

SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2024

33rd 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

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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: Living with Hope and Vigilance**

As we draw near to the end of the liturgical year, the Church turns our attention to the end times. Today's readings call us to reflect on our place in God's plan and to live with hope and vigilance.

In the first reading from the Book of Daniel, we hear about a time of great distress. This prophetic vision, though daunting, offers comfort and hope: "Those who lead many to justice shall be like the stars forever." Daniel reminds us that God's faithful are not abandoned; even in the darkest times, God is with us, guiding and strengthening us. This reading speaks to the promise of resurrection and eternal life for those who persevere in faith.

Our Gospel continues this theme of vigilance. Jesus describes cosmic disturbances and warns of the end of days. He reminds His disciples, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Jesus' words are not meant to instill fear but to call us to trust in God's eternal plan and to remain alert. He assures us that although we do not know the day or the hour, God is steadfast, and His promises are trustworthy.

It is easy to look at this Gospel and focus on the uncertainty, the fear of the unknown. But Jesus calls us to something deeper: a confident faith in God's love and power. We are encouraged to live each day as if it could be our last, not in fear, but in intentionality, love, and service. This vigilance is not about dread but about readiness to meet our Lord, whether in our daily encounters or at the end of time.

In our lives, we may experience personal “end times”. moments of loss, uncertainty, or hardship. These are times when our faith is tested, when we may feel alone or afraid. Yet Jesus invites us to stand firm, to keep our hearts focused on the eternal promise of His love. We are called to be lights in a world that often feels dark, to live as people of hope and to share that hope with others.

This Sunday, let us reflect on how we are preparing our hearts and lives. Are we living in a way that reflects our trust in God’s promises? Are we helping to bring light to those around us? Let us remember that, as disciples, we are called to be beacons of hope and to live each day in joyful expectation of the life that God promises. May we draw strength from these words and strive to live with hearts open to His grace.

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (November 17-23, 2024)

17 NOV SUN	Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13:24-32
18 NOV MON	Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Psalm 1; Luke 18:35-43
19 NOV TUE	Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22; Psalm 15; Luke 19:1-10
20 NOV WED	Revelation 4:1-11; Psalm 150; Luke 19:11-28
21 NOV THU	Revelation 5:1-10; Psalm 149; Luke 19:41-44
22 NOV FRI	Revelation 10:8-11; Psalm 119; Luke 19:45-48
23 NOV SAT	Revelation 11:4-12; Psalm 144; Luke 20:27-40

Next Sunday Readings – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Nov. 24, 2024)

Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33-37

Jose Village Collection will be this weekend, November 16/17. Our Cluster has been a faithful supporter of this critical, annual venture which provides needed food to people in need in fifteen small villages in a remote part of Mexico. Envelopes will be available at the back of Good Shepherd Church—please be sure to include your name on the envelope.

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.

iGiveCatholic. It is time for this special fund-raising event. See the attached sheet attached to the bulletin. Advance giving begins Monday, November 18. **The BIG DAY is Tuesday, December 3.** Contact the office if you have any questions. Be sure to check out our stories online St. Mary <https://tinyurl.com/3bmj7jtr> St. Therese <https://tinyurl.com/ym539spm> Good Shepherd <https://tinyurl.com/2c4ypnc7>

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” Cherish the precious words of the Lord. He may be calling you to a life of contemplation as a cloistered monk or nun, whose lives are devoted to prayer and reflection. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org

Save the Date! March for Life High School & College Pilgrimage. January 23-24, 2025. All high school and college undergraduate students are invited to be part of our Diocesan March for Life Pilgrimage! We will attend the Life Fest rally on Thursday night, stay at a nearby hotel, and attend Mass and the March for Life on Friday. Make sure to save the date on your calendar and stay tuned for more info!

Diocesan Youth Conference. February 7-9, 2025. Greater Richmond Convention Center. It's here, Event our Diocese's Youth are waiting for? DYC registration is open! All 8th-12th grade teens from every corner of the Diocese are invited to gather in Richmond to celebrate their shared Catholic faith and to worship together. Challenge a religious sister to a duel on an inflatable, pray with a thousand young people at Eucharistic Adoration led by Bishop Knestout, and be inspired through talks on and off the main stage! Contact Cluster office for information on registering.

Save the Date! Diocesan Work Camp. June 21-27, 2025. Bristol, VA. Are you looking for an immersive experience of Christian service, prayer, and community for your teens? Join us at Diocesan Work Camp for a week that will give direct assistance to the local community and transform your youth ministry culture! Each day starts with daily Mass before heading out to work sites; each night has programming and prayer. A unique benefit of Diocesan Work Camp is that your parish gets to build friendships with other parishes in our own state. Save the date; more information will be available soon!

2024 McMahon Parater Scholarship Foundation. Did you know you can put your tax dollars to work for Catholic Schools? Join over 3,500 donors in our Diocese who have provided over \$54M in scholarships to thousands of Catholic school students...and receive 65% of your donation back as a Virginia state tax credit! This tax benefit is also available to those who donate through their business, and donors can save even more by donating appreciated stock. To learn more, visit richmonddiocese.org/mcmahon-parater-foundation, email mpsf@richmonddiocese.org, or call 804.622.5184.

A Reflection on “What We Have Seen and Heard” with Dr. Ansel Augustine, Assistant Director of African American Affairs at U.S. Catholic Bishops, **Virtual Event, November 22nd** at 6pm. As we celebrate Black Catholic History Month, we invite you to join an online Reflection with Dr. Ansel Augustine, Assistant Director of African American Affairs at USCCB. Dr. Augustine will reflect on the document: “What We Have Seen and Heard” – A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization from the Black Bishops. If interested, contact cluster office.

Pope Francis' New Encyclical Invites the Faithful to Open Their Hearts to the Love of Christ. Join virtually, for reflection and discussion on this new encyclical letter, on Wednesday's at 2pm, beginning January 8, 2025. Registration site coming soon.

Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond's topic for November is IRA – As Christian stewards, we share the responsibility of making our Church a true

