

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

NOVEMBER 2-3, 2024

31st 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 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Theme: "You are not far from the Kingdom of God"

In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus addresses the question: "Which commandment is the first?" His answer is both beautiful and challenging. He does not just pick one rule. Instead, He combines two commandments: love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. It sounds simple, yet it is everything.

When Jesus talks about loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, He is not asking us for a polite, halfway kind of faith. He is asking for all of us, every part—our thoughts, our worries, our passions, and even our doubts. It is a reminder that faith is not just about saying prayers or following rituals; it is about having a relationship with God where we bring our whole, real selves to Him. God wants us to come to Him in honesty, not just when we feel holy but even when we feel lost, broken, or unsure. Loving God with everything means letting Him be the center, the One who grounds us and holds us together.

And then, Jesus connects this love for God with love for others. Loving our neighbor as ourselves is no small thing. It means seeing the people around us with compassion and kindness, even when it is hard. It means recognizing that everyone is carrying their own struggles, just like we are, and treating them with the same patience and care that we want for ourselves. Sometimes this love shows up in big way, standing up for someone who is vulnerable, reaching out to a friend in crisis. But often, it is in small, simple things: a smile, a listening ear, a little extra patience with someone who is testing ours.

Let us ask ourselves: How can I love more deeply? How can I bring my whole self to God, and how can I show real, genuine care for the people around me? This call to love is both a challenge and a gift, inviting us to live our faith in a way that is honest, open, and full of heart. It is only in doing these that we will not be "far from the Kingdom of God"

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (November 3-9, 2024)

03 NOV SUN Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Psalm 18; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34
04 NOV MON Philippians 2:1-4; Psalm 131; Luke 14:12-14
05 NOV TUE Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 22; Luke 14:15-24
06 NOV WED Philippians 2:12-18; Psalm 27; Luke 14:25-33
07 NOV THU Philippians 3:3-8; Psalm 105; Luke 15:1-10
08 NOV FRI Philippians 3:17-4:1; Psalm 122; Luke 16:1-8
09 NOV SAT Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Psalm 46; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22

Next Sunday Readings – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Nov. 10, 2024)

1 Kings 17:10-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

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 – Saturday – Nov. 2 -- 1 PM Mass

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.

40 Days for Life. Final invitation to participate with the people in your communities. Thank you for participating in the spiritual battle to end abortion with prayer and fasting. Please join area Christians as we mark the end of the international 40 Days for Life vigil,

Prayer Gathering

Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 4:00 PM

**Location: public area near the Bristol Women's Health abortion business
(2603 Osborne Street, Bristol VA.)**

Contact Angie Bush at (423) 482-2123 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/bristol for more information. Again, thank you.

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.

Recent e-mail received from Father Tim Drake: “Thank you , Fr Emmanuel, and your parishioners for your kind words in the cards you gave me at our 50th anniversary celebration. You made me very happy. God bless you.”

An e-mail was also received from Sara French, Director of Faith Formation, at St. Anne's Catholic Church, and one of the persons involved in organizing the recent SWVA 50th Event. Sara thanked those for sharing history and selves on October 19. To continue the gathering together Sarah suggested checking out the following site related to the Eucharistic Congress <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one>.

If anyone is interested in attending the Virginia Pro-Life Day (Jan. 29, 2025) and/or the Diocesan Youth Convention (Friday Feb. 7 - Sunday Feb 9, 2025) please contact the office—it is possible a bus for transportation would be arranged if there is enough interest.

For those who could not attend the gathering, here are some links to the recordings/pictures:

Fr. Chris' Talk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeC8W_HjDXc

Saturday Mass: https://www.youtube.com/live/LpWZoDCM0_8?feature=shared

Deanery 14 Slideshow:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sLZNK9k8q2ItJJGBa3g9k7RvJlk8YpnO1sSXeGkuccQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/TFtjqCct2DNx1qQTA>

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

October Month of the Rosary. Thank you to all who participated in coming to church 30 minutes early and those at home who recited the rosary during this special time. It is good to continue to pray the rosary daily.

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.

World Mission Collection: THANK YOU for your generous response to the collections supporting the mission work of the Church. Our Cluster of parishes raised \$294. You may stay connected year-round to the Pope's missions, continuing the commitment of World Mission Sunday, by visiting MISSIO.org

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: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Are you being called to love the Lord with an undivided heart 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.

Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond's topic for November is IRA – Qualified Charitable Distribution. When you make a gift of a distribution from your IRA to your parish, it allows you to demonstrate a legacy of love for Christ and His Church. If you're over 70 ½, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to our parish from

your IRA can also save on taxes. To make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, contact parish staff with questions.

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

October 26 Offertory \$ 705.00 Attendance 14

October 26 World Mission Collection \$ 92.00

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

November Birthdays: Donna Bates (18)

- Thank you to all who attended the **Parish Finance Council** last Saturday after Mass.

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

October 27 Offertory \$ 90.00 Attendance 7

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal 2nd Parish Share Check \$ 232.50

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

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. 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 27 Offertory \$ 640.00 Attendance 25

October 27 World Mission Collection \$ 104.00

October 27 Votive Candles Offering \$ 2.00

2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal 2nd Parish Share Check \$ 387.50

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)

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)

Lector Schedule:

November 3 -- **Dave Britten**

November 10/17 – **Janice Halsey**