



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER
SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2024
24th 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 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sept. 21, 22, 2024)
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 54:3-6, and 8; James 3:16, 4-3; Mark 9:30-37

Readings for 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sept. 28, 29, 2024)
Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm 19; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “The Lord upholds my life.” 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**.

This weekend we welcome **Rev. Kenneth Shuping**, from **St. Bridget Catholic Church in Richmond**. Father Emmanuel is visiting Father Shuping's church as part of the Diocese's Mission Cooperative Program. Father Shuping serves as Diocese's Central Vicariate Episcopal Vicar.

On October 26th and 27th, Fr. Leo Patalinghug (the cooking priest) is coming to St. Anne in Bristol to help raise money to install a Safe Haven Baby Box in Southwest Virginia. This is happening over

the course of two food-related events:

Adults' Night Out - A talk and heavy hors d'oeuvres

<https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-adults-night>

Full Fundraising Dinner - A food demonstration, talk, and multi-course meal (with various beverages available):

<https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-baby-box-fund>

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring this event. Safe Haven Baby Boxes mission is to prevent illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis and offering the Safe Haven Baby Boxes as a last resort option for women who want to maintain complete anonymity. More information may be found at www.shbb.org. For tickets to the above event or make a donation use the QR code on the attached sheet or copy and paste the URL below into your browser <https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-baby-box-fund>

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.

40 Days Fall Prayer Gatherings

From Sept. 25 and Nov. 3rd, the 40 Days for Life vigil is taking place in over 600 cities worldwide. Join us as we fast and pray at home and publicly for the end of abortion. If you would like to sign up for hours, contact Angie Bush at 423-482-2123 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/bristol. Below is a list of times groups will be praying near the Bristol Women's Health abortion business which is located at 2603 Osborne Street, Bristol VA. All are welcome.

Thursday, Sept. 26th, 11:00—Noon St. Mary's Knight of Columbus

Thursday, Oct. 10th, 11:00—Noon St. Mary's Knight of Columbus

Saturday, Oct. 12th 11:00 AM—Rosary with Fr. Chris Masla

Sunday, Oct. 13th 4:00 PM—**Midpoint prayer gathering**

Tuesday, Oct. 22nd 11:00—Noon St. Mary's Knight of Columbus

Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 4:00 PM—**Closing prayer gathering**

MARK THE DATE: October 19 (Saturday) SWVA 50th Anniversary Celebration--St. Anne Catholic Church (350 Euclid Avenue, Bristol, VA) beginning at 11:30 AM. Sign up for BBQ lunch. The highlight of this event will be joining with and getting to know many other Catholics throughout the Southwest Virginia area. We pray our cluster will be well represented. BEFORE October 5/6, please give the following information to your church contact if you plan to attend
How many people in your party are eating lunch and
How many baby bag items you are bringing.

Thank you Father Emmanuel for bringing your parishioners chocolates from Ghana. It sure was tasty and appreciated!

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond offers the following events for youth and young adults (if interested, please contact the cluster office):

October 5, 2024: Catholic Day at Busch Gardens (registration closing soon!) ALL AGES

October 18-20, 2024: Diocesan Young Adult Retreat

December 6-8, 2024: Fiat Retreat (registration open!) HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

January 23-24, 2025: March for Life (8-12 GRADERS)

February 7-9, 2025: Diocesan Youth Conference (registration coming soon!) 8-12 GRADERS

June 21-27, 2025: Diocesan Work Camp

August 6-9, 2025: Discipleship Week

August 9, 2025:

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

September 14 Offertory **\$365.00** **Attendance: 10**

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 8 Offertory **\$130.00** **Attendance: 10**

September 8 Donation **\$500.00**

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)

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 15 Offertory **\$417.00** **Attendance: 28**

September 15 Votive Offerings

\$ 5.65

September 15 Donation

\$250.00

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.*

Eucharistic Minister Wanted: As most parishioners receiving the Most Precious Blood know Ruby Dorton is our Eucharistic Minister. Janice Halsey fills in for her when she is unable to do so. We have times coming up when both are unavailable to serve. When there is no one willing to volunteer, the Cup will not be offered to you during Mass. If you would like to be trained to help, please notify Father Emmanuel.

The Dynamic Catholic Institute has sent our parish a free copy of two books, 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory and The Three Ordinary Voices of God. Both have been placed at the back of the church and are available to anyone who would like to take them.

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 15/22 – Janice Halsey

September 29/October 06 – Frank Taylor

October 13/20 – Cathy Stiltner

October 27/Nov 03 – Dave Britten

Reflection for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Theme: Greatness in the eyes of God

This Sunday's readings invite us to reflect on what it truly means to be great in the eyes of God. In our Gospel reading, we see the disciples arguing about who is the greatest among them. Jesus responds by placing a child in their midst, teaching them that greatness in the Kingdom of God is not about power or status but about humility and service.

As we reflect on this passage, it challenges us to examine our own lives. Are we, too, caught up in the quest for recognition and achievement? In a world that often values success and prominence, Jesus calls us to a different standard, one that prioritizes love, humility, and the well-being of others. Our first reading from the book of Wisdom highlights the tensions that arise when we choose to live righteously. The righteous are often met with resistance, much like Jesus and His disciples. Yet, it is in these challenges that we are called to remain steadfast in our commitment to justice and truth, embodying the servant leadership that Jesus exemplifies.

As we reflect on our own ambitions and desires, let us remember the call to serve rather than be served. How can we embrace the humility of a child in our daily interactions? Are we willing to put others first, to listen deeply, and to act with compassion?

In this week ahead, let us strive to embody the values of the Kingdom of God by serving those around us, especially the marginalized and the overlooked. May we find joy in lifting others up and seeking greatness in acts of kindness and love.

Peace and Joy!!

Fr Emmanuel