

**SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER**

**OCTOBER 12-13, 2024**

**28th 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 @ 5 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

**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

**CLUSTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Telephone: 1-276-889-1690

Office e-mail: [office@spiritofthemountain.org](mailto:office@spiritofthemountain.org)

Website: <https://spiritofthemountain.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533>

**EMERGENCY: NEED A PRIEST? CALL 1-804-631-9027  
or [eappah@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:eappah@richmonddiocese.org)**

**Father Emmanuel's Reflection for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**Theme:** What truly holds us back from deepening our relationship with God.

In our Gospel reading from Mark, Jesus meets a man who, despite his wealth and status, is challenged to give up his possessions to follow Him. This narrative prompts us to reflect on what truly holds us back from deepening our relationship with God.

The rich young man approaches Jesus with eagerness, yet he leaves sorrowful, unable to part with his wealth. This moment illustrates the struggle many of us face, the difficulty of letting go of what we possess in order to embrace a more profound, spiritual richness.

In our first reading from the book of Wisdom, we are reminded that wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. This serves as a powerful reminder that true fulfillment comes from seeking God and understanding His ways. It invites us to consider where we place our priorities and whether we are open to the transformative wisdom that God offers.

As we reflect on these readings, let's ask ourselves: What attachments do I need to examine in my life? Am I open to the divine wisdom that leads to true joy? How can I cultivate a spirit of gratitude for the blessings I have, rather than focusing on what I lack?

In a world that often equates success with material wealth, we are called to re-evaluate our values and recognize the richness of faith, love, and community. Let this Sunday inspire us to seek God's wisdom above all and to share the gifts we have received with others, fostering a spirit of gratitude and generosity.

Peace and Joy!!

**Readings for this Week (October 13-19, 2024)**

13 OCT SUN	Wisdom 7:7-11; Psalms 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30
14 OCT MON	Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1; Psalms 113:1-7; Luke 11:29-32
15 OCT TUE	Galatians 5:1-6; Psalms 119:41, 43-45, 47-48; Luke 11:37-41
16 OCT WED	Galatians 5:18-25; Psalms 1:1-4, 6; Luke 11:42-46

17 OCT THU Ephesians 1:1-10; Psalms 98:1-6; Luke 11:47-54

18 OCT FRI 2 Timothy 4:10-17; Psalms 145:10-13, 17-18; Luke 10:1-9

19 OCT SAT Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalms 8:2-7; Luke 12:8-12

**Next Sunday Readings - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Oct. 12-13, 2024)**

Isaiah 53:10-11; Psalms 33:4-5, 18-20; 22; Hebrews 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45

**REMINDER: October Month of the Rosary.** 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.

The Holy Rosary is the most powerful weapon against the evil one. With every Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and "O my Jesus," we glorify God and meditate on the mysteries of Christ's life and, at the same time, tell all that is evil that there is no place for it in our lives, in the lives of our loved ones, and in the lives of all who need God. The Holy Rosary also helps generate virtues, obtain divine mercy, and replace the love of the world with the love of God.

**Hurricane Helene Relief.** Bishop Knestout has asked that a special appeal for a **collection this weekend (October 12/13)** be taken up to assist the Diocesan community in Southwest Virginia, the Diocese of Charlotte, and the Diocese of Knoxville. You are encouraged to pray for those who lost their lives and their families who are grieving. We may not all be able to "go" and offer help, but we can all "give."

**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 rosary will be recited at 3:35 PM and Mass at 4 PM. 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)

**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](http://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.

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](http://www.vacatholic.org) to view these materials.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Pray for those men who serve us as deacons. By answering a call to the diaconate, a man seeks to follow Jesus' path by serving and enriching the lives of others. If you are called to the serve as a deacon, speak with your pastor or contact the Office of the Diaconate. .

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](http://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. A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a Will. The Catholic Community Foundation partnered with **FreeWill** to help you get started on your own Will or Revocable Trust with this free resource from FreeWill: <https://www.freewill.com/richmondcatholicfoundation>

**WORLD MISSION DIOCESAN COLLECTION** (next weekend). We will celebrate World Mission Sunday, NEXT weekend, October 19-20. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, and Nort America where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope's

missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Black and Indian Missions and the Home Mission Collection, on World Mission Sunday.

**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](mailto:vac@richmonddiocese.org) or visit the Diocese's Child Protection/Safe Environment page at <https://richmonddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children/>**

### **SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

October 5 Offertory \$ 695.00 Attendance 15

October 5 Votive Candle Offerings \$ 20.00

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)

\*\* There will be NO MASS next Saturday, October 19 at St. Mary's. Parishioners may attend the Saturday, October 19 SWVA 50th Anniversary Celebration in Bristol at St. Anne's Catholic Church where Mass will be celebrated at 4 PM. There is Mass at Norton at 10 AM Sunday.

• Parish Finance Council meeting Saturday, October 26 after Vigil Mass. All parishioners are invited to attend.

### **SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

October 6 Offertory \$ 362.00 Attendance 7

October 6 Votive Offerings \$ 7.00

October 6 Donation \$ 50.00

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)

• 70th Anniversary of Saint Therese Catholic Church. November 2 (The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed) Mass will be celebrated at 1 PM for all the faithful departed of St. Therese. Those planning to attend should submit the names of their loved ones to the church office by October 31 so a list can be compiled to be read before Mass. If one cannot attend or was not a member of the Church and wants to include a name, it is most welcome to do so. After Mass, a meal will be served. All (especially former parishioners) are invited to come and celebrate the anniversary of this small church which has been a big part of the lives of many in this community.

### **GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

October 6 Offertory \$ 990.00 Attendance 24

October 6 Votive Offerings \$ 9.00

**MASS INTENTION:** For the repose of the soul of + Stephen Roman +

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/AmberChristian (17), Jose Mendoza, Jr., (27) Valerie Christian (28), Joyce Sapp/Alfredo Castro (31)

October Anniversary: Jeff/Janice Halsey (21)

• Parish Council (short) meeting November 1, Sunday, after Mass.

Good Shepherd Lector Schedule:

October 13—Bill French

October 20 – Cathy Stiltner

October 27

/Nov 03 – Dave Britten