

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

OCTOBER 26-27, 2024

30th 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

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

Father Emmanuel's Reflection for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Theme: The transformative power of Jesus' presence in our lives

In our Gospel reading from Mark, we encounter Bartimaeus, a blind beggar sitting by the roadside. His physical blindness symbolizes a deeper spiritual insight. When he hears that Jesus is passing by, he cries out for mercy, despite the crowd's attempts to silence him. His persistence demonstrates a profound faith that recognizes Jesus as the source of healing and hope.

Bartimaeus' boldness in calling out serves as a powerful reminder for us. How often do we let the noise of the world drown out our cries for help? His faith is not passive; it is active and persistent, urging us to reflect on our own faith journey. Are we willing to cry out for help, to seek Jesus amid our struggles, and to trust in His mercy?

When Jesus calls Bartimaeus, he immediately throws aside his cloak and comes to Him, symbolizing a readiness to let go of his old life and embrace a new identity. Jesus asks him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus simply replies, "Rabbi, I want to see." This request transcends physical sight; it expresses a desire for spiritual clarity and understanding.

In our lives, we must consider what we truly seek from Jesus. This question challenges us to examine our desires and intentions. Are we asking for superficial things, or are we yearning for a deeper relationship with God? Jesus responds with compassion, healing Bartimaeus and restoring his sight. The beauty of this encounter lies in the fact that Bartimaeus' healing leads him to follow Jesus "on the way." His journey doesn't end with healing; it begins anew as he becomes a disciple.

As we reflect on this Gospel, let us pray for the courage to call out to Jesus in our moments of need, to throw aside anything that holds us back, and to seek not just physical

or material needs but a deeper connection with Him. May our faith be active and persistent, allowing us to see clearly the path He lays before us.

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (October 27-November 2, 2024)

27 OCT SUN	Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52
28 OCT MON	Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19; Luke 6:12-16
29 OCT TUE	Ephesians 5:21-33; Psalm 126; Luke 13:18-21
30 OCT WED	Ephesians 6:1-9; Psalm 148; Luke 13:22-30
31 OCT THU	Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 144; Luke 13:31-35
01 NOV FRI	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
02 NOV SAT	Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 23; Psalm 23; Romans 5:5-11; John 6:37-40

Next Sunday Readings – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Nov. 3, 2024)

Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Psalm 18; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34

ALL SAINTS' DAY, November 1, 2023. A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

All Saints' Day Cluster Mass Schedule:

Saint Mary – Nov. 1, Friday 4 PM Mass

Good Shepherd – Nov. 1, Friday 6 PM Mass

All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day, unless they have an excellent excuse, such as serious illness.

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, November 2, 2024

All Souls' Day Cluster Mass Schedule:

Saint Therese – November 2, 2024, 1 PM Mass

REMINDER: October Month of the Rosary. This will be the last weekend we ask parishioners to come to church **30 minutes early to recite the rosary before the weekend Mass.** Families are encouraged to pray the rosary together at home on the other days of this special month. Let us continue to use our Blessed Mother as a weapon in all the challenges we encounter individually and as families as we pray the rosary daily.

“How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening! and “The Rosary is a prayer both so humble and simple and a theologically rich in Biblical content. I beg you to pray it.” St. John Paul II

REMINDER CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3. It is time to “fall back.” Daylight savings time officially ends next Sunday, November 3 at 2 a.m. meaning we move the clock back one hour. This returns us to standard time.

NOVEMBER Word Among Us booklets are available at the back of the church.

MEMORY BOOK: We will continue our November Cluster tradition of putting out our memory book at the back of the churches and writing the names of the deceased we wish to especially remember this year during the month of November. Everyone is reminded to keep those names inscribed in our book in your prayers, especially at this time.

October 19 (Saturday) SWVA 50th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you to the Cluster parishioners who attended this event. Also, thank you to those who shared their church history stories.

September Monthly Reports have been e-mailed to parishioners—if you have not received a copy, please contact the church office.

40 Days for Life. Nov. 3 marks the end of the 2024 fall 40 Days for Life vigil. Join Christians for the closing prayer gathering as we pray for the end of abortion near the Bristol Women's Health abortion business, which is located at 2603 Osborne Street, Bristol VA.

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

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.

VOTE November 5 if you have not already done early voting. 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 materials.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you." Will you share in Christ's saving mission? He may be calling you to a beautiful and sacrificial life 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.

REMEMBER: 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. For further details check out <https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-adults-night> and <https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-baby-box-fund>. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring this event. More information may be found at www.shbb.org.

For tickets to the above event or make a donation copy and paste this URL below into your browser <https://stannechurchbristol.betterworld.org/events/fr-leo-patalinghug-baby-box-fund>.

Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond's topic for October is bequests, stock, IRA-QCD, etc. Plan for your future and the future of your church.

October 21st - 27th is National Estate Planning Awareness Week, and we invite you to consider important questions while making your will or trust: Who do you want to care for your children? Have you stewarded the time, talents, and treasures entrusted to your care? How can you pass your faith to future generations? The Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond sponsors a free, online service with FreeWill so you can answer these questions and create your plan for the future. You can even designate an optional legacy gift to support the future of your church parish or another ministry you love. Visit FreeWill.com/RichmondCatholicFoundation to get started.

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

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)

November Birthdays: Donna Bates (18)

- Thank you to all who attended the **Parish Finance Council** last Saturday after Mass.
- A **second collection** for **World Missions** (combined, shared equally among World Mission Sunday, Black & Indian Missions, Catholic Home Missions Appeal, and Penultimate Sunday) is being taken up at this week's Vigil Mass. **Special envelopes are at the back of the church.**

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 20 Offertory \$ 195.00 **Attendance 7**

October 20 World Mission Collection \$ 37.00

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)

November Birthdays: Luz Cardenas (6)

- **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, they are 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 20 Offertory \$ 236.00 **Attendance**

October 20 World Mission Collection \$ 41.00

October 20 Votive Candles Offering \$ 6.00

October 20 Donation \$ 250.00

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)

November Birthdays: Clara French, Lupita Morenita Torres (8), David Silvers (19), Gael Mendoza (25), Dasha Britten (23), Fr. Francis Xavier Musolooza (25), Joshua Cesbaugh (29). **November Anniversary:** Dave & Bev Britten (3)

- **Parish Council** (short) meeting **November 3**, Sunday, after Mass.
- **Lector Schedule:** October 27 and November 3 -- Dave Britten