

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

32nd 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 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Theme: Theme: True Generosity

Our readings this Sunday highlight the beauty and power of self-giving, especially when it comes from a place of humility and scarcity. In 1 Kings 17:10-16, we meet the widow of Zarephath, who, though facing her own hunger and poverty, chooses to share her last bit of food with the prophet Elijah. Her generous act is rewarded by God, who ensures her supply of flour and oil never runs dry. Similarly, in the Gospel of Mark 12:38-44, Jesus observes a poor widow giving two small coins, all she has, to the temple treasury. He praises her for giving not from surplus but from her poverty, offering "all she had to live on."

Both widows are examples of true generosity. They show us that the value of a gift is not determined by its size, but by the heart behind it. God does not measure our worth by wealth or success, but by the sincerity and love with which we give. Their stories challenge us to look at our own lives: Do we give sacrificially and trustfully, even in moments of personal need? Are we willing to offer our "all" to God, as these widows did?

Jesus reminds us that God sees beyond appearances, honoring the sacrifices that may go unnoticed by others. Through these examples, we are called to embrace a deeper trust in God's provision, knowing that He sustains us when we act out of love and faith, even if it requires sacrifice. The widows teach us that in God's eyes, every small act of generosity, done with love, holds immeasurable value.

Peace and Joy

Readings for this Week (November 10-18, 2024)

10 NOV SUN	1 Kings 17:10-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
11 NOV MON	Titus 1:1-9 ; Psalm 24; Luke 17:1-6
12 NOV TUE	Titus 2:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 34; Luke 17:7-10
13 NOV WED	Titus 3:1-7; Psalm 23; Luke 17:11-19
14 NOV THU	Philemon 7:20; Psalm 148; Luke 17:20-25
15 NOV FRI	2 John 4-9; Psalm 119; Luke 17:26-34
16 NOV SAT	3 John 5-8; Psalm 112; Luke 18:1-8

Next Sunday Readings – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Nov. 17, 2024)

Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13:24-32

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.

Food Donations continued to be collected by Good Shepherd for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. A basket is at the back of the church. Items needed are canned fruit, vegetables, soup, and meat. Father Emmanuel is happy to transport items from St. Mary and St. Therese.

Thank you from 40 Days for Life. Dear Area Christians: We thank all of the volunteers who faithfully pray for an end to abortion at home and on the street. We thank God for those who have been praying for decades and for the new people who joined our vigil this fall. Fighting this spiritual battle is indeed a team effort and all of our prayers and sacrifices make a difference. For Christ! For Life!. From Barbara Constable (National 40 Days for Life Campaign Strategist) and Angie Bush (Bristol 40 Days for Life Leader)

Additional message from Angie Bush: "Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ: "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

It is important to remember we are not alone in the battle to end abortion. The 40 Days for Life vigils are one way we can unite as the Body of Christ. These biannual vigils allow us to "sharpen" each other's faith. From personal experience, I know that our time together not only renews my hope but also strengthens my faith in Jesus our Savior.

Here are some preliminary statistics from the 2024 fall vigil. I gathered the information from the online calendar, our prayer gatherings, and information sent to me over the past 6 weeks. We had at least 62 participants (40 praying at the vigil site, and 22 at home)

Our prayer warriors were from at least 23 different Christian churches

People prayed at the vigil site every day except on four of the Sundays (24 days had at least two hours of prayer recorded!)

God blessed us with at least 4 new people praying both at home and at the vigil site.

I know this is just a sample of what God has done during our 40 Days. Please keep sending me your stories.

Thank you for encouraging one another and for all of your prayers and sacrifices. Our next vigil begins on March 5th (Ash Wednesday).

Between now and then, please continue to pray for the end of abortion and/or consider periodically praying at the vigil site. I will be there next Monday, Nov. 11th at 10:00 AM if you would like to join me. For Christ! For Life! Angie Bush"

E-mail 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 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/1sLZNK9k8q2ltJJGBa3q9k7RvJlk8YpnO1sSXeGkuccQ/edit?usp=sharing>

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

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “Do not fear: go, do as you have said.” Let the reassuring words of Christ lead you. If you are being called to be a priest or religious brother or sister, courageously say “Yes!” 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 – The Holy Spirit brought the early Church alive by giving individuals gifts that would sustain the Church. By sharing your gifts, you can keep the church alive for years to come. If you’re at least 70 ½ years old, you can make a ‘tax-reducing’ gift today through an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). It doesn’t create taxable income for you, but it can count towards your required minimum distribution. Plus, it will help you feel good about giving to our parish because we can put your gift to use right away in providing financial support to our ministries.

Veterans Day occurs on November 11 every year in the United States in honor of the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, known as Armistice Day. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975 President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11, due to the important historical significance of the date

Veterans Day commemorates veterans of all wars.

The military men and women who serve and protect the United States come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities

Our Cluster is blessed to have several parishioners, who have served in the military. We pray especially for them this weekend and thank them for their service

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 \$ 443.75 **Attendance 14**

October 26 Additional World Mission Collection \$ 2.00

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

November Birthdays: Donna Bates (18)

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 3 Offertory \$ 341.00 **Attendance 12**

November 3 Donations \$ 97.75

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 was celebrated at 1 PM for all the faithful departed of St. Therese. After Mass, a delicious meal was served. Thank you to the parishioners for all the hard work they did to celebrate their church.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

November 2 Offertory \$ 840.00 **Attendance 26**

November 2 Votive Candles Offering \$ 9.50

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

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)

- Thank you Joyce and Collin Sapp for stripping our walkways. A recent safety inspection by Catholic Mutual recommended the church take this safety measure. Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated.

Lector Schedule:

November 10/17 – Janice Halsey

November 24/December 2 – Frank Taylor