



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

February 8-9, 2025

5th 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

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

Reflection for 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Theme: "Trusting Jesus Even When It Doesn't Make Sense"

Have you ever felt like you were doing everything right, working hard, giving your best effort, yet seeing no results? That's exactly where Simon Peter was in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 5:1-11). He had spent the entire night fishing, caught nothing, and was probably exhausted and frustrated. Then, Jesus, who wasn't even a fisherman, told him to go back out and try again.

I can only imagine what Peter must have been thinking: "Really? After all that effort, You want me to go again? I already tried, and it didn't work." But despite his doubts, Peter obeyed. And the moment he let down his nets in faith, something incredible happened, a catch so abundant it nearly broke the nets.

I find this story so relatable because I have been there. Maybe you have too. Times when you feel like you've given your all at work, in your relationships, in your faith and you're still coming up empty. It's easy to want to give up. But Jesus asks us, like Peter, to trust Him just a little more, even when things don't make sense.

What really strikes me is Peter's reaction. He does not celebrate the miracle, he falls to his knees, overwhelmed by his own unworthiness. He sees himself as too small, too sinful. But Jesus doesn't reject him. Instead, He calls him to something greater: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." Jesus takes Peter's ordinary skill, fishing and transforms it into a mission.

This Gospel reminds me that God is not waiting for us to be perfect before He calls us. He meets us in our failures, our doubts, and even our exhaustion. He sees what we can become, even when we don't. And He invites us to follow Him, trusting that He will provide what we need.

This week, let us ask ourselves: Are we resisting God's call because we feel unworthy or afraid? How can we trust Him more, even when things do not go as planned?

Maybe Jesus is asking you to "cast your net" one more time, to keep praying, keep believing, keep showing up. And maybe, just like Peter, you'll be surprised by what happens when you do.

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (February 9-15, 2025)

09 FEB SUN	Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
10 FEB MON	Genesis 1:1-19; Psalm 104; Mark 6:53-56
11 FEB TUE	Genesis 1:20-2:4; Psalm 8; Mark 7:14-23
12 FEB WED	Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17; Psalm 104; Mark 7:1-6
13 FEB THU	Genesis 2:18-25; Psalm 128; Mark 7:24-30
14 FEB FRI	Genesis 3:1-8; Psalm 32; Mark 7:31-37
15 FEB SAT	Genesis 3:9-24; Psalm 90; Mark 8:1-10

Next Sunday Readings — 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26

CLUSTER FINANCE COUNCIL Meeting this Sunday, February 9 for all parish finance councils at St. Therese Catholic Church in St. Paul at 9:15.

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others. A Message from Our Bishop. "Whenever I visit our parishes, I see how our faith and hope is manifested through Mass attendance, reception of the sacraments, Eucharistic devotion, and a commitment to grow closer to Christ. I also see our faith and hope expressed through works of charity such as the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

Your gifts to the Appeal support the education of seminarians and priests who are dedicating their lives to serving Christ and his Church; assist college students to grow in

their faith and relationship with the Lord; and ensure that vital resources are made available for children and families facing homelessness and hunger.

During this time of Jubilee in the life of our Church, I ask you to consider contributing to the Appeal so we can spread love and hope for all the world as we empower the people and ministries of the Diocese of Richmond to move our Church forward.

This week and into next week, many of you will receive a letter from Bishop Knestout asking for your support of the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal. It is our sincere hope that you will answer our Bishop's request and make a generous commitment to this effort."

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: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?" Do you think that the Lord wants to send you as a as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond's topic for February is Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you're over 70 ½ , making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to our parish from your IRA will support the good works we do in our parish community. To make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (OCD) from your IRA, contact your IRA administrator or parish staff with questions. Maggie F. Keenan, Director of Planned Giving, Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond (804) 622-5221, mkeenan@richmonddiocese.org.

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 or contact Angie Bush at 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.

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

February 1 Offertory Collection \$ 750.00 **Attendance 18**

January 25 Donations \$ 50.00

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)

- Thank you to all who attended the finance/pastoral meeting last Sunday after the February 1 Vigil Mass.

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 3 Offertory Collection \$ 345.00 **Attendance 9**

February 3 Catholic Charities Collection \$ 39.00

December 31, 2024, Parish Share Check # 3 \$ 232.50

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

February Birthdays: Joann Detta (18).

- Thank you for all who assisted with the Catholic Charities collection last Sunday
- Also thank you for hosting the **9:15 AM Cluster Finance Council meeting this Sunday** after the 8:30 AM Mass.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 26 Offertory \$ 484.00 **Attendance 21**

January 26 Votive Candles Offering \$ 11.00

P December 31, 2024, Parish Share Check # 3 \$ 300.00

RAYERS 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**.
- **Lector Schedule:** February 9 – Janice Halsey; February 16 and 23 – Dave Britten