



SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUSTER

April 12/13, 2025

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (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

No Mass Tuesday April 15 Mass 5 PM

Good Friday April 18 Stations 11 AM

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 16 Mass 6 PM

Good Friday April 18 Stations 10:00 AM

Saint Therese Catholic Church

16661 Wise St., PO Box 56

St. Paul, VA 24283

Sunday Mass 8:30 AM

Reconciliation Sunday After Mass

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

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY CALL 1-804-631-9027

or eappah@richmonddiocese.org

Palm Sunday – Year C Reflection

Theme: The King Who Chose the Cross

Today, we stand at the threshold of Holy Week, holding palms in our hands and paradox in our hearts. Palm Sunday draws us into a dramatic tension, one moment we are shouting "Hosanna!" and the next, we hear the haunting echoes of "Crucify Him!"

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus enters Jerusalem not with fanfare or royal pride, but with humble determination. He rides a colt, not a war horse, but a symbol of peace. The crowd

celebrates Him as King, laying down cloaks and palms. Yet, the celebration is short-lived. The very voices that praise Him will soon fall silent or turn against Him.

This is the mystery of Palm Sunday: we celebrate a King who reigns not from a throne but from the cross. Jesus enters the city fully aware of the suffering ahead, yet He does not turn back. His love is too fierce, too faithful, too self-giving to retreat.

Luke's account of the Passion invites us to stay close to Christ, in the garden, before the council, on the road to Calvary. It asks us not just to remember the events, but to enter into them. We are the disciples who fall asleep, the Peter who denies, the crowd who jeers, and by grace, the thief who believes.

As Holy Week begins, we are invited to walk with Jesus, not as spectators but as disciples shaped by His cross. May this week stretch our hearts, deepen our love, and prepare us to receive again the transforming power of the Resurrection.

Lord Jesus, as we wave our palms and enter this sacred week, help us to walk with You through the sorrow of the cross into the joy of new life. Amen.

Peace and Joy!!

Readings for this Week (April 13-19, 2025)

13 APR SUN	Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56
14 APR MON	Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27; John 12:1-11
15 APR TUE	Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71; John 13:21-33, 30-38
16 APR WED	Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 69; Matthew 26:14-25
17 APR THU	Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116; John 13:1-15
18 APR FRI	Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
19 APR SAT	Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 118; Luke 24:1-12

Next Sunday Readings – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection – APRIL 20, 2025

Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

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 11 AM Stations – St. Mary, Coeburn

10 AM Stations – Good Shepherd, Lebanon

3 PM Good Friday of the Lord's Passion Service – St. Therese

April 19 Holy Saturday 7:30 PM Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter -- **St. Mary**
followed by refreshments

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

REMINDER: GOOD FRIDAY, April 18, is a day of Fast and Abstinence. **Fasting** is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices are allowed. **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. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

Father Emmanuel will be traveling to Richmond to be a part of Bishop Knestout's celebration of the **Chrism Mass on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond. You may wish to watch the livestream of the Mass on the Diocesan website at <https://richmonddiocese.org/>.

The **Chrism Mass** celebrates the ministry of our diocesan priests. During the Mass, diocesan and religious order priests are invited to publicly renew their vows to the priesthood and receive the prayers from the faithful who attend.

Also, during Mass, Bishop Knestout will bless the oil of the catechumens, used to help those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter to resist evil, and the oil of the sick, used to anoint the sick and allow the anointed to experience the saving love of Christ in body and soul. He will then consecrate the Sacred Chrism, which is used during the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the ordination of priests, and in the dedication of altars and churches. These oils will be used throughout the diocese in the coming year.

JOIN US FOR CRS RICE BOWL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY! CALLED TO SHARE

BREAD FOR LIFE. Holy Week, a sacred time in the liturgical year, invites us to journey with Christ through his Passion, Death and Resurrection. As we witness the Last Supper and Jesus' gift of the Eucharist, we are reminded of our call to be bread broken for others. Let us draw strength from the Bread of Life and dedicate ourselves to serving our sisters and brothers who bear heavy crosses, bringing hope and the joy of the resurrection to the world.

RICE BOWLS may be **RETURNED** at any time in the next two weeks. You may write a check for the amount or just place box in the collection basket with your change. **PLEASE** be sure to put **your name** on the box.

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Sharing His Love with Others. A message from Father Emmanuel: I want to provide a brief update on our 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal effort at each of our parishes. At Saint Therese, I am pleased to tell you that we are 327%-over our parish goal of \$630 with \$2,060 raised; at Saint Mary we are 112% - over our parish goal of \$1,760 with \$1,967 raised; and at Good Shepherd we are 185% - over our parish goal of \$2,050 with \$4,125 raised. St. Mary's figures do not include some recent contribution mailings.

It is my hope that **every** household in our parish contributes to this year's effort. If you have not yet made a commitment, I hope you will join me in helping to not only meet but exceed this year's goal!

Please visit richmondccatholicfoundation.org/appeal to make a secure online donation or contact our parish office in Lebanon for a hard copy pledge card (1-276-889-1670 or office@spiritofthemountain.org). Every gift, **no matter the amount**, makes a difference. Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration of support. God bless."

40 Days for Life. Thank you for participating in the spiritual battle to end abortion with prayer and fasting. Please join area Christians as we mark the end of the international 40 Days for Life vigil.

Interdenominational Prayer Gathering

Sunday, April 13th, 4:00 PM

**Location: public area near the Bristol Women's Health abortion business
(2603 Osborne Street, Bristol VA.)**

Contact Angie Bush at (423) 482-2123 or go to www.40daysforlife.com/bristol for more information.

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 can 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.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: "... He opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled,..." Prayer and reflection are essential to discerning a vocation. Are you open to 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.

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. · Remember you can pay it forward! You have a wonderful Catholic heritage. Just as we plan to ensure financial health for our families, we must plan for the health of our faith families. If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can direct Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA fund administrator directly to the parish, school, or a favorite ministry without increasing your taxable income. Please consider using your IRA as a charitable giving vehicle.

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/>

<u>SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH</u>		
April 5 Offertory Collection	\$ 1,140.00	Attendance 19
April 5 Votive Candle Offering	\$ 7.00	
April 4 Friday Offertory	\$ 20.00	

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

- **April 18, Good Friday 11 AM, Stations of the Cross** will be recited. There will be no 4 PM Stations and Mass on April 18.
- **Refreshments will be served after the Holy Saturday, April 19, 7:30 PM Easter Vigil.**
- There will be **NO WEEKDAY MASS Tuesday, April 15, at 5 PM.**

- We have **"Save the Date" cards** to invite family and friends to **St. Mary's 70th Anniversary Celebration to be held on August 2 at 5 PM**. If you would like to send some to your family and/or friends, please see Donna after Mass. We will have a sheet for you to put the names and addresses of those whom you plan to send a "Save the Date" card. Then you can pick up the cards to complete and mail. We are looking forward to having lots of family and friends to celebrate with us in August!
- **May Crowning of Mary. May 3 at 5 PM Vigil Mass.** Rosary as a spiritual bouquet for Our Lady will be recited after 5 PM Tuesday Masses during May.

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 5 Offertory Collection **\$ 430.00** **Attendance 11**

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

April Birthdays: Therese Fields (25)

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 5 Offertory **\$ 602.00** **Attendance 26**

April 5 Votive Candles Offering **\$ 2.00**

April 4 Votive Candles Offering **\$ 1.00**

March 28 Friday Collection **\$ 61.00**

April 4 Yard Sale **\$1,025.05**

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), Kevin Christian (7), Giovanni Hernandez (14), Dalton Christian (17)

- **Good Friday, April 18, Friday 10 AM, Stations of the Cross** will be recited. There will be no 6 PM Stations and Mass on April 18.
- **Thank you to yard sale, helpers--**Collin and Joy Sapp, Ruby and Seth Dorton, Dave and Bev Britten, Cathy Stiltner, Sharon Martin, and her daughter Michelle. The Church is grateful you all showed up and helped with this parish fundraiser.
- **APRIL 27 Sunday** will be our next **parish meal** – please sign up at the back of church.
- **Lector Schedule:** April 13 – Dave Britten (Janice Halsey added Passion Reader)
April 20 and 27 – Frank Taylor
May 3 and 11 – Janice Halsey
May 18 and 25 – Cathy Stiltner