



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER
OCTOBER 5-6, 2024
27th 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

Father Emmanuel's Reflection for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
Theme: The true nature of Marriage

Our reading for this week invites us into a deeper understanding of the true nature of marriage, and the call to faithfulness in all our commitments.

The first reading from Genesis presents the creation narrative where God recognizes that "it is not good for man to be alone." This declaration sets the stage for the creation of woman, highlighting the divine intention for companionship and partnership. The phrase "they become one flesh" emphasizes not only physical union between Man and Woman but a deep spiritual bond that calls for love, respect, and mutual support.

In our Gospel reading from St. Mark, Jesus addresses the Pharisees' questions about divorce, reinforcing the sanctity of marriage. His response challenges societal norms, calling us back to the original plan of God—a partnership between a Man and a Woman built on love and fidelity. Jesus reminds us that true love involves commitment and sacrifice, inviting us to reflect on how we embody these values in our relationships.

As we meditate on these readings, let us consider the state of our own relationships. Are we nurturing the bonds we have? How do we approach our commitments, both to our partners and in our broader communities? The call to faithfulness is not just for marriages; it extends to all our interactions, encouraging us to cultivate love and understanding in every relationship.

In a world where commitments can often be fleeting, let us draw inspiration from the divine blueprint of love. May we strive to embody the principles of unity and support, allowing our relationships to flourish and reflecting God's love in our lives.

Peace and Joy!!

06 OCT SUN Genesis 2:18-24; Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Heb 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

07 OCT MON	Galatians 1:6-12; Psalms 111:1B-2, 7-8, 9, 10C; Luke 10:25-37
08 OCT TUE	Galatians 1:13-24; Psalms 139:1B-3, 13-14AB, 14C-15; Luke 10:38-42
09 OCT WED	Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Psalms 117:1bc, 2; Luke 11:1-4e
10 OCT THU	Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Luke 11:5-13e
11 OCT FRI	Galatians 3:7-14; Psalms 111:1B-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 11:15-26
12 OCT SAT	Galatians 3:22-29; Psalms 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Luke 11:27-28

Next Sunday Readings - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Oct. 12-13, 2024)

Wisdom 7:7-11; Psalms 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

October Month of the Rosary. Beginning this weekend, October 5 and 6 parishioners are asked to come to church 30 minutes early to recite the rosary before the weekend Masses during the month of October. Families are encouraged to pray the rosary together at home on the other days of this special month.

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 (Donna Bates at St. Mary and Betty Meade at St. Therese) if you plan to attend (there is a signup sheet at Lebanon)

How many people in your party are eating BBQ lunch?

How many baby bag items you are bringing?

Baby bag items (diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, blankets, 0-3 month sleepers)

Word Among Us November booklets are at the back of the church.

World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10, and here in the United States, the USCCB will begin nine days of focused prayer, teaching, and actionable steps to engage more intentionally on mental health issues. While the campaign is a year-round effort, the novena will run October 10-18, concluding on the feast of Saint Luke, the patron of health care. Information and resources about the USCCB's National Catholic Mental Health Campaign may be found at: <https://www.usccb.org/mentalhealth>. Mental Health Sunday, October 13, falls during the nine-day renewal effort and is an opportunity to support the efforts of local mental health programs.

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 for Life. Between now and Nov. 3rd, the 40 Days for Life vigil is taking place in 703 cities worldwide. Join Christians from various churches in our area in praying and fasting for the end of abortion. Our goal is to have a prayer chain of people praying 12 hours/day for 40 consecutive days either at home or near the abortion business. Contact Angie Bush at (423) 482-2123 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/bristol for more information.

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.

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

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

Election Day is November 5. Early voting began September 20. As Americans, we will decide who our next President will be. As Virginians, we will also decide who will represent our Commonwealth in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. As faithful citizens, it is our sacred duty to form our consciences and vote. Resources provided by the Virginia Catholic Conference explain the principles, the positions of candidates, and practical tips for voter registration. Visit www.vacatholic.org to view these materials.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “We see Jesus crowned with glory and honor.” Will you let the Holy Spirit lead you to be a reflection of His divine glory as a priest? Seek the opportunity to serve and lead others. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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: (1) Adults' Night Out - A talk and heavy hors d'oeuvres <https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-adults-night> and (2) 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 this URL below into your browser <https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-baby-box-fund>

Retreat Designed Just for Girls. The goal of Fiat Days is to bring high school aged women together who desire to grow in faithful discipleship and personal holiness to be better able to discover their own vocation from the Lord, with a special focus on the call to religious life. You don't have to want to be a religious sister in order to come to Fiat - you just have to want to dive deeper into your feminine genius! **Why should a teen girl come to Fiat?** She'll build life-long friendships amongst other girls her own age who come from all corners of the diocese. She'll get to know religious sisters through talks, Q&A, small groups, and games, experiencing the joy they bring. She'll develop prayer habits that will last through her everyday life, regardless of what vocation she is eventually called to. Fiat Days will be December 6-8, 2024, at Roslyn Retreat Center and is open to all 9th-12th grade girls. If interested, please contact the church office (276-889-1690).

The **Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC)** is an annual weekend event for **8th-12th grade youth** from parishes across the Diocese of Richmond. From sacraments to free time, DYC is an opportunity for your teens to complete their joy as they live out their Catholic faith with their peers! The 2025 Diocesan Youth Conference is February 7-9, 2025. Save \$50 per participant by registering by November 30! Registration closes at 12:00noon on Monday, January 6, 2025! Contact the church office (2276-889-1690 if interested).

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond also offers the following events for youth and young adults: January 23-24, 2025: March for Life (8-12 GRADERS); June 21-27, 2025: Diocesan Work Camp; August 6-9, 2025: Discipleship Week.

Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond's topic for October is bequests, stock, IRA-QCD, etc. Specifically, October 21-27, 2024, is National Estate Planning Awareness Week (NEPAW) It's an annual reminder that everyone – no matter their age or assets – should have a plan for the future. A solid plan allows them to provide for loved ones and create a legacy through a last gift of faith.

Use Last Will Image. This month reminds us of the importance of having a Will in place! 500,000+ people have used FreeWill to write their legal Will or Revocable Trust, protect their

loved ones, and establish a lasting legacy with the causes they care about. The Catholic Community Foundation partnered with FreeWill to help you get started on your Will or Recable Trust with this free resource from FreeWill:

<https://www.freewill.com/richmondcatholicfoundation>

The Spirit of the Mountain Cluster and our Catholic Diocese of Richmond 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 21 Offertory	\$ 655.00	Attendance 12
September 28 Offertory	\$ 530.00	Attendance 16
September 28 Donation	\$ 50.00	

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

October Birthdays: Lillie Peters (12), Debbie Goodman (25), Robert Hatch (31)

**** 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 22 Offertory	\$ 210.00	Attendance 7
September 29 Offertory	\$ 90.00	Attendance 6

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

October Birthdays: Ryan Meade (23), Lucia Cardenas (26)

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 22 Offertory	\$ 347.00	Attendance 17
September 22 Votive Offerings	\$ 11.00	
September 29 Offertory	\$ 346.00	Attendance 13
September 29 Votive Offerings	\$ 4.00	
September 29 World Mission Collection (Oct. 20)	\$ 20.00	
September 29 Jose Village Collection (Nov.)	\$ 20.00	

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

October Birthdays: Sharon Martin (9), Cheryl Spoharski (16), Colt/Amber Christian (17), Jose Mendoza, Jr., (27) Valerie Christian (28), Joyce Sapp/Alfredo Castro (31)

October Anniversary: Jeff/Janice Halsey (21)

- **Parish Council members will meet** after this **Sunday, October 6, Mass.**
- If parishioners are interested in **servicing during Mass as a Lector and/or Eucharistic Minister**, please contact the church office.
- **Alexa Mendoza-Onate** recently was honored by Castlewood High School as underclassmen of the week. It was noted she is a top-notch freshman whose favorite class is World History. So proud of you Alexa - congratulations!
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe** statue has replaced that of our Mother Mary. The statue presented to Good Shepherd by Eusebio and Lucia Cardenas last year will reside in the church through the Month of the Rosary and until mid-January.

Good Shepherd Lector Schedule:

October 06 – Frank Taylor

October 13—Bill French

October 20 – Cathy Stiltner

October 27/Nov 03 – Dave Britten