

## SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

January 25-26, 2025

3rd 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/profile.php?id=100078972283533>

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

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

### **Reflection for the 3rd Sunday In Ordinary Time Year C**

#### **Theme: Doing God's Will**

The Gospel reading for this Sunday (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21) presents the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah, proclaiming a message of hope and liberation: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

This moment is pivotal, it marks the unveiling of Jesus' mission. His message is clear: God's kingdom is a kingdom of justice, mercy, and healing. Jesus announces that this prophecy is fulfilled in Him, challenging His listeners to see God's work in their midst.

For us, this reading is both an invitation and a challenge. Jesus' mission becomes our mission as His followers. We are called to be instruments of liberation and healing in our world. How do we proclaim the good news to the poor? How do we work to free the oppressed and bring sight—both physical and spiritual—to those who are blind?

This passage also invites us to examine how open we are to recognizing God's presence and action in our lives. The people of Nazareth struggled to accept Jesus because He was familiar to them—they couldn't see beyond their preconceived notions. Are we sometimes guilty of missing God's work in our own lives because it doesn't come in the ways we expect?

As we reflect on this Sunday's readings, may we allow the Spirit to guide us, opening our hearts to God's transformative work and empowering us to live out the mission of Christ in our daily lives.

Peace and Joy!!

**Readings for this Week (January 26-February 1, 2025)**

26 JAN SUN	Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21
27 JAN MON	Hebrews 9:15, 24-28; Psalm 98; Mark 3:22-30
28 JAN TUE	Hebrews 10:1-10; Psalm 40; Mark 3:31-35
29 JAN WED	Hebrews 10:11-18; Psalm 110; Mark 4:1-20
30 JAN THU	Hebrews 10:19-25; Psalm 24; Mark 4:21-25
31 JAN FRI	Hebrews 10:32-39; Psalm 37; Mark 4:26-34
01 FEB SAT	Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 1:69-75; Mark 4:35-41

**Next Sunday Readings – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – February 2, 2025**

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

**RESPECT LIFE** Thank you for those who gave generously to the Respect Life collection last weekend. Saint Mary and Saint Therese will have their Diocesan **second collection this weekend, January 25/26.**

**Welcome to the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others.** The 2025 Appeal will provide critical funding to three key areas of our Diocesan Church: Empowering the Next Generation, Providing for Those in Need, and Strengthening Catholic Communities.

In addition, our cluster parishes receive back half of the funds collected. This year, the funds returned will be used at

- **Saint Mary's** to build a retaining wall behind the new parish hall/confessional and do landscaping around the same area, at
- **St. Therese** will use their appeal funds to build up their checking account balance, and
- **Good Shepherd** hopes to use their appeal funds to purchase and install leaf guards for the church building.

In complement to the funds returned to our parishes through the parish sharing formula, the 2025 Appeal also benefits us through the following ministries and programs: Home Mission grants have assisted **St. Mary** to build their parish hall/confessional and adding the restroom at the back of the church, grants for **St. Therese** has put a new roof on the church building and replaced an old heat pump, and **Good Shepherd** has received grants to seal their parking lot and remove the steeple. Good Shepherd has also received fuel and hunger grant funds to assist people with food purchases and payment of their water and electric invoices. Also, the process of **obtaining and mentoring International Priests** is one more benefit our cluster has received because of the Appeal.

The following 2025 Appeal parish targets are:

**Good Shepherd \$2,230**

**St. Mary \$1,760**

**St. Therese \$630**

Parishioners should receive **2025 Appeal donation envelopes by mail in February**. Our mission parishes will receive **50% back from each dollar** given. Also, the money we received back from the appeal **WILL NOT** be subject to Cathedraticum (a diocesan fee charged on certain income).

**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.

**2025 Calendars** have arrived and are available at the back of the church. As always, we are grateful to Owens Funeral Service in Lebanon, VA, for taking care of the expense. The calendar is both English and Spanish and features places of pilgrimage for the Holy Year 2025.

February **Word Among Us** booklets are available at the back of the church. Spanish editions are also available at St. Therese and Good Shepherd.

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:** "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it." Are you being called to strengthen His body through 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 January is bequests.** New Year! New Resolutions! 500,000+ people have used FreeWill to write their legal Will, protect their loved ones, and establish a lasting legacy with the causes they care about. The CCF partnered with FreeWill to help you get started on your own Will with this free resource from FreeWill:

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Save the Date! SEE THE FLYER. January 29th, 2025.** Virginia Pro-Life Day. St. Anne Catholic Church in Bristol has a bus leaving their church at 5 a.m. on Wednesday, January 29 and returning at approximately 8 p.m. It will be a day of meeting Legislators to press our cause, lunch, and visiting the Cathedral in Richmond. We are asking for donations of \$30-\$40. If you want to join us for this important day contact Walter Joyce at [wjoyce@stannes-bristol.org](mailto:wjoyce@stannes-bristol.org) ASAP at 276-669-8200.

**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!

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**

January 18 Offertory \$ 573.00 Attendance 17

January 18 Votive Candles Offering \$ 6.00

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

**January Birthdays:** Chad Bates (8)

- The Diocesan Respect Life collection will be this Saturday, January 25.
- **February 1** after the 5 PM Mass has been set for the next **Pastoral/Finance Council meeting**—all are encouraged to attend to discuss church business.

**SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**January 26 MASS INTENTION:** For the repose of the soul of + Helen Moretz + requested by Cathy Stiltner

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

**January Birthdays:** Betty Meade (22)

- The **Diocesan Respect Life SECOND** collection will be this **Sunday, January 26**. The **Christmas Catholic Charities Diocesan Collection** will be next **Sunday, February 2**.
- **February 2** is the date for our next **parish breakfast**.
- **Due to the repair and painting of the church, Mass this Sunday will be celebrated in the basement.** We are grateful for the **Job Corps** group help in fixing and painting our church walls.

**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

January 19 Offertory \$ 453.00 Attendance 16

January 19 Votive Candles Offering \$ 5.00

January 19 Respect Life Diocesan Collection \$ 63.00

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

**January Birthdays:** Juan Hernandez (12)

- **Clean out your closets** and save items no longer needed or wanted (and in decent shape) for our **YARD SALE** scheduled for **APRIL 5**.
- **Lector Schedule:**
  - January 26 - Frank Taylor
  - February 2 and 9 – Janice Halsey
  - February 16 and 25 – Dave Britten