



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

April 05/06, 2025

5th 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 April 8 Mass 5 PM

Friday April 11 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 April 9 Mass 6 PM

Friday April 11 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

Office Telephone: 1-276-889-1690

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 5th Sunday of Lent Year C

Theme: Mercy That Transforms

In our Gospel for this Sunday, we witness a powerful moment of mercy. The scribes and Pharisees bring a woman caught in adultery before Jesus, ready to stone her according to the law. But instead of condemning her, Jesus bends down and writes on the ground. Then, He speaks words that pierce the hearts of her accusers: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." One by one, they leave, and Jesus, the only one without sin, chooses not to condemn her but to offer mercy: "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

This Gospel is a profound reminder of God's mercy. Like the woman, we have all fallen short. We carry our own sins, failures, and regrets. Yet Jesus does not shame us, He lifts us up. His mercy is not just about forgiving our past; it is about calling us to something greater. He invites us to leave behind whatever holds us back and embrace the new life He offers.

The first reading from Isaiah echoes this theme of new beginnings. God says, "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Sometimes, we get stuck in our past, our mistakes, our hurts, or our failures. But God is always leading us forward, inviting us to trust that His grace is greater than our sins.

Paul, in the second reading, reminds us that nothing compares to knowing Christ. He let go of everything to gain Christ and be found in Him. This is the invitation for us too, to stop clinging to what is behind and instead press forward toward the new life that Jesus offers.

As we approach the end of Lent, this Gospel invites us to reflect: Do we truly believe in God's mercy? Are we holding on to past sins, either our own or those of others? Jesus calls us not only to receive His mercy but also to extend it, to stop casting stones, whether in judgment, resentment, or self-condemnation. Today, He looks at each of us with love and says: Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more. Will we accept His mercy and walk in the newness of life He offers?

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (April 6-12, 2025)

06 APR SUN	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11
07 APR MON	Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Psalm 23; John 8:12-20
08 APR TUE	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102; John 8:21-30
09 APR WED	Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52-56; John 8:31-42
10 APR THU	Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105; John 8:51-59
11 APR FRI	Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18; John 10:31-42
12 APR SAT	Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10-13; John 11:45-56

Next Sunday Readings – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – APRIL 13, 2025

Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION. Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ’s love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. **Saint Mary will have their collection taken up this weekend.**

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 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! UNITED IN GENEROSITY AS ONE GLOBAL FAMILY. Amid the harsh conditions of the Sahel region's 1976 drought, millions faced hunger. That same year, Catholics worldwide gathered at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, focusing on “The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family.” As Lent draws to a close, let's reflect on how our prayers, fasting and almsgiving can help ensure no one goes hungry in the middle of today's global food crisis. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-5 to learn more.

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others. You have heard about the Annual Diocesan Appeal. **Below is the status of our Cluster’s progress so far.** St. Mary has donations received but not processed so their number should increase significantly once that completed, hopefully next week. Thanks to all who have given.

	<u>St. Therese</u>	<u>St. Mary</u>	<u>Good Shepherd</u>
2025 Appeal Goal	\$ 630	\$ 1760	\$ 2,230
Number of Donors	4	2	8
Amount Raised	\$ 2,060	\$ 750	\$ 4,125
% to Goal Raised	327%	43%	185%

Amount Collected	\$ 695	\$ 750	\$ 2,050
Recurring Gift Projection	\$ 1,365	\$ 0	\$ 1,875

SAVE THE DATES: Cluster Holy Week Schedule

- April 17 **Holy Thursday 5:00 PM** Mass of the Lord's Supper at **St. Mary, Coeburn**
 April 18 **Good Friday 3 PM** Good Friday of the Lord's Passion at **St. Therese, St. Paul**
 April 19 **Holy Saturday 7:30 PM** Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter at **St. Mary**
 April 20 **Easter Sunday 8:30 AM** The Resurrection of the Lord Mass of Easter Day at **St. Therese, St. Paul**
 April 20 **Easter Sunday 11 AM** The Resurrection of the Lord Mass of Easter Day at **Good Shepherd, Lebanon**

40 Days for Life. 40 Days for Life prayer vigil for the end of abortion continues through April 13th. On Sunday, April 13th, 4:00 PM join us as we close the spring vigil with prayer led by Pastor Carico from First Assembly of God. We will gather near Bristol Women's Health abortion business located on 2603 Osborne Street, Bristol VA. Questions? Contact Angie at (423) 482-2123 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/bristol

Prayer gatherings near the abortion business:

Saturday, April 5th 11:00 AM— with Fr. Chris Masla

Thursday, April 11th 11:00 AM—St. Mary's Knights

Sunday, April 13th, 4:00 PM—Closing prayer gathering led by Pastor Carico from First Assembly of God, Bristol, VA.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." Are you called to bring the joy of Christ to His people? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Food Donations continue to be collected by the Cluster for the Lebanon Community Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support.

CLUSTER PICNIC - SAVE THE DATE: **July 6, 2025, SUNDAY, Noon**, is the date set for our **Cluster Picnic**. The picnic will be in the large shelter at the back of the parking lot at the Lebanon Town Park (45 Gibson St, Lebanon, VA 24266). Planned games are corn hole, bingo, word games, egg toss. If you are able to bring bingo gifts that would be appreciated. The pool will be opened and free. You will need to sign up July 6 with St. Therese's Betty Meade so she can inform the pool on who in the group will be entering.

ATTENTION: Youth 11th/12th Graders. Discipleship Week. Have you thought about which 3 confirmed (or about to be confirmed) teens you want to invite to apply for Discipleship Week? This is for rising 11th and 12th graders. Who in your parish is starting to step up as a leader? Who would benefit from some personal discipleship skills? This is a great retreat for the teen who is solid in their faith and is looking for more or is asking what comes next. Or maybe you have a teen who attended EPIC as a middle schooler who's stepping up; this could be a cool full-circle moment.

A change from past years is that we hope to have a track for teens who want to attend D-Week a second time. If you have a teen who wants to come again, take it to prayer and see if you want to invite them to apply!

Discipleship Week is August 6-9 at a new location: Richard Bland College in Petersburg! It concludes with EPIC, our summer middle school rally. We expect the application link to be live within the week. See our website for more info (<https://evangelizerichmond.org/youth/events/>).

.Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Richmond's topic today is: How you can use your IRA to make a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) to the parish. As Christian stewards, we share the responsibility of making our Church a true community of faith and a vibrant source of service to the larger community. That includes providing financial support for today's needs -- and building a firm financial foundation for tomorrow. If you are 70 ½ years old or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution up to \$105,000 from your IRA directly to your parish.

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 29 Offertory Collection	\$ 382.00	Attendance 22
March 28 Friday Offertory	\$ 45.00	

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

- **April 11, Friday 4 PM, Stations of the Cross** will be recited followed by Mass.

- Refreshments will be served after the Holy Saturday, April 19, 7:30 PM Easter Vigil.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, August 2, Saint Mary's 70th anniversary celebration** dinner at Coeburn Civic League after 5 PM Mass at the church.

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 30 Offertory Collection \$ 140.00 **Attendance 8**

March 30 Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Collection \$ 37.00

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

April Birthdays: Therese Fields (25)

- Parish **breakfast** this **Sunday, April 6.**

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 30 Offertory \$ 951.40 **Attendance 19**

March 30 Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Collection \$ 15.00

March 30 Votive Candles Offering \$ 6.40

March 28 Friday Collection \$ 40.00

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

April Birthdays: Karla Castro (2), Giovanni Hernandez (14), Kevin Christian (7), Giovanni Hernandez (14), Dalton Christian (17)

- **April 11, Friday 6 PM, Stations of the Cross** will be recited followed by Mass.
- **Thank you** card from Connie Molinary at the back of the church.
- Good Shepherd has been awarded **Diocesan Fuel and Hunger grant funds. If you have a need for assistance, please contact the church office.**
- **YARD SALE** scheduled for **APRIL 5.** Yard sale items may be brought to the church up to Friday 6 PM before Stations of the Cross and placed in the living room. Help is needed early Saturday morning (7:15 AM) to help with setting up tables and sale items in the front parking lot.
- **Lector Schedule:** April 6, 2025 – Janice Halsey
April 13 and 20, 2025 – Dave Britten
(extra readers needed April 13, Palm Sunday – volunteers ?)