healing, Jesus instructs the people not to tell anyone, yet the news spreads. This paradox highlights that the message of God's love and healing is too powerful to be contained. We, too, are called to share the joy of our faith and to let the transformative power of God's love flow through us in our actions and words.

As we ponder on the reading, let us ask ourselves how we might be more like Jesus in our daily lives, showing compassion, embracing inclusivity, and allowing our faith to lead us to healing and transformation. Let this Sunday's reflection inspire us to deepen our commitment to living out our faith with authenticity and love.

Peace and Joy!!