



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

March 15/16, 2025

2nd Sunday of Lent (Year C)

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 March 18 Mass 5 PM

Friday March 21 Stations/Mass 4 PM

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

890 W Main St., PO Box 730

Lebanon, VA 24266-0730

Sunday Mass 11 AM

Reconciliation Sunday 10:30 AM

Wednesday March 26 Mass 6 PM

Friday March 21 Stations/Mass 6 PM

Saint Therese Catholic Church

16661 Wise St., PO Box 56

St. Paul, VA 24283

Sunday Mass 8:30 AM

Reconciliation Sunday 8 AM

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>

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY CALL 1-804-631-9027

or eappah@richmonddiocese.org

Reflection for 2nd Sunday of Lent Year C

Theme: “Listen to Him”

In our Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Lent (Luke 9:28-36), we hear the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain to pray, and while He is praying, His appearance changes, His face shines, and His clothes become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear beside Him, and the disciples are overwhelmed, struggling to understand what is happening. Peter, in his usual impulsiveness, suggests building tents so they can stay in that holy moment forever. But then a cloud comes over them, and they hear a voice from heaven saying, *“This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!”*

This scene is powerful because it reveals who Jesus truly is, God’s beloved Son, full of glory and light. But it also speaks to the human experience of wanting to hold on to the good and avoid the hard. Peter wants to freeze the moment of glory on the mountaintop, but Jesus knows that they can’t stay there. The path ahead leads to Jerusalem, to suffering and the cross. The Transfiguration is a glimpse of the victory to come, but the journey to that victory will be hard.

How often do we want to stay in the comfort of the mountaintop moments? It is easy to feel close to God when things are going well, when prayers are answered, when life feels peaceful. But faith is about more than the mountaintop. Like Peter, James, and John, we are called to walk back down the mountain and face the realities of life. Lent reminds us

that the path to glory passes through the cross. There will be struggles, doubts, and even darkness, but God gives us moments of light and clarity to strengthen us for the journey.

The Father’s words, “*Listen to Him*” are the heart of this Gospel. In moments of confusion or fear, when the path ahead seems uncertain, we are invited to listen to Jesus. His voice speaks through Scripture, through the quiet of prayer, through the people He places in our lives. He reminds us that we are not alone, even when the way is difficult. The glory of the Transfiguration is not just a glimpse of who Jesus is, it is a promise of who we are called to become when we walk with Him through both the light and the shadow.

This second week of Lent, let us ask ourselves: Where is Jesus inviting me to listen more deeply? Am I willing to follow Him, not just on the mountaintop but also in the valleys? The Transfiguration reminds us that even when the road is hard, God’s glory is never far away.

Peace and Joy!

Readings for this Week (March 16-22, 2025)

16 MAR SUN	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:20-4:1; Luke 9:28-36
17 MAR MON	Daniel 9:4-10; Psalm 79; Luke 6:36-38
18 MAR TUE	Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50; Matthew 23:1-12
19 MAR WED	2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Psalm 89; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1-16, 18-21, 24a
20 MAR THU	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; Luke 16:19-31
21 MAR FRI	Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Psalm 105; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
22 MAR SAT	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday Readings – 3rd Sunday of Lent - March 23, 2025

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Mary – 4 PM - each Friday and **Good Shepherd -- 6:00 PM – each Friday** during Lent Stations of the Cross will be recited followed by Mass. Since we will be in Lent during the Friday Stations/Masses and the pillars of Lent are **Fasting, Praying and Almsgiving**, we need to make some sacrifices. **It won’t be compulsory, but for those who can and want to, the collection basket will be passed during these Friday Lent Masses.**

ALL the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. Good Friday (April 18) is a day of fast and abstinence. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

JOIN US FOR CRS RICE BOWL’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY! A RECOMMITMENT TO END HUNGER. PAYING IT FORWARD AS A LEAD MOTHER IN NIGERIA. In Nigeria, over 25 million people are experiencing extreme food insecurity due to climate change, poverty and conflict. Because of violence in their hometown, Amina and her family were forced to flee and start life over again in a new village. Learn how Amina’s participation in a Catholic Relief Services program helped her prepare nutritious meals for her family and

support other families in her community to overcome the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-2 to read this week's Story of Hope.

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others. Some of you have given by mail and some at last weekends in-pew process at your church. We **THANK all who have given.** TODAY is your opportunity to give (no matter what the amount is). There are pens and envelopes in the pews for your use. You can put your envelope or cash donation in the basket at the back of the church when you leave. Remember, half of what you give is returned to the parish.

This year we hope at St. Therese to raise funds to build up the checking account balances, at St. Mary build a retaining wall and do landscaping, and at Good Shepherd install leaf guards.

40 Days for Life. From March 5th-April 13th, the 40 Days for Life vigil is taking place in over 600 cities worldwide. Join us as we fast and pray at home and publicly for the end of abortion. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Angie Bush at 423-482-2123 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/bristol.

Below is a list of some times groups will be praying near the Bristol Women's Health abortion business, which is located at 2603 Osborne Street, Bristol VA.

- Thursday, March 20th 11:00 AM—St. Mary's Knights**
- Thursday, March 20th 2:00 PM—First Assembly of God**
- Saturday, March 22nd 11:00 AM —Midpoint prayer gathering**
- Wednesday, March. 26th 3:30 PM—Rosary with Fr. Tom Lawrence**
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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.

PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE: **July 6, 2025, SUNDAY, Noon,** is the date of our **Cluster Picnic.** The picnic will be held in the large shelter at the back of the parking lot at the Lebanon Town Park (45 Gibson St, Lebanon, VA 24266). Please plan on being there for good food and lots of fun and fellowship.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "This is my beloved Son, hear him." Is our Lord asking you to follow him in tending His flock 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 March is Gifts of Stock. Gifts of stock avoid capital gains tax! If you own appreciated stock, you may wish to consider giving the stock to the parish rather than cash. You are able to deduct the full value, avoid the capital gain tax and make a substantial gift to the parish. A good steward uses his or her assets in a way that does the most good.

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

March 8 Offertory Collection	\$ 410.00	Attendance 11
March 7 Votive Candles Offering	\$ 10.00	
Friday March 7 Offertory	\$ 23.00	

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

March Birthdays: Rosie Nauss (12), David Nauss (27)

- **March 21, Friday 4 PM, Stations of the Cross** will be recited followed by Mass.

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 9 Offertory Collection	\$ 305.00	Attendance 27
March 9 Donations	\$1,040.00	

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

March Birthdays: Terry Meade (21), Sydney Laney (25), Debbie Laney (26)

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 9 Offertory	\$1,030.00	Attendance 17
March 9 Votive Candles Offering	\$ 2.00	
March 7 Friday Collection	\$ 45.00	

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

March Birthdays: Janice Halsey (19), Camila Mendoza (23), Sebastian Onate (26)

- **March 21, Friday 6 PM, Stations of the Cross** will be recited followed by Mass.
- **NEXT SUNDAY** Parish **potluck meal** will follow **March 23 Mass**. Sign-up at the back of the church. **Help** needed to set up tables before Mass if you can come early.
- Good Shepherd has been awarded **Diocesan Fuel and Hunger grant funds**. These funds are available through the generous support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal by our parishioners and other people of the Diocese. **If you have a need for assistance, please contact the church office.**
- **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 is a SIGN-UP SHEET at the back of the church.**

Lector Schedule:	March 16 and 23, 2025	—	Frank Taylor
	March 23 and 30, 2025	--	Janice Halsey
	April 6 and 13, 2025	--	Dave Britten