



## **SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER**

**February 15-16, 2025**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Reverend Emmanuel Darfour Appah, Administrator**

### **Saint Mary Catholic Church**

109 Beech Ave., PO Box 1724

Coeburn, VA 24230

Saturday Vigil Mass 5 :00 PM

Reconciliation Saturday 4:30 PM

Tuesday Weekday Mass 5:00 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 Weekday Mass 6:00 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/](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533)

[profile.php?id=100078972283533](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078972283533)

**SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY CALL 1-804-631-9027**

or [eappah@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:eappah@richmonddiocese.org)

Reflection for 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Theme: Trust in God

Life often teaches us to measure success by wealth, comfort, and security. Yet, in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus turns that idea upside down. He speaks directly to the poor, the hungry, and those who weep, calling them blessed. Meanwhile, He warns the rich, the satisfied, and those who laugh now that their comfort is fleeting. His words are unsettling because they challenge everything the world tells us to strive for.

Jeremiah's words echo this message, reminding us that trusting in human strength alone leads to emptiness, like a bush in the desert. But when we trust in God, we become like a tree planted by water, unshaken even in times of drought. It makes me wonder, where do I

place my trust? Do I rely more on my own abilities, my status, my possessions? Or do I truly trust that God is enough for me?

Paul reminds us why this trust is not in vain. Jesus is risen, and because of that, everything changes. Our struggles, sacrifices, and moments of suffering are not meaningless. The world may see weakness, but in God's eyes, these are moments of grace. When I reflect on my own life, I see how easy it is to chase comfort and avoid struggle. But Jesus is calling me to something deeper. He's asking me to see beyond the present moment and trust in His greater plan.

This Gospel challenges us to examine our hearts. Do we find joy in God, or do we seek happiness in things that will fade? Do we stand with those who suffer, or do we turn away to protect our own comfort? Jesus' words are an invitation, not just to believe in Him, but to live differently because of that belief. Lord, help us to trust You more, to let go of what does not last, and to find our true joy in You alone.

Peace and Joy!!

### **Readings for this Week (February 16-22, 2025)**

16 FEB SUN	Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26
17 FEB MON	Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Psalm 50; Mark 8:11-13
18 FEB TUE	Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Psalm 29; Mark 8:14-21
19 FEB WED	Genesis 8:6-13,20-22; Psalm 116; Mark 8:22-26
20 FEB THU	Genesis 9:1-13; Psalm 102; Mark 8:27-33
21 FEB FRI	Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 33; Mark 8:34-9:1
22 FEB SAT	1 Peter 5:1-4; Psalm 23; Matthew 16:13-19

### **Next Sunday Readings — 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 23, 2025**

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49| Luke 6:27-38

**2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – *Sharing His Love with Others*.** Supporting the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal is about providing for 21 important ministries of our Catholic Church. For example, did you know that the Appeal:

- Provides formation opportunities for youth and young adults aimed at community building, prayer, worship, service, and education.

- Expands opportunities for college students to deepen their commitment to the Catholic Church.
  - Funds the cost of room, board, tuition, and health insurance for our seminarians.
- To see the full list of ministries supported by the Appeal, please visit [richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal](http://richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal).

**Food Donations** continue to be collected by the Cluster for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. If St. Therese or St. Mary parishes have food donations, Father Emmanuel will be happy to transport same to Good Shepherd. Thank you for your continued support.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** “Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD ...” Are you considering a vocation to the priesthood? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; or write to [vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).

**Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond’s topic for February is Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).** 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.

**40 Days for Life.** From March 5th-April 13th, area Christians from various denominations are praying and fasting for the end of abortion as part of the international 40 Days for Life vigil. Sign up at [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com) or contact Angie Bush at [40daysbristoltn@gmail.com](mailto:40daysbristoltn@gmail.com) or (423) 482-2123 for more information.

**40 Days for Life Kick-off & Prayer Gathering. Monday, Feb. 24th.** 5:30-7:00 PM. 5:30 pm pizza (RSVP). Praise & Prayer begins at 6:00 PM. Location: First Assembly of God (120 Millard Street, Bristol VA) **RSVP Angie for pizza at 423-482-2123 by Feb. 22nd.**

**Dedicated to helping you heal.** Virtual Support Group for those who have suffered abuse by clergy or lay personnel residing in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. You are invited to join the group on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. These gatherings, led by an independent facilitator, will offer a safe environment for participants to connect, share

experiences, support, and heal. Spouses and affected community members are also welcome. Questions or to join please email Paula Kaempffer at kaempfferp@archspm.org or call 763-688-3978.

**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**

**February 8 Offertory Collection** \$ **390.00** **Attendance 13**  
**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Alton Lawson, Jr., Sister Stacey Hanrahan, Lillie Peters, Billy Hunsaker, Charles Bennett, and Bobby Kyle.  
**February Birthdays:** Beverly Hall (5), Terry Bates (7)

### **SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**February 9 Offertory Collection** \$ **345.00** **Attendance 12**  
**February 8 Donations** \$ **90.00**  
**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Tim Long, Jackie White, James F. White, Brayn Whited, JoAnn Detta, and Rodney Altizer.  
**February Birthdays:** Joann Detta (18).

### **GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**February 9 Offertory** \$ **200.00** **Attendance 17**  
**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Valerie Christian, James White, Bob Dorton, JoAnn Detta, Jackie White, Phyllis Dotson, Sherry Hubbard, Bill Taylor, and Dawn Borth.  
**February Birthdays:** Bev Britten (14).

- **Clean out your closets** and save items no longer needed or wanted (and in decent shape) for our **YARD SALE** scheduled for **APRIL 5**.
- There will be a **short finance council meeting after Mass this Sunday, February 16** for Bob Dorton, Dave Spoharski, and Bev Britten.
- The **parish council will meet next Sunday, February 23**, after Mass.
- **Lector Schedule:** February 16 and 23 – Dave Britten